

I was homeschooled from kindergarten through graduation from high school (1997-2010) in the state of Ohio. My family were deeply religious independent fundamental Baptists, and, due to their beliefs, I did not receive an education in science or math.

My parents neglected to give me and my siblings a formal education in science because they believed that no science curriculum available could properly teach their interpretation of young-earth creationism. They told me that the earth is 7,000 years old, and that any evidence to the contrary, such as fossils or radio-carbon dates, were planted by the devil in order to fool us that the earth is millions of years old. I heard that Charles Darwin was an evil man who said that I was a monkey and only capable of eating bananas and swinging from trees. According to my parents, dinosaurs did not exist. Beyond this, I was not allowed to learn subjects like biology or chemistry, because my parents believed they would contradict their specific understanding of young-earth creationism.

My parents also believed that the Bible was the literal word of God and, according to their specific interpretation of the bible, they believed that I, as a young woman, was meant to be a 'helpmeet' for a man, first my father and then my future husband. As such, they told me that math beyond a certain level was pointless, and in high school, they refused to teach me subjects like algebra, trigonometry, and calculus. Instead, I started "business math," which mainly involved doing basic calculations related to cooking and keeping a household.

Eventually, at age 21, I begged my parents to let me start college, which they let me do because they told me I was certain to fail and then would be more content in my role as a home-maker. I taught myself how to study and graduated cum laude from nursing school in 2017.

Religious-based educational neglect has negatively affected my life and I would like my story to be heard so that no young girl is denied the truth in the same way again.

Signed,
AMC