

## From Public School, to Islamic School, to Home School

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Subsequently on or about October, 2005 I made the intricate alternative to remove my oldest child, whom at the time was 8 years of age, from the public school educational system. As a Muslim child, my daughter suffered from disbelieving children attempting to forcefully remove her hijab, as well as the intermingling of the male and female students. The fact that my daughter endured this harsh treatment everyday at public school, she became very overwhelmed and distressed to be in that environment.

Apprehensive of my daughter's academics, I now notice that her ability to focus in the classroom was uncompromising. The fact that she was different in dress along with her behavior being dissimilar then her peers {quotes}I watched as my child declined from her beautiful bubbly personality, to having low self esteem, angry and withdrawn.{/quotes} The day I decided to eradicate the whole public school experience was the day a male student pushed my daughter up against a wall and literally removed her Islamic head dress and her reaction was to defend herself by wounding the male student with her pencil. I humbly ask, what would you have done?

By September 2006 my family and I relocated to northern New Jersey it was at this new home that I was close to an Islamic school were I proceeded to enroll my son and daughter into the school. Walhamdullilah we as a family had reason to rejoice (mash Allah). I even volunteered my time at the school and due to this my third child was also accepted into the school as well. For those who don't know most Islamic schools are private and charge a tuition and registration fee and while our family was being tested with financial hardships I had to invest a lot of my time in helping the school. I became very exhausted with dealing with so many children on a regular basis.

Being at the school for so many hours in a day, I became aware of what really was taking place in this Islamic school. I say firstly may ALLAH guide us all upon correctness ameen . When it came to the salaah the ranks were broken and not heal to heal shoulder to shoulder. On Fridays while attending the khutbah I found the imam ordering the people upon Islamic ways that wasn't from Ahlu Sunnah wa Jammah! At this point I am doing my research when one of my children came home asking about the celebration of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday (alayhi salaatu wa

salaam ) while the other said she heard her teacher saying that Allah was made from light. Wa aoodubiAllah! {quotes} Now it was clear that my children were attending a school whose administration was upon jumaatul tablegh. I was forced to sign my children out of the school for fear of their deen. {/quotes}

When the 2007 school year came around a close friend informed me of another Islamic school 30 min away from where I resided. I couldn't afford the tuition so I only registered my oldest daughter. I said to my friend, "Allahu akbar"; I was so impressed this school was very spacious and had everything a public school had, unfortunately by this time my daughter was a little behind in grade level due to an instability of her education. Due to tuition and the school policy, that any student who couldn't maintain a C average during the 1st marking period, just didn't meet the school academics standards and would either be told that their child will be left behind or that your child doesn't quite meet our educational values. There was no other alternative for me but to again take her out of another Islamic school.

May Allah reward the sisters who consoled me as the warm tears slowly pored from my eyes down my cheeks, subhanAllah it soaked my facial veil. I said, "Ya Allah"; what am I going to do now. Then I remembered a supplication for the one who had been struck with a calamity I quoted, "to Allah we belong, unto him is our return Oh Allah reward me for my affliction and replace it with something better and said ameen"; then Allah tabaraka wa ta aala gave me the patience to home school. My friends and family gave us books and helped us to get started & may I say Allah made it easy.

{quotes}It feels indescribable when you take the time to teach your children Islam at home, give them a secular education and watch them progress, all you can do is thank Allah.{/quotes} I home school for 3 hours a day. To make the atmosphere studious I brought some chalk board paint from the hardware store and painted a huge black chalk board on one of the walls in the play room and added a desk alhamdulillah. All of the children get one on one learning time. My oldest daughter helps her little brother, and my son helps his younger sister. Remember that Allah ta aala says: "And certainly, We shall test you with something of fear, hunger, loss of wealth, lives and fruits, but give glad tidings to As-Sâbirin (the patient ones, etc.). (Al-Baqarah 2:155) Who, when afflicted with calamity, say: "Truly! To Allâh we belong and truly, to Him we shall return." (Al-Baqarah 2:156)

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