



# HomeschoolNYC Newsletter

## *Celebrating Child-led Learning*

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After this long winter it's time to celebrate spring. Children need to get out of doors. Learning happens more naturally and holistically in a natural setting. It is as if the birds and flowers are already playing freely, beckoning children to join in the fun. This is the time to take your lessons outside, read to each other on a park bench, climb a tree, bring a sketch pad or camera, explore a new playground, hike a new trail, and frolic in the sunshine!



[Laurie Block Spiegel](#)

### **Spring Literature for Kids**

**Nurturing a Child's Love of Reading**

**Seven Activities to Develop Comprehension Skills**

**Ten Book-Related Activities**

**Books That Celebrate Spring**

**Activities for Spring**

**Quote by Stickland Gillian**

**AERO Conference 2014**

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Send your comments to [Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com](mailto:Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com).

**Nurturing a Child's Love of Reading**



When I was a child, reading gave me the chance to escape an unhappy reality. It was not a passive activity. It was astonishingly active. I may have been lying down or sitting, but I was in another place. My imagination was activated, and I felt as if I were living in a garret in London, or skulking through the walls of the Chateau d'If, or attending a young mother-to-be in confinement in rural 1800's Russia. As I grew older I realized [... READ MORE ...](#)

[Click here for a list of books and articles on discussing literature with children.](#)

## Seven Activities Than Develop Reading Comprehension Skills

Click here for [seven activities that you can do with your child to develop comprehension and reading skills.](#)



## Ten Book-Related Activities For Any Age



[Click here for ten activities that will deepen your connection to any book.](#)

## [Books that Celebrate Spring](#)



Click here for:  
[Books for children of all ages that celebrate the spring season](#)

[Books that help us to appreciate nature](#)

### **Activities for Spring**

Go birdwatching, stroll through a beautiful garden, and hike a trail.  
Bring along water, a picnic, and a book  
for those moments when you want to rest by the view.

[Family Hiking Trails Near NYC](#)

[Birdwatching and Garden Gambols in NYC](#)

[Spring Gardening in NYC](#)



### **Quote by Strickland Gillian**

*"Richer than I you can never be--  
I had a Mother who read to me."*

~Strickland Gillian (1869-1954), American poet and humorist.

### **AERO's 25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**

[AERO celebrates its 25th year](#) on June 26-29, at the LIU/Post Campus on Long Island near NYC. There will be keynote speeches from Zoë Neill Readhead (daughter of A. S. Neill and current Principal of Summerhill), Lenore Skenazy (author of Free-Range Kids and labeled "America's Worst Mom"), and AERO's founder Jerry Mintz, as well as more than fifty workshops taught by participants in the education revolution. AERO stands for Alternative Education Resource Organization, but I have heard them called, aptly, the Alternative

Education Revolution Organization.

I will present a [workshop](#) on Saturday June 28th called *Education Uncensored: Child-led Learning Techniques in the Classroom*. Is it possible for students to experience self-discovery, perhaps even a personal awakening, as they learn about the world? The answer is a resounding YES! I will share techniques, which I developed as a parent and teacher of homeschoolers, including practical approaches to child-led, self-directed learning, for individuals and in group situations of all ages, where there is often a curriculum focus.

## ***Education Uncensored***

Here's what people are saying about Laurie's book:

"You made me laugh, you made me cry, and you inspired me. I can literally hear your voice, and love your storytelling and your wisdom and just the whole package. I'm stimulated and filled with ideas for my own teaching."

~ Dr. Bonnie Shulman, professor of mathematics, Bates College

"I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated meeting you and reading your book. It is terrific, and for me, the best part was its New York perspective. I know no other book available to homeschoolers that so overtly references an urban perspective."

~ David Albert, author of *And the Skylark Sings with Me* and other books

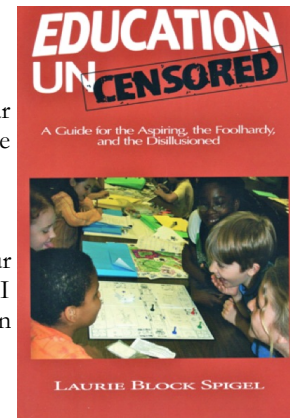
"Laurie's evolution as a teacher and life-long involvement in the world of education has given her a profound understanding of the problems that plague today's schools. This book offers an insightful look at how an increasingly standardized system is robbing our children of their individuality and passion for learning. Additionally, it provides innovative how-to curriculums for anyone involved or interested in educating children."

~ Ellen Labiner, homeschooling parent and special educator

[Read excerpts here.](#)

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*Send us your comments and suggestions! E-mail [Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com](mailto:Laurie@HomeschoolNYC.com).*