



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

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I just finished reading an advanced copy of the book written by Hillary Moses and Jen Murphy entitled “H.O.M.E.: Strategies for making Home a Success.” While the title and introduction of the book left me wanting and waiting (it took me 20 or so pages to get to the substance I would have needed as a parent), the book started me down a journey of information and perspective that will serve anyone who has the child in a wilderness or private school.

I do a lot of professional writing and reading in the fields of child psychology and troubled youth. When I first saw the book, I thought I was going to be given several stories and superficial reactions by the families who find themselves in the private industry of troubled youth. I was exceedingly happy to find out that I was wrong. This book goes far beyond a nominal presentation of this industry. It starts out as a strong awareness guide and does an excellent job forming a therapeutic alliance with the reader, just as a therapist will work hard to establish a strong therapeutic alliance with their client. The text will serve as a strong resource for both parents and professionals in severe need of guidance and perspective to help them in the desperate situation where they will find themselves.

This book will serve its readers in two different but very important roles. First as an outline for families racing through this new reality trying to help their child. Once started, this book will place parents on a specific journey that often is elusive but incredibly valuable when done correctly. Its second role will be to serve as a well-worn resource book which families will find themselves turning to for support and clarity for what next steps to take. The strong background of knowledge that Hilary and Jen possess is evident throughout the book in both the office and wilderness. They've lived the life of a therapist with “mud on their boots,” working with children and their families. They also show great range in their suggestions, knowing that one resource may prove invaluable for one family but might be entirely

different for another family. In these ever-changing times of interaction with their child and the industry, flexibility is often the key between success and failure.

While the book covers an incredible amount of information, no one book has all the answers. I know that Hillary and Jen have provided a link on page 213 for people to go to find more information. But no one book has all the available resources. It would have been nice to see them provide a series of contacts that would have helped expedite the information needs and the timing for the family. A couple of pages in the book on professional resources like the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (NATSAP), scholarship programs like Sky's the Limit, Inc. and the Parker Bounds Johnson Foundation, and the Association for Experiential Education (AEE)/Outdoor Behavioral Healthcare Council (OBHC) accredited wilderness therapy programs would have been helpful.

If you are reading this review, you are probably in need of the services this book can provide. Please let me give you a gentle suggestion to go ahead and buy this book. If you are willing to commit to the principles Hilary and Jen have laid out for us, it will serve you well.

Sincerely,

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