

Fatima Rashid

Assalamu Alaykum,

I'm Sis. Fatima, the FNO Halaqa teacher for Girls, ages 9-11. It is a pleasure to know and teach your children! I love teaching and have been doing so for a long time.

I started helping my mother teach children Qur'an and Islamic Studies when I was twelve years old. This was in Long Island, NY where I grew up. Not many people in our community were knowledgeable in these areas of learning then, and my mother made it her life's work to teach both children and adults. I helped her teach first at homes where groups of twenty or thirty children would gather. Later, once more and more Masaajid and Islamic Centers opened (my mother instrumental in organizing several of these), I taught at places such as the Long Island Muslim Society, the Islamic Center of Long Island, and Madrassah al-A'raaf, a full time Muslim school. Later, I also volunteered as Sunday School principal in Florida. Basically, I haven't stopped teaching since I was a teenager, albeit mostly in a voluntary capacity. Besides Qur'an and Islamic Studies, I've also taught a variety of subjects such as English and Math at the K-12 level, and college English and Literature, here in the US and in Saudi Arabia. In addition to teaching, I've also served on the Board of Directors of a Masjid and also a private Muslim school in Florida.

My Islamic education was mostly at the hands of my mother, a variety of scholars over the years, and also my husband (who is an Aalim). My secular education is a Masters in English from the University of Central Florida, and my PhD coursework was completed at Florida State University. Along the way, I've finished memorizing the Qur'an, and have also helped my oldest three children complete their memorization, alhamdulillah. I have nine children and being a mom to so many is a huge plus—training, you might call it—when teaching a large group of children. It helps me to figure out the most effective way, insha'Allah, to teach your children. I believe that children should not just learn about Islam as a subject, but should gain the love of it, brick by brick, in their hearts. I enjoy telling them Islamic stories and relating ahadith in a way that connects to their own lives, so they understand how Islam is relevant to them, day by day.

May Allah SWT reward you all from making the effort to bring your children, and may He allow me to always do the best job possible in nurturing the love of Allah and the Rasul (SAS) in their hearts.

Sis. Fatima