

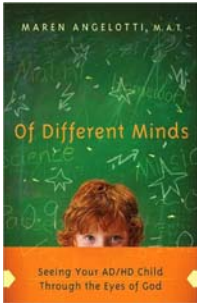
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Effectively Parenting Children with Learning Differences**

*Of Different Minds* by learning difference expert and mother of three learning-different children Maren Angelotti equips parents to help children succeed

**Dallas, TX** – More than one in four children with learning disabilities drop out of school, and only about one in eight attend four-year-college within two years of leaving high school (National Center for Learning Disabilities). **Maren Angelotti**, founder Of Different Minds, Inc., an organization that works with children with learning differences, has overcome her own challenge with dyslexia, and is raising four children, three with learning-differences.



In *Of Different Minds* (Regal Books, January 2009), Angelotti shares her extensive knowledge and first-hand experience to help parents understand their learning-different children. With a mother's heart and a master's in Teaching for the Multisensory Child, Angelotti clearly explains the complexities of learning differences. "I have written this book to encourage and educate parents as they begin or continue their journey down a winding road," Angelotti says. "The best antidote to the negativity that can permeate the AD/HD mind is love."

Along the way, Angelotti clears up common misconceptions of learning differences, encouraging readers to see the child through the eyes of something greater: the eyes of God. Angelotti offers parents the opportunity to see the difficulties as opportunities, bringing the challenges into perspective, revealing poignant insight rooted in Scripture. With personal stories and engaging chapters, Angelotti covers a variety of topics, including:

- Understanding Learning Differences
- Good News About Bad Behavior
- Making Sense of Adolescence
- Learning Differences and Faith
- Education: Preschool to Higher Education
- Marriage, Siblings and the LD Child
- The Six Types of ADD and AD/HD

*Of Different Minds* also addresses parental denial and fears surrounding ADD/ADHD, Dyslexia and related disorders. Angelotti provides parents the tools for their children's pathway to success. "It's important for parents not to allow their children to use their learning difference as an excuse. However, parents must educate themselves fully about their child's learning difference," she says.

*Of Different Minds* includes an engaging resource center in the appendix, with a glossary, quotes from learning-different children, a listing of schools, testing facilities and therapists around the United States for learning-different children, as well as interactive Bible studies for parents.

**Maren Angelotti** has a B.A. in Sociology and Theology from Loyola Marymount University and a M.A.T. (Masters of Arts in Teaching) for the Learning-different student from Dallas Baptist University. Angelotti has her own practice in Dallas, working with children and adults with learning differences. She has four children, three of which have learning differences. They are currently completing their college careers and are looking forward to bright futures. Her husband, Bob, runs a successful public relations firm.

### **About *Of Different Minds*:**

*Of Different Minds: Seeing Your AD/HD Child Through the Eyes of God* by Maren Angelotti. Published by Regal Books. January 2009. Paperback, 272 pages. \$14.99. ISBN: 9780830747207.

# Suggested Interview Questions

For Maren Angelotti, author of *Of Different Minds*

1. What are learning differences? What are the most common types?
2. What is ADD? What is AD/HD? What are the differences?
3. You write from a perspective of personal experience. Could you share with us your experience with dyslexia and also your children's learning-different experiences?
4. You write from a Christian perspective, about seeing children "through the eyes of God"? What role does the Christian faith play in how you treat these children?
5. What are some of the common misconceptions about children with learning differences?
6. How can parents with children with learning differences help them to become successful and lead normal lives?
7. What advice do you have for parents who are in denial or confused about their child's differences?
8. What's the "good news about bad behavior"?
9. How can parents approach their child's adolescence and puberty? What are the unique challenges parents face throughout in the teen years?
10. What are your thoughts regarding the debate of medication? What factors can help parents decide if medication is right for their child?
11. What are the special roles of the mother in the family of learning-different children? What is the special role of fathers and siblings?
12. What impact does raising learning-different children put on a marriage? How can parents best maintain a strong marriage for these children?
13. How can parents address the issue of sibling rivalry, for both the child with a learning-difference, as well as their siblings?
14. What should parents consider when finding the right educational environment for learning-different children including public schools, private schools and home-school?
15. What about higher education? How can learning-difference children be prepared to succeed in college and beyond? What are some keys to success?

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# About Maren Angelotti

Author of *Of Different Minds*

**Maren Angelotti**, M.A.T., is an Academic Language Therapist and AD/HD instructor for both children and adults. She is a frequently requested speaker and consultant to home school associations, educational facilities and universities around the country on the dynamics of dealing with learning differences from a biblical perspective and on the implementation of effective remediation methods.



Angelotti was born and raised in Southern California. She received a Bachelor's Degrees in Sociology and Theological Studies from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and a Master's Degree in Teaching from Dallas Baptist University, Dallas, Texas.

A mother of four, Angelotti first became involved in learning different education when her daughter was diagnosed with ADD at age 11. In an effort to help her own child, she discovered the pain and confusion that many parents go through in trying to help their learning different children live a normal life.

Angelotti is the founder of Of Different Minds, Inc., an organization that provides instructor training programs and educational seminars for both teachers and parents - offering the tools to bridge the understanding of the learning different child and the world around them.

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# Story Ideas: *Of Different Minds*

Based on *Of Different Minds* by Maren Angelotti

## **The Importance of Parenting in LD Children's Development**

Angelotti can interview on parenting learning-different children. Angelotti speaks from personal experience with her own battle with dyslexia, as well as raising three learning-different children of her own, on top of professional experience with her education and practice.

## **Eight Common Problems in School (pages 20-25)**

1. Sensory Deprivation
2. Cultural Deprivation or Disadvantage
3. Educational Deficiency
4. Low Mental Ability
5. Mental Retardation
6. Frank Brain Damage
7. Primary Emotional Problems
8. Perceptual Dysfunction

## **God's Purposes in Learning Differences (pages 43-49)**

In chapter 2, "God's Purposes in Learning Differences," Angelotti illuminates the spiritual side of learning differences. "If we look through Scripture, we find several people who share some of the characteristics of our learning-different population today....It seems obvious from God's Word that He has no problem working with people who are different...in fact, He seems to prefer it."

## **Five Responses to the Diagnosis (pages 58-63)**

Angelotti outlines the five responses to a child's diagnosis, but only #5 is healthy.

1. Don't Ask, Don't Tell
2. Beat Around the Bush
3. Play the Blame Game
4. Do Nothing
5. Take One Day at a Time

## **10 Tips for Effective Discipline (pages 73-75)**

1. Don't Yell
2. Get on His/Her Level
3. Make a Homework Contract
4. Make a Behavior Contract
5. Reward Immediately
6. Encourage Positive Behavior
7. Tell Him Why You Like Him and Love Him
8. Remind Her that God Has Given Her Special Talents
9. Nourish His Dreams
10. Be Consistent

## **The Importance of Marriage in Learning-Different Families (pages 123-127)**

In chapter 10, Angelotti shows the importance of marriage in parenting learning-different children. "The high divorce rate among families with learning differences reflects the difficulty many couples have solving their marital problems," she writes. This would show readers how to strengthen their marriage and overcome difficulties brought on by a learning-different child. "Marriage is a sacrament and should be treated with respect. When our married life is healthy, our children are healthy mentally, spiritually and physically. If your marriage is going through a hard time, address it now."

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# **Quotes: *Of Different Minds***

By Maren Angelotti (Regal Books)

“Take time to become the parents God intended; it will surpass any job you leave behind or put on hold.” (10)

“Intelligence is not measured by grades.” (18)

“The National Center for Learning Disabilities defines a learning disability as ‘a neurological disorder that affects the brain’s ability to receive process, store and respond to information.’” (20)

“Divorce, one of the most common causes of emotional distress in children’s lives, has become a national epidemic, and the fallout is that children are disconnected from their families and their communities.” (24)

“Emotional problems are among the most prevalent challenges we face as a society today, and children are just as susceptible to depression, anxiety and other problems as adults.” (24)

“AD/HD is not an excuse for bad behavior and it should never be used as one....it is very important for parents not to allow their children to use their learning difference as an excuse. But to do this successfully, parents must educate themselves fully about their child’s learning difference and address their own learning differences.” (32-33)

“The best antidote to the negativity that can permeate the AD/HD mind is love.” (36)

“I predict that within the next 20 to 30 years, we will see a world where learning differences are understood at birth and remediation can take place at a very early age.” (39)

“God gives mothers a rare and wonderful gift: the gut-level instinct to care for our young.” (90)

“Fathers are the best-kept secret in a world that tells us the traditional family unit is not worth much anymore. Dads are the guiding forces behind great men and valued women in the next generation.” (94)

“Finding the right school, with the right teachers, for these children and others like them must be a top priority. Those who choose the vocation of teaching are generally a very caring group of people. The challenges facing them are huge, but there *are* solutions.”

“I like to recommend the following formula: Be a parent to your child from ages 0-10; guide them through life from ages 10-20; be their friend from age 20 until death. Your child will welcome your friendship and wise input in their adult years as you guide them through their adolescence.” (112)

“There is no ‘one size fits all’ approach to your child’s future. So much depends on the family’s willingness to move on and guide their child to a world of adventure and happiness.” (115)

“If parents are not wise enough to help non-learning-different siblings early on, anger and resentment may become their foundation for sibling relationships.” (130)

“Learning-different children need structure and specific rules to live successfully.” (131)

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