

The Family CURRENT

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The Ten Most Important Things You Need to Know About Homeschooling

1. Homeschooling is life changing. It creates personal growth for both the parent and the child. You get a chance to re-discover your own special genius, while helping your children to find theirs. Nothing you will ever do will have a more profound effect on your children and your family's future than homeschooling.
2. You are qualified to homeschool your children if you love to read to them, love to spend time with them, love to explore the world with them, love to see them learn new things and, most importantly, love them. Again, don't doubt your ability!
3. Children love to learn. They have an innate desire to explore the world and examine what they find interesting. Children learn by following their interests, with one interest leading to another. Homeschooling families learn together, making learning a life-long process.
4. Homeschooling is legal everywhere in the United States, but homeschooling laws vary from state to state. The three basic categories for homeschooling laws are: home education laws, private school laws, and equivalency laws. The best way to learn about your state's laws is to contact a local support group in your area. To locate a representative from your state, please visit our list of local homeschooling groups by visiting www.homeschool.com. Homeschool group leaders are well versed in your state's particular laws and regulations and can be a great resource for you.
5. It does not take six to eight hours per day to homeschool your child. A significant amount of time at school is spent waiting. Design a plan that works for your family and be prepared to revise it several times or even start over. Don't sacrifice your family's happiness to "school" your children. There are many different ways that families can homeschool - find what works for you and your family. Think outside of the box, and where necessary, consult with homeschooling/learning specialists.

6. Your child will not become a social misfit. Children do not need to be socialized in a large group of same-age children to become well adjusted socially; it is quite the opposite. Most parents want their children to learn their social graces from adults, not other children. Homeschoolers have healthy relationships with people of all ages, including the new mother next door, the retired couple who loves to garden, their friends at ballet, 4-H and Karate and, most importantly, their parents.

7. Don't be afraid to teach Algebra or high-level math courses! When your child is ready for these courses, there are numerous options to assist you if your knowledge is not up-to-speed. Explore the many resources available to help your child learn high-level math skills: in a community college class, with a tutor, through a textbook, or with a program such as ALEKS. ALEKS is a research-based online math program that provides highly-targeted, individualized assessment and learning for grades 3-12.

8. You will question yourself a lot, maybe even several times a day in the beginning. This is normal. Find a fellow homeschooling friend for support. Remind each other that it's okay to feel that your children didn't seem to learn anything on a given day. They did, and so did you! Even professional teachers question themselves sometimes!

9. Thousands of homeschooling families are able to make the money they need, while also homeschooling their children. Whether you create a family business or dream job, or restructure your current job, your children will learn the most important skill of all - how to create the life of their dreams.

10. Trust in your children. They learned how to love, smile, crawl, walk, talk, run, dress themselves, and understand their world before starting school, and they will continue to grow and learn through homeschooling.

Overall, it is important to approach homeschooling with the proper knowledge and support system, while providing your children with the information that they need to succeed in college and beyond.

Article From Homeschool.com <news@homeschool.com>

“Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.”

Dr. David M Burns

The CD Player of “How to Learn”

Like every homeschool parent, I was overwhelmed by how I would teach every piece of information to my children before college . . . until I realized I *could NOT teach* my children all the information they would need in life and furthermore, *I did NOT HAVE TO teach* them everything they needed.

Information and its accessibility are increasing exponentially, and with the availability of the Internet and iPhones, almost everyone has information at their fingertips. The key is teaching children “how to learn,” meaning how to apply information rather than merely collect it and regurgitate it. The goal is application that turns information collecting into information using. *Mere information* is easily forgotten, but if parents give students the CD player of “how to learn,” the student can plug in any new subject/CD and apply newfound information to any task.

When my fourth son, Jared, began working for his older brother, a home builder, home building was down, so Jared initiated a remodeling division for Jason’s company. One night Jared asked his dad how to install a water heater and then commented: “Never mind. I’ll look it up on the Internet.” When Wade was curious as to why Jared needed to know, Jared said, “I am installing one tomorrow for a customer.” What?! Obviously, Jared had the CD player of “How to Learn” firmly fixed in place, and it gave him an incredible confidence.

Immerse your high schoolers in topics so that they can develop their own “How to Learn” CD player. Acquisition of such a tool will serve them throughout life—*plus* give them confidence to boot!

Jessica Hulcy, co-author of KONOS Curriculum, the first curriculum written for homeschool, is an educator, author, and formerly popular national homeschool speaker prior to her near-fatal wreck in 2009. A graduate of the University of Texas, mom to four grown sons, and “Grandear” to grandchildren, Jessica lives with her husband Wade on acreage in Texas. Recently Jessica and Wade started the ultimate online help for homeschooling moms called Homeschool Mentor. Visit www.homeschoolmentor.com and www.konos.com.

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LEARNING STYLES

Among the many advantages of homeschooling, one of the most important is the ability to tailor the child's education to meet his/her individual learning style. Successful techniques used with one child may not be appropriate for another. It is not unusual for siblings to have very different preferences for the way they choose to learn and the methods that suit them best. Frequently, different styles -- or even a combination of styles - may be used depending on the circumstances.

So how does a parent determine exactly what the learning style is for each child? Basically, each person falls into one of three categories: visual, auditory, or kinetic. While this is a highly simplistic definition, usually one style is dominant in a child's behavior and mannerisms. It is up to the parent to observe closely to determine which trait that is. Here are some examples for each style:

Visual – understands better by seeing pictures; may find it easier to grasp concepts presented in a visual format such as videos or photos.

Auditory – comprehends through listening; prefers lectures or audio tapes or simply stating the information aloud (or reading aloud).

Kinetic – prefers hands-on practice to understand tasks; may use hand gestures frequently when speaking or explaining an idea.

The purpose of determining a child's learning style is simply to provide a tool to help him learn more easily. It does not mean that he is locked into this system for life. By including the other styles periodically, a parent can help the student develop his less dominant learning styles which also serves to exercise different parts of his brain. For example, the mother of a 12-year-old boy was concerned that his reading comprehension was not as advanced as she thought it should be. His reading speed was excellent, but he was not retaining the information. Then she discovered that he had a tendency to read aloud to himself. So she gave him permission to do just that. She found that he needed to "hear" the words in order to assimilate the information and remember what he had read. In time, he outgrew the need and learned to comprehend the material visually.

The best advice is to observe your child's natural characteristics to determine the best learning style to use. Let that form the basic method for teaching, but don't hesitate to try the other methods occasionally to see if he is ready for a change.

PERIODICAL LIST

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine—www.thehomeschoolmagazine.com
Phone: 888-718-home

Home Education Magazine—www.home-ed-magazine.com

Home School Enrichment—www.HSEMagazine.com

FLO TESTING SERVICE

Standardized Tests

California Achievement (CAT) K-12	\$37.00
CAT Survey (CS) 2-12	\$37.00
Markable CAT (MC) K-3	\$50.00
Basic Achievement Skills Inv (BASI) 3-12	\$37.00
TerraNova (T) Grades 1-12	\$37.00
Practice Tests (PT) 1-3	\$3.00
S&H for Test Orders (Cont US)	\$5.00

Test Prep

Spectrum Test Prep (STP) 1 – 8	\$9.50
Test Prep grade 9 or 10 (TP9 or TP10)	\$9.50
GED Prep	\$9.00
S&H (if ordered without test)	\$3.00

Assessments*

Checklist (CSL) K-12	\$30.00
Freestyle (FAF)	\$30.00
(No S&H charge on these items)	

*These reports are completed by parents and evaluated by a *Washington State certified* teacher to document the child's academic progress according to state standards.

If you are unsure of the homeschooling laws in your state, go to www.hslda.org or www.homeedmag.com for specific State information.

“Learning is a treasure that will follow its
owner everywhere.”

-Chinese proverb

KID'S PAGE

Winter Word Scramble

Look at each winter picture and unscramble the letters and write the winter word on the line provided.

 racsf _____	 dels _____
 otac _____	 ownsnam _____
 timents _____	 vehsol _____
 kastes _____	 morts _____

<http://ellynsplace.blogspot.com/2011/12/candy-sleights.html>

**Candy
Sleights!**



BOOKS

Academic Homeschooling: How to Give Your Child an Amazing Education at Home - Tracy Chatters

Suddenly Homeschooling: A Quick Start Guide to Legally Homeschool in 2 Weeks - Marie-Claire Moreau, Ed.D.

Learning Styles: A Guide for Teachers and Parents - Barbara K Given

A Child's Garden: Enchanting Outdoor Spaces for Children and Parents - Molly Dannenmaier

ONLINE RESOURCES

www.edhelper.com - free downloadable lessons

www.time4learning.com - economically-priced curriculum

www.kaboose.com - free lessons and craft projects

www.mentoringminds.com - books & CDs to purchase

www.lessonplanspage.com - math worksheets & science projects

www.patchproducts.com - educational games

www.besthomeschooling.org - articles about homeschooling

www.homeschoolfacts.com - state laws and support groups

www.schoolexpress.com - free lessons and membership for a fee

www.lessonplancentral.com - free lessons

www.applelandbooks.com - test practice and study guides

If you have found a book or resource to be particularly helpful, which is not on this list, send it to: martha@familylearning.org.

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