

How to Homeschool

Learning how to homeschool is a task which takes time and doesn't just happen overnight. Nor, does it completely happen after the first year. However, it does become easier the longer you continue to teach your children at home.

There are several facts about homeschooling you will need to know such as:

- your state's homeschooling laws
- your child's learning style
- your teaching style
- homeschool curriculum options
- homeschool record keeping methods
- available homeschool activities and organizations

I would advise all parents to "keep it simple" when teaching their children at home. Start slowly and introduce new subjects after the basic subjects have been well established and a workable schedule is in order in your home. You can always add additional homeschool courses and home school activities at a later time.

Essentially, the core subjects will be: Math, English, History, and Science. English also includes Phonics, Handwriting, Spelling, Vocabulary, Reading, and Literature. Most states require Physical Education and Fine Arts, such as Art or Music. Additionally, Christian homes will probably add Bible as one of their elective choices.

You will develop your own set of tips and tricks that work best in your homeschool program, but here are a few that I will share until you create your personal list:

1. Create a realistic homeschool schedule
2. Teach children together when possible
3. Use a unit study approach to teach grades together
4. Develop strong readers and independent learners
5. Be discriminating about outside activities
6. Continue to learn along with your children
7. Select a minimum amount of homeschool curriculum
8. Use "real books" and "real life" to teach as much as possible
9. Enjoy the time you spend with your children

10. Remember to inspect the work you assign

It is a very good idea to locate a mentor who will lovingly ***take you under her wings*** and offer homeschool encouragement when needed. Also, be sure to guard your marriage and do not neglect yourself or your other interests. You do have other interests, right?

Homeschooling is a commitment and can be very demanding, emotionally and physically. However, it should not dominate your life and cause you to abandon other pursuits. Take it seriously but also remember to maintain a life as well as relationships because your children will graduate and that chapter of your life will come to an end.