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Top 10 Tips for Home School Moms



The attitude of our hearts will determine the atmosphere of our home which will affect the actions of each member of our family

1. Curriculum, Co-ops, and fun!

Choose a curriculum that matches how you teach AND how your children learn. There are lots of great curriculums out there. Pick one and stick to it. Always looking for the next best thing will drive you batty. A curriculum that covers multiple ages will make your life much easier with multiples.

Co-ops just suck away your time to teach your kids. Either home school or don't, but don't think you have to add a million different things so your kids don't miss out.

Take a day off in the middle of the week for no good reason and just do something fun once in awhile.

-Contributed By Home School Mom Tanya Robinson

2. Go as slow as needed.

Go slow. When starting, especially if starting from kindergarten, take it slow and easy. Be kind to yourself and your child. They do not have to learn everything in the first term or even the first year! :) Don't burn yourself out. Don't do too many subjects or extra curricular

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activities. Allow yourself to grow into the role. As you grow into the role over the years you will be able to add more into your schedule but don't try to do it all right from the start. Read lots of good books together and feed them lots of good books to read themselves. They may forget history dates or science definitions but they will remember the lessons they learnt from noble characters and ideas in good books. Not just remember, they will have taken on-board many of those ideas and qualities into their own lives, just as they absorb them from family and friends they admire.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Samantha Bryan

3. Attitude, Prayer, Organization, and Testing

Momma's attitude is key: The days that I approach it with enthusiasm, excitement and an overall feeling of sharing and connection, things go so much more smoothly. The days where I am dreading it, overwhelmed or just not able to get into it, I get so much more resistance from the kiddos and things are a struggle.

Starting with prayer and spiritual learning helps to set the tone. Because my guys are little, I try to keep this to 1/2 hour so that they have the attention span for the next activity.

Organization and preparation also help me to get into the right frame of mind. I use a weekly planner to map out my plan for the week and keep a schedule for myself on when to prepare for each specific activity. I like to prepare for each week the week prior so that I can have a week to prepare and I know the material in advance.

Testing...In the early days I would teach with the expectation that every thing just taught was retained...especially because I made it super fun, right? Wrong? Testing really helps me to see where he is at on any given subject.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Kimberly Sinclair

4. Mission Statement & Student's Perspective

Sit down & write out why you are homeschooling. On tough days, you can pull out this list & remember that all the challenges are for a good reason and if the why is big enough, the how will take care of it self.

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I asked my daughter Amber about what she felt was the most important tip for mothers, from a student's perspective, and her answer was to help the children love to learn and teach them how to learn on their own. I asked her how a parent accomplishes that. She said that for her, it was allowing her to study things she was interested in and encouraging her to delve deeper into those things by suggesting that she look things up in the encyclopedia, books, online, etc, and helping her see how to find things in such resources, then allowing her to "live" those things. For example, Amber loved the Civil War era, so we took her to Civil War sites, allowed her to make Civil War dresses, wash her clothes outside by hand & hang them over rocks to dry, make hard tack & eat it for meals like the soldiers did. This made history come alive to her. She learned not only how to learn, but to love to learn.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Jannice Schamel

5. Schedules & Cheerful Attitudes

I guess one of the main things for me that helped me in my homeschooling journey was to have a good schedule for each child. I made one up in September (for Sept through to December) and then another one in January (for Jan. through June) each year. On these individual schedules I had the times for their different subjects for school, their Scripture memory work, their music practice, the days they would make bread (they made bread on their own, by the time they were 8 yrs old), their jobs for the day, and a time when they were scheduled to look after the babies or preschoolers, when I had to do more concentrated help with those in school. These were, of course, revised each year, as the children got older, had different responsibilities, and of course different learning courses. I know some mothers like a more "free schooling" system, but this worked very well for me and my personality, and we seemed to get so much more done in a day than if we didn't have a schedule. I made charts putting time slots from 7 a.m. through to about 4 p.m. and the children actually loved the discipline of them, and also the joy of seeing a lot accomplished! We would always schedule the fun things in as well, like field trips, family times, playtime, and free reading, etc. Stickers on charts always make it more fun for the little ones too.

Another huge help in our homeschooling was to teach the children to work cheerfully at a very early age. It does take more time at the beginning, but the end result is so worth it. When you have a big family (we have 7 children) there is such joy in working together, and the mother is not burdened to home school and do all the work herself too. I found

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that having #7 child was the easiest one I had, as I had so many wonderful helpers to assist me! It really has been such a joy to raise these precious children. (SO as not to give a picture perfect scenario, I did have my times of being overwhelmed and tiredness, but all in all, I look back at the homeschooling days, and thank God for the precious experience of homeschooling and training these children). All my married children are now homeschooling their children, and it is a delight to see them incorporate so many of the things we did in our home as well, as well as add their own creative ideas.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Karen Fehr

6. PLAN for the future. Money & Resources.

Plan, even if you aren't sure you will do this next year, plan for 4 years. Write it down. Look at materials and spend money wisely. Don't use all of a classroom curriculum. Teach as much science and history and whatever else seems to work together until the older ones are ready for high school credit. Choose Christian curriculum for those subjects too. Enjoy your time with them. If it's all frustrating, draw in your boundaries (Let the children have less freedoms) and really look at what you are teaching. Is it all necessary? Choose the best materials for the hardest subject your child faces. Love on them, read aloud to them, pray with them and over them, keep doing what makes you a unique person (don't give up all hobbies, interests, etc.) Child training is so worthwhile. Teach them to obey parents with honor, to respect the property and bodies of others, be kind to one another.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Mary Ann Avery

7. Confidence & Success

After 24 consecutive years of formal homeschooling and 28 of parenting, I think what it boils down to is two things; have confidence in the instincts God gives you to know and meet your child's needs and understand that success in homeschooling cannot be measured by any other standard than this-did you do what God told you to do?

It is a big world and mankind knows a lot. There is no true scope-and-sequence that can prepare a child for the work God has brought them into the world to do. When twelfth grade is past, and your child enters college or some other training institute or direct-entry profession, he will continue to learn the needed things he will need. Educators would have us think that "mere parents" cannot hope to prepare a child adequately for the "real world", but that is a prejudiced lie. The best studies available indicate that parents, even those with no post-high school education, do as well at preparing kids to excel in adult life as professional educators. So, the children are as adequately prepared, but they also have the

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strength of having been nurtured during those important years by parents who had control over their child's environments.

Home educating our kids is a big responsibility. It is a ministry. It is a celebration of our calling as moms. We need to take it seriously and daily fight complacency and sloth. We need to pray without ceasing and leave the results to Him.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Ana Maria Kurcab

8. Put God first

My advice would be to always put God first in your home school day. Remember why you are homeschooling to begin with. If we push, push academics and have not love or remember the importance of the relationship with our children - we're a clanging gong! Use a schedule to make things run smoothly and consistently, yet let God be your Master Planner (titus2.org). When you have rough or burnt out days, take some time and play a game with your children, go for a walk, reconnect and things will smooth out. Also, remember that God made you the parents of your child/children. He doesn't make mistakes. Remind your children, that God created and made them for a purpose: they are the oldest, middle, youngest, have you for a parent - God doesn't make mistakes!

-Contributed by Home School Mom Janet Stephens

9. Find out State Laws & Stick to Course

Find out your states laws on hours needed then write a daily schedule of courses for each child and keep track of the classes you do each day, add up the hours and make sure you cover core curriculum.

There is no need to spend a ton of money on high dollar curriculum if you don't have it. By keeping these ideas in mind you should have a good map to follow and not leave out too much! Encourage don't discourage or you will be discouraged! My favorite book on teaching to read is teach your children to read in 100 easy lessons. My two year old can follow it! And it has him learning to read and advancing his speech. Home schooling can sometimes be difficult so utilize prayer!!

-Contributed by Home School Mom Jess Wilson

10. The True Treasure

As I look back over our 21 years of homeschooling, I feel that the most important lesson ever taught is this: Your Heavenly Daddy, (Abba.... Daddy in Hebrew.) And Jesus, (Yeshua is His name in Hebrew), love you more than you can ever imagine: They have amazing blessings and treasures for you every day of your life: read about those treasures

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right in the Bible. They ordained that you were conceived and born here at this time on this planet in this location ON PURPOSE. You are not an accident: You are your Heavenly Abba's treasure and His joy.

"For the JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM, HE WENT TO THE CROSS....." Hebrews 12:2. YOU ARE THAT JOY!!

So spend every day of your life digging out the treasures that He sent to you in His Love Letter called The Bible. Talk to Him all day long, but of course, take time to listen also. Listen for His still small voice as He shares His treasures of instruction and loving encouragement and loving correction. Phil. 4:8 even tells us what to think about: " Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true... etc. Think on these things."

Do treasure hunts around the house or yard with Scripture for clues to remind your children daily of their value in Yeshua. Nothing in your daily lesson plan is even close to the importance of teaching your children their value in the eyes of their Lord and Master and Savior. And learning HIS specific purposes for their lives can make our children truly WHOLE: PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, AND SPIRITUALLY WHOLE.

-Contributed by Home School Mom Joan Miller

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