



No More Parents Left Behind!

*BabySteps for Success
at Home and School*

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School Psychologist

*Introduction by:
Marla Cilley, aka The FlyLady*

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Published by e-book March 2011
by FlyLady and Company, Inc
Brevard, North Carolina

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Dedication by Alice Wellborn

First, this book is dedicated to Sam, Colvin, and Frederick Wellborn. You're the best boys in the world! Thank you for letting me tell your stories, and a special thanks to Colvin, who ended up being the star of the book (or at least the lead character!)

Second, this book is dedicated to all the children and families I have worked with in the past 30 years. Thank you for letting me share in your lives for a time. You taught me a lot.

Third, to all the parents who struggle every day to be the best they can be for their children.

And last but not least, this book is dedicated to all the colleagues I've worked with and learned from over the years. School folks are the best!

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Introduction

By Marla Cilley, aka The FlyLady

I never pass up a chance for a road trip with a friend. In 2006, I was asked to speak to a group of volunteers for Special Forces at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My dear friend Alice had just found out that her oldest son had enlisted in the Army. I asked her to join me for the ride.

Alice and I became friends when I married my Sweet Darling Robert and joined their long-running monthly book group. Alice's two younger sons became my first employees, helping me fill orders in our dining room after school. They worked for their holiday spending money.

As we traveled down the road, we talked about everything. My assistant Michele laughs when I start talking to total strangers. One of my first questions to anyone I meet is "What is your book about?" I get some strange looks and eventually they tell me what they have dreamed of writing. I asked Alice this question, and we began to talk even more.

Alice had been thinking about a book for a long time. She has been a school psychologist for thirty years. As we drove, Alice shared with me her desire to empower parents. She had seen many parents who were afraid when they came to school to discuss their child's education. She just wanted to give them the tools to help their children.

As she continued to tell me how important it was for parents to have confidence and skills to interact with the school system, I received a phone call from one of my closest employees. Her seven-year-old son was having issues at school and she didn't know what to do. I calmed her down and then turned the phone over to Alice. She and Alice came up with a plan then and there. As I listened to Alice work with her, I knew Alice had words of wisdom so many parents need to hear. I told Alice she had to write her book, and the time was now.

Alice grabbed a notebook from her purse and began to interview me. She asked me how I had written my books. I told her that I wrote just like I talked! She wanted to know how to start writing. I gave her the advice that my husband had given me before I wrote my first book, *Sink Reflections*. He said write the last chapter first. When your reader puts down the book, what will they walk away with? Finally, I told her about my routine for writing each day. It started with my morning routine. With that out of the way, I was free to write for three hours or ten pages, whichever, came first. Alice is a woman of routines. She started to write while her son was at boot camp. This book poured out of her.

I am honored that she has allowed Kelly and me to work on this book with her. We have put this book together for those of you who want to participate in your child's education but don't know how. For all of you who struggle with how to talk to teachers and administrators, this book will help you work with your children at home with their education and help you be their advocate effectively in the school system.

Alice has been my cheerleader for many years. She proof read both of my books before they went to press, she has been with me as FlyLady has grown to help so many, and now, she is able to help you all, too. Thank you, Alice, for empowering families with your words.

FlyLady