Dr. Fawzia: Education & Parenting

# Who is the Teacher?

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My first son attended an excellent kindergarten where he memorized 10 surahs by heart. Then he joined Grade 1 in a very expensive private school.

He got full marks on Qur’an because the curriculum taught what he already knew. By Grade 2, the curriculum finally outgrew his repertoire. That’s when his Qur’an grades started declining, fast.

One night at 11 pm, another Grade 2 mother called me. She asked whether I was aware of the test the next day on Surah xyz. No, I wasn’t. She said, “Search his bagpack. At the bottom, you will find a piece of paper.” I did and indeed I found a scrap of torn paper: “ Surah xyz, October 15.”

I pulled my son out of bed, and tried teaching him. Needless to say, within minutes, he was fussing and I was shouting. I finally walked out of the room, cooled off and tried to make sense of the situation.

I had fallen into the trap of modern education: the teacher assigns the work, the parents teach it, then the teacher tests the parents on how well they have taught it.

In many schools, children fail because teachers do not teach. The loser is the child who is now labeled stupid.