

How To Successfully Homeschool Your Child

HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY HOMESCHOOL YOUR CHILD SELECTED TIPS - 44 PAGES!



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What Is Home Schooling

The term 'home schooling' basically refers to the process in which one or more children of not more than 2 families are instructed by parents or legal guardians, or a member of either household. The laws that define home schooling vary from State to State. The legal requirements for establishing a homeschool also vary with the State.

For most children, the actual process of learning begins much before school. Many children already know their alphabets, the names of animals, colors and other more complicated stuff before they reach school. This is mostly due to the hard work of a member of the family who has taken the time to teach the child. Home schooling is just a natural progression from here. Instead of sending their children to a public school, parents make their own curriculum and teach their children in ways that best suit the child. This is home schooling, in its most simplistic form.

Before you decide to go in for home schooling, there are certain important matters for consideration. First off, meet with parents of other homeschoolers. Find out the pros and cons of home schooling. Then ask yourself why you would want to adopt this method. This is a very important aspect, as the success of the program depends on the clarity and sincerity of your purpose.

Next, it is time to consider the expenses of home schooling. It may cost anywhere between a few hundred dollars to a few thousand every year. More importantly, you are also effectively shutting out any job opportunity for one of the parents. It is only obvious that one parent will have to stay at home full time to manage the homeschool. A home-based business however is a great alternative.

Are you qualified to take on home schooling for your children? Teaching is a continuation of your own learning process. With the advent of the internet, information is aplenty. There are various books and resources for those interested in home schooling. Go through the various methods of home schooling and choose one that is most suited to you. It helps if you know what kind of learning style your child has. Also, find out what your child feels about home schooling before you start.

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Every state has its own laws regarding home schooling. For instance, in North Carolina, you must first file a 'Notice of Intent' to start a home school. In this you have to mention if the school is a 'Private church' school or a 'qualified non-public school'. The persons providing the education are required to have at least a high school diploma. You have to maintain an annual record of the child's attendance and disease immunization. Every year, the child is required to undergo a standardized test. Each student attending the eleventh grade has to take a nationally standardized test. These are the requirements in North Carolina, but it is enough to give you a good idea of what home schooling entails.

Home schooling may seem like a lot of fun and freedom from the outside. However, things are seldom as simple as they seem. Home schooling is a lot of added responsibility and hard work. But, if successful, it will forge a strong bond of love and respect between parent and child, while providing your child with the best form of education he needs.

Think "Home Schooling" Not "School-At-Home"

One of the greatest things about home schooling is that you are not in any way limited like you are in a standard academic environment. There is no need for your children need to sit, back-straight, at a table for a strict hour long lesson. Try and think of what you're doing not as "school at home" but "home schooling." There is an important difference between these two ideas, one of philosophies: home schooling is much more than conducting standard lessons and schoolwork at home - the "home" becomes part of the schooling itself.

So let's say you're teaching science, and Galileo's theory that when objects fall they increase their velocity at a standard rate, regardless of mass. That sort of thing might not resonate too well with a child when taught in a classroom, explained on a blackboard while sitting a desk. If you go outside and drop a tennis ball and a rock off the roof, however, your child will no-doubt be astounded when the objects fall at the same speed, and the lesson will stick. In a similar way if you're teaching biology don't hesitate to take the children outside to examine an ant colony or some plants.

By home schooling you open yourself to a world of teaching opportunities that simply aren't practical in a public or private classroom. You can take advantage of the fact that children often learn better in a more comfortable and flexible setting: if your child wants to listen to his math lesson while sitting on the couch, let him. While you want to be careful, of course, to avoid encouraging a lack of discipline in teaching, you want to use "home schooling" to expand the educational experience. Proper home schooling means that the entire home, and all the time spent there, can be incorporated into the educational process, allowing for a more hands on, and in many ways more effective, education.

Home Schooling vs. School At Home

Home schooling has become a viable option for many parents seeking to expand and improve their child's educational experience. The public and private school systems are limited, for practical reasons, as to how far they can go to meet a particular child's educational needs. With home schooling, on the other hand, the entire process is geared towards your child in a one-on-one manner. You can create a particular curriculum suited to your child, and teach in a way works best for him or her. It is for these reasons, not to mention the economic benefits when you consider the costs associated with private schools that many parents choose to homeschool their children.

When you decide to homeschool your children, you're going to have to come up with a plan for how the subject matter is going to be taught, and a system to execute that plan. An important distinction you should make yourself aware of is a philosophical one of "home schooling" vs. "school at home." The latter method is overly simplistic, and doesn't take advantage of the benefits that home schooling can truly offer. While every parent is justifiably concerned about creating a disciplined academic environment, if you simply "teach at home" both you and your child will be missing out.

As a teaching philosophy, it's important to think of the process as "home schooling" -- this means that "home" and "school" become one: it's not simply a case of school being conducted in a home environment. So instead of creating regimented lessons at set times - instead of your children sitting stiffly at a table while you give them lessons - be always ready to use the flexibility of home schooling to your advantage. If your child has a question about a particular subject in biology, take him outside and show him nature at work. If he's interested in a certain aspect of history, take him to the museum.

One of the greatest things about home schooling is that it doesn't have to be a regimented system: a day of learning that ends at 4 PM, Monday to Friday. When home schooling is properly implemented, your child is always learning. During a unit on Shakespeare for example, maybe you'll decide to take him to a performance of the play on the weekend. If he's interested in computers, allow him to use his computer for a research project.

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Although in some ways you do need a certain regimen when home schooling, realize that your child's education doesn't have to end when you are finished for the day. Incorporating other educational activities into your daily home life will both expand your child's education and make it more engaging.

Most children learn better in settings that they are comfortable in, and what setting is more comfortable than the home? So if your child wants to hear his math lesson while sitting on the couch, let him. If he wants to watch a movie in the evening, direct him to an educational one.

By blurring, as much as possible, the line between "home" and "schooling" when home schooling your children, your children will benefit from a much more valuable educational experience than could be offered from the public or private school systems.

Come Up With A Clear Plan

It is imperative when home schooling that you have a clear outline of achievable goals for each subject. If you don't do this it will become easy to suffer from a lack of direction. The first thing you should do is outline some general goals in terms of home schooling: why do you want to homeschool? What do you want your children to learn? By answering these questions for yourself, you'll be able to come up with some clear goals, along with an appropriate timeline in which to reach those goals.

After coming up with a general plan for your home schooling, begin to break it down into the individual subject areas that you plan to teach. For each subject area, come up with a timeframe within which different aspects of the subjects will be mastered, as well as an ultimate expectation of how educated your children will be in a subject by the "term's" end. Speaking of which, you may benefit from thinking of your home schooling curriculum in "terms" mirrored after those in the public school system. Setting goals within these terms will ensure that your children are becoming educated at the same pace - or ahead of -- their peers.

Setting up and implementing your own specific curriculum will allow you to better gauge your children's progress, and to implement a teaching strategy more effectively.

5 Home schooling Tips

In recent years more and more families have elected to homeschool their children. Home schooling not only allows children to spend more time with their families, but a home schooling parent has the ability to tailor a curriculum as he or she sees fit. Compared to the cost of a private school, especially for multiple children, home schooling is also a much more economical choice for many people. Below are some **home schooling tips**.

Read Widely

This is one of the most important aspects of home schooling your children properly. It is imperative that you read extensively on a wide variety of topics. Remember that you are attempting to provide your children with a better education than the public school system, so you want your reading to be on a broad range of subjects.

Although you will definitely want to read some books on the subject of home schooling itself, don't rely entirely on these books. It's important that you are knowledgeable not only on how to teach, but on the subjects themselves. You will benefit yourself more from a broad knowledge base from which to teach, then specific knowledge of a particular pedagogical style.

Read general works on subjects like history, science, literature, and philosophy. Think of the range of subjects your children would encounter in the public school system, and gain a general knowledge of each. While all this reading may seem daunting, remember that you needn't become an expert in these subjects. What will usually suffice is a general "history of" or "beginner's guide to" the various topics.

You want to avoid, of course, having your knowledge of a given subject depend entirely on one person's opinion or work, but at the same time be realistic: a few, short general works on the subjects should be sufficient to start.

As you and your children start exploring the subjects in more depth, you may find new and different areas that you become interested in, and at that time you may seek out other books that cover the subjects in more depth. A good rule of thumb (assuming your children are young) is to read at least what a typical high school student would have to read on the subjects you plan to teach.

Home Schooling Laws

Many parents, for many different reasons, make the decision to homeschool their children. Home schooling allows for a specific educational experience designed to suit your child's particular needs, and in many cases goes above and beyond what can be achieved in a public or private school system. If you make the decision to homeschool your children, it is important that you do so legally, and understand the laws in your area. It is absolutely crucial that you do this, because if you fail to meet legal standards when home schooling your children you will inadvertently rob your children of postsecondary educational opportunities.

Home schooling laws vary from state to state, so you have to look up the specific laws in your home state. The basis of state laws on home schooling is the result of truancy laws that require children to attend school. The basic idea is that these laws exist to distinguish a home schooled child from a child that is simply not going to school, which is of course against the law. Generally, states will require that you submit a "notice of intent" to homeschool your children before the upcoming academic year, and the state will then respond with the appropriate paperwork for you to fill out.

Besides familiarizing yourself with the particular laws of your state you should also consult a home schooling association for advice. In some cases parents will be dealing with school officials who want to discourage them from home schooling, and in these situations it is important that you understand your rights. In the state of New York, for example, parents are not required to meet with school officials. School officials may request a meeting with the parents in order to discuss home schooling, but the state may not revoke the right to homeschool if the parents refuse this meeting.

It is also required that your child take standardized tests. This is so the state can legally assign your child to a given grade level. The laws vary from state to state but in most cases you will have a certain amount of leeway in non-standardized tests. New York allows for non-standard tests every alternate year between grades 4 and 8, for example.

Although it may seem intimidating at first, home schooling your children legally is ultimately not that complicated. You just have to make sure that you follow every step, and don't overlook any

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paperwork. While some state restrictions or rules may seem unnecessary or cumbersome, in the long run you'll save yourself a ton of headaches if you fill everything in properly and on time.

The best thing you can do when you begin to homeschool your children is to consult other home schooling parents and advocacy groups. Looking up legal jargon online can be confusing, but any home schooling group will give you solid, plain-English instruction on how to properly and legally set up home schooling for your children. Remember: it's impossible to overestimate the importance of studying your state laws in regards to home schooling - if you overlook or violate any of them, you could lose your right to homeschool altogether.

Making Your Child A Part Of The Home Schooling Process

There are a myriad of different reasons why people choose to homeschool their children: there is the economic benefit of avoiding high private school fees; there is the convenience of scheduling schooling around other family activities etc. One of the most important benefits of home schooling is the flexibility with which you can tailor your child's education. It is a well known fact that every individual has individual needs, and home schooling allows you to create a learning environment that suits your child particularly.

When you undergo home schooling, it is important that you have a clear curriculum and mind and a plan to execute it. But within that plan, you should understand that you have a tremendous amount of flexibility: there are many different ways that a child can learn something, and many different things to learn in a given subject.

One of the best ways that you can ensure a high level of learning retention is to encourage your child to take a personal interest in his or her education. Although this may seem obvious, many people growing up who went through a traditional school system will probably agree that their education was received in an authoritative way: schooling and your education was something that was done to you, not with you.

When home schooling, however, you can take advantage of the almost unlimited flexibility at your disposal and let your child take a more active role. While you can't, obviously, let your child do whatever he or she wants education-wise, you should always explain to him or her a given education plan, and see what he thinks.

For example, when you start your school day, outline the plan for the day with your child. Depending on his or her age you can also explain the reasoning behind the plan. If there are any things the child seems averse to doing, try and take them seriously. You should not, of course, avoid certain subjects or activities simply because your child doesn't like them. You should, however, ask your child why he or she doesn't like something in the day's plan, and to suggest alternatives. In many cases you will be pleasantly surprised by what your child comes up with, and be able to incorporate it into the day's work.

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As much as possible, you should have a list of alternatives in mind for assigned activities. The idea is to try and think of alternative activities that accomplish the same task. If your child protests against a certain exercise, then, you can offer them an alternative. This can be extremely effective in getting your children to learn material that they dislike.

Oftentimes the child simply has to feel that he or she is more in control of the situation to enjoy it. Even though you are ultimately controlling your child's education, by granting them small allowances and choices, while still sticking with the larger picture, everybody wins: your child feels he is doing what he wants to do, and you are still teaching your child what you want him to learn.

Come Up With Projects When Home schooling

Due to its many benefits, many parents are choosing home schooling for their children. Home schooling allows for a more flexible educational experience, and curriculum can be easily tailored to your child's individual needs. As the costs of private schools continue to rise, home schooling becomes a viable economic decision as well.

When you decide to homeschool your children, you need to become knowledgeable on a broad range of subjects so you can prepare an adequate educational plan. Once you have established a plan, which should include targets for different subject areas, you should consider the idea of unit projects.

You're probably familiar with projects, as you likely did one or two if you came through the public school system. Projects are a great way to implement and test knowledge acquired through an educational unit. A good plan is to have a multi-week unit set up for a given subject, and at the end of the unit assign a week-long project that will make use of what your child has learned.

For example, if you and your child study a biology unit, a great week long project is to create an ecosystem. This can be done with an old aquarium, and your child's goal will be to create an environment that can be self-sufficient in the sealed aquarium. In learning about the water table and the different cycles of nature, encourage your child to think of the best way to make his or her ecosystem. After your child has come up with a plan, take him to a store to buy the requisite materials with which to begin his project. Once it is started have him track the ecosystem's progress every day.

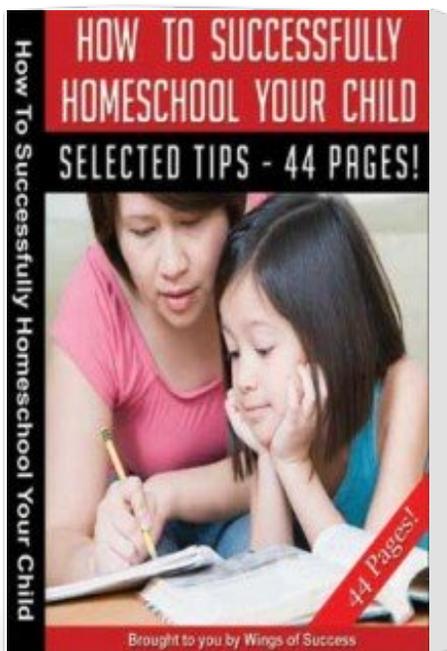
The reasons that projects like this can be very effective is that they serve multiple educational purposes: your child will not only be learning as he goes, but he will be learning in an engaging way, and most likely with a higher level of retention. A project can also engage other members of the family. The ecosystem, for example, could be placed in a prominent location, and other family members will no doubt take interest. It's a great educational experience when your child can not only excitedly report on a project's progress to his parents, but actually show the work at hand. Every parent has witnessed a child from the public system describing a project they're

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doing at the dinner table, but as a home schooling parent you have the benefit of having "home" and "school" being one: you child can not only tell, but show.

When you homeschool, you're not limited by the practicalities necessary in a public or private school system. Project ideas are only limited by you and your child's imagination. For each and every unit, encourage your child to come up with long term project ideas and use their learning in a practical way. Not only will the project allow your child to learn more about the subject, it will carry over into the home as a whole: other family members will take interest, and the whole process of buying the materials and planning the project will become part of your child's educational experience.

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