

Homeschooling

* GUIDE *





Homeschooling Guide





TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Introduction.....
- Chapter 1.....
 - Is Homeschooling Right for you?.....
 - Disadvantages.....
 - Doubt.....
 - Advantages.....
- Chapter 2.....
 - Finding Support.....
 - Home School Groups.....
 - Internet Email Discussion Groups.....
 - Home Schooling Families.....
 - Learning about Homeschooling.....
 - Internet Sites.....
- Chapter 3.....
 - Homeschooling Regulations.....
 - Legalities.....
- Chapter 4.....
 - Establishing Educational Goals.....
- Chapter 5.....
 - Different Methods for Homeschooling.....
 - Textbooks and Workbooks.....
 - Unit Studies.....
 - Lapbooks.....
 - Charlotte Mason Homeschooling.....
 - Classical Homeschooling.....
 - Unschooling.....
 - Montessori Homeschooling.....
 - Computer-based Homeschooling.....
 - Waldorf.....
 - Eclectic Homeschooling.....
 - Choosing a Homeschooling Method.....
 - Finding Curriculums and Resources.....
 - What is a Curriculum?.....
 - Hands-on Activities.....
 - Formal Curriculums.....
 - Finding Packages Curriculums and Resources.....
 - Making your Own Curriculum.....
- Chapter 6.....
 - Home School Scheduling.....
 - Planning your Home School Schedule.....
 - Daily Schedule.....
 - Weekly Schedule.....
 - Checklist Schedule.....
 - Sample Teaching Time Plan.....





- Chapter 7.....
- Home School Record Keeping.....
- Creating a Home School Portfolio.....
- Setting up your Home School Room.....
- Glossary.....
- Appendix.....
- Reading Log.....
- Attendance Record.....
- Field Trip Log.....
- Time Spent Log.....
- Lesson Planner Log.....
- Conclusion.....





INTRODUCTION

Homeschooling can be an important decision. Across the nation as many as 2 million children are homeschooled. Experts predicted there will be an increase of as much as 15% in the number of children who are homeschooled each year. Homeschooling is now the fastest growing educational alternative in the nation.

Parents choose to home school their children for many different reasons, including:

- Many have religious beliefs or educational philosophies that are not consistent with private and public schooling
- Some opt to begin homeschooling to prevent their children from being exposed to gangs, drugs and risky social behavior
- Others may choose homeschooling as a way of achieving academic excellence and tailoring a curriculum that is suited to their children's learning styles, interests and needs.

Whatever their reasons may be for choosing homeschooling, parents go about teaching their children at home in many different ways. There is no single right way to home school and there is no particular approach that is one size fits all. Methods for homeschooling include:

- Re-creating traditional schooling in the home environment with textbooks
- Attending a home study program through a public school district. Teachers assist parents in developing a course of study for their children and supply resource materials. Parents report to the school district on a monthly basis.
- Attending a home study program through a charter school. Curriculum development and teaching assistance is provided.
- Becoming a member of an independent study program through a private school. Most programs supply guidance, record keeping, curriculum counseling and support.





- Unschooling or child-centered learning, where parents act as facilitators and provide resources and materials to meet the child's interests within a particular field of study.
- Through the use of education technology and software that may include a complete curriculum package, taking classes online, taking courses through audio and video, etc.
- Taking correspondence courses. Many private schools provide complete curriculum packages. Colleges and universities also provide correspondence courses and provide college credit.

Many parents choose to use a wide variety of different resources in order to provide interest initiated learning. Textbooks may be used for some courses while other classes are taken outside the home. Studies may be supplemented with correspondence courses or field trips. Homeschooling advocacy organizations often provide a variety of different types of assistance including counseling, publications, presentations and products. Parents may also organize field trips, cooperative classes, social events and park days through support groups and regional home school groups. Much like their public and private school counterparts, homeschoolers may also participate in dance classes, sports programs, 4-H projects, scouting, music lessons and church activities. There are many opportunities for socialization.

The rapid growth of the homeschooling movement has made what was once an underground activity extremely accessible today. Although homeschooling is not the right choice for every family, it is certainly a viable educational choice.





CHAPTER 1

Is Homeschooling Right for you?

The decision to home school can be incredibly difficult and many parents spend quite a bit of time analyzing the choices to determine whether homeschooling is the right option for them. There are both advantages as well as disadvantages to homeschooling. In determining whether this is the right choice for you it is important to analyze both the benefits as well as the drawbacks.

Disadvantages

Perhaps one of the most common drawbacks to homeschooling that many parents experience is the tendency of others to question your decision. There is no getting around the fact that homeschooling is different. It is much easier to simply go along and do the same thing that most parents do by sending your child to public school. Because homeschooling is outside the norm, you must be very certain of your decision.

Eventually you will encounter people who will question your decision. In some cases, they may be well meaning but simply are not familiar with homeschooling. Others who question your decision simply may be opposed to the idea for various reasons. Some people have become convinced that public school is the only acceptable option. It is important to be prepared for the fact that you will encounter people who will be critical of your choice. It is important to ensure you are certain of your decision and your own reasons for choosing to home school.

There is no doubt that it does take a significant amount of time to home school. Not only must you spend time learning how to home school but you must also dedicate time reviewing material, collecting materials, organizing activities and field trips, etc. In deciding whether homeschooling is the right choice for you, you must decide whether you have the time to dedicate to it.

It can also be expensive to home school. Most families that home school only have one parent that earns an income full-time. Homeschooling can be a sacrifice for many home schooling families. Some families do work at least part-time in a home based business, it should be recognized that you will likely need to get by on primarily one income if you choose to home school and that can mean a financial sacrifice.

Along with less income as a family, you must also recognize that you will need to purchase some materials. There are numerous ways you can save money and still effectively teach, including using library books, free online resources, etc. but even so you will still need to spend some money on home schooling.

