

Bonnie Millette, a retired fifth grade math and science teacher, from North Adams, Massachusetts had these comments on "Time for Natalia:"

This grandmother is fantastic!! She is shaping another life in a positive way. She has taken another child and shown her that even if she has a learning disability she can learn. Yes, she may take longer than many children at each grade level and not feel she fits in. As she gets older though she will understand how great it was to have a grandmother and teachers helping her but, as a child she may be more concerned with fitting in and friendships.

If her teachers along with the grandmother continue to do hands-on activities along with the teacher having students in each of her classes being a partner with her especially in the game activities she will start to feel like she fits in. All students do not learn at the same pace when they enter a grade level. Natalia being a year or year and a half behind finds it gets harder and harder in each grade. With many children in a classroom at different levels of learning a teacher knows help from a grandmother like Natalia's is sooooo helpful in her learning.

Always starting any lesson with a positive, telling her something she has done well even if it is the smallest thing, then showing her what she needs to work on and then ending with another positive will help Natalia. She will be spending a lot of time on homework so she could be told if you complete a certain amount of examples in a certain time you can have break for a short amount of time doing something you would like to do. Ask her what it would be. Something simple and not too long like playing a fun card game with grandma.

Grandma playing music while Natalie is doing school work was great and classical music has been found to really help a child's learning.

The learning activities throughout the house were fantastic. The Hopscotch Game and The Hand Game were also so good. Grandma has made some great learning games and hopefully will continue doing this throughout all of her school years. There are many books and online learning games that also can be tried and if successful could also be used. Maybe some day Natalia will write a book about how she learned from her creative grandma. So this could be the happy ending to this great story.

Some students have come back to me throughout the years to tell me about the many hands-on things and many visuals they did in math and science that helped them even if it was a subject they did not like or do really well in. They some times even say they still do not like math but was glad that they did better and better.