

The Homeschool Times

The Home School Academy - 334 Second Street, Catasauqua, PA 18032 - 1-800-863-1474 - hsacademy@enter.net

Getting Started Devise a plan!

"Where there is no vision.....the people perish."
Proverbs Chapter 29

- Define your family goals! What do you hope to achieve for your children in homeschool? What spiritual, educational, and character building goals do you have? Write them down and place them where you can see them!
- Figure out what you are going to teach, and what curriculum material you are going to use. (Use a family friendly curriculum.)
- Find a support group in your area, and see what resources they have available.
- Plan, plan, plan! Plan your curriculum, plan your teaching time, and then plan some more.
- Find an area in your home suitable for teaching.
- Remember that this is new to your children as well as new for you, so cut each other some slack!
- Don't buy into the socialization negatives you'll get from others. There are plenty of places for socialization such as church, scouts, sports, and numerous other activities, that are far better suited to teach socialization skills than public school.
- Seek family support by providing them with solid information (your curriculum). Show them positive books and articles. Give them the same reason for doing this as the one that convinced you to decide for it.
- Jump right in and get with it!!! But don't get too frustrated! Remember, the first year is a learning and adjustment experience for the whole family. ⓘ

IS HOME SCHOOLING FOR YOU?

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Home schooling . . .

It Works!

ONE question every parent must ask is, "How can we best educate our children?" It seems there are more options than ever these days, with the promise of more on the horizon. Yet with all these choices, how can a parent decide which is best for their child? As with everything, we must look to God's Word.

In the covenant of marriage, God gave children to Adam and Eve. With the first cries of their son came the first form of corporate government on this earth. It wasn't the civil government. It wasn't the church. It was the family, and the entire responsibility for raising and training that child fell to the parents. With no how-to books, no parenting seminars, and no support from other people, they embarked upon the task of teaching their children. I don't suppose they felt strange about this new job. It was natural and obvious.

As Dr. Tony Evans explains, "As a parent, you are responsible for your children's science education, history education, and every other element of their training. The Bible locates the comprehensive education of children in the home and lays the charge at the feet of Mom and Dad." [1]

Why do parents today feel so incapable of teaching their own children? It seems education has been turned over entirely to "experts," and parents feel inadequate. Could it be that parents really have all the tools they need to educate their own children in the context of the home? History has proven this to be true—nearly everyone homeschooled until recent times. It also seems modern research is reaffirming the role of parents as teachers.

A 1997 study of 5,402 homeschooled students, conducted by Dr. Brian Ray of the National Home Education Research Institute [2], reveals that home educated children scored an average of 35% higher on national standardized tests than their governmentally schooled counterparts, even when their parents were non-certified teachers. In fact there was less than 8% difference between parents who were college grads, and those who merely finished high school.

If a parent who has never walked the "hallowed halls" of higher academia can teach a child to score 35% higher than a child taught by a paid "professional," perhaps we should consider that the old ways are best. Of course, skeptics of parent-

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Frequently Asked Questions

by Isabel Lyman

Why Do Families Choose to Homeschool?

An analysis of 300 newspaper and magazine articles about homeschoolers revealed that the top four reasons to homeschool were dissatisfaction with the public schools, the desire to freely impart religious values, academic excellence, and the building of stronger family bonds.(31) Those reasons coincide with the findings of polls of homeschoolers. For example, the Florida Department of Education surveyed 2,245 homeschoolers in 1996. By the end of August 1996, 31 percent of that number had returned the survey. Of that group, 42 percent said that dissatisfaction with the public school environment (safety, drugs, adverse peer pressure) was their reason for establishing a home education program.(32)

What Types of Families Choose Homeschooling?

Americans of different races, socioeconomic back-

grounds, and religions homeschool. Holt Associates describes its clientele as individuals who "live in the country, city, suburbs, small towns. Some are single parents, combining working outside the home with homeschooling."(33) Given many Americans' penchant for associations, there are national homeschooling support groups for Mormons, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, the handicapped, and homeschoolers of color.

A recent study of 5,402 homeschooled children from 1,657 families, conducted by Brian Ray and the HSLDA, noted that the top three occupational groups of homeschooling fathers were accountant or engineer (17.3 percent); professor, doctor, or lawyer (16.9 percent); and small-business owner (10.7 percent). According to the same survey, 87.7 percent of mothers who have chosen to stay at home and teach their children list "homemaker" as their occupation.(34) Educational researchers Jane Van Galen and Mary Ann Pittman have categorized the two primary types

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Want Socialization? Home School Your Children!

By James Dobson

Q: Don't you think home schooling might have a negative impact on the socialization process? I don't want my children growing up to be misfits.

A: This is the question home schooling parents hear most often from curious or critical friends, relatives and neighbors. "Socialization" is a vague, dark cloud hanging over their heads. What if teaching at home somehow isolates the children and turns them into oddballs? For you and all those parents who see this issue as the great danger of home education, I would respectfully disagree — for these reasons.

First, to remove a child from the classroom is not necessarily to confine him or her to the house. And once beyond the schoolyard gate, the options are practically unlimited.

Home school "support groups" are surfacing in community after community across the country. Some are highly organized and offer field trips, teaching co-ops, tutoring services, social activities and various other assistance and resources. There are even home schooling athletic leagues and orchestras.

Even if you are operating completely on your own,

there are outings to museums and parks; visits to farms, factories, hospitals and seats of local government; days with Dad at the office; trips to Grandma's house; extracurricular activities such as sports and music, church and youth groups, service organizations and special-interest clubs. There are friends to be invited over and relatives to visit and parties to attend.

The list is limitless. Even a trip with Mom to the market can provide youngsters with invaluable exposure to the lives and daily tasks of adults in the real world.

While the children are there, a multitude of lessons can be learned about math (pricing, fractions, pints vs. gallons, etc.), reading labels and other academic subjects. And without the strictures of schedule and formal curriculum, the lessons can all be considered part of the educational process.

That's what I would call "socialization" at its best. To accuse home schoolers of creating strange little people in solitary confinement is nonsense. The great advantage of home schooling, in fact, is the protection it provides to vulnerable children

against the wrong kind of socialization. When children interact in large groups, the strongest and most aggressive children quickly intimidate the weak and vulnerable.

I am absolutely convinced that bad things happen to immature and "different" boys and girls when they are thrown into the highly competitive world of other children. When this occurs in nursery school or in kindergarten, they learn to fear their peers. There stands this knobby-legged little girl who doesn't have a clue about life or how to cope with things that scare her. It's sink or swim.

It's easy to see why such children tend to become more peer-dependent because of the jostling they get at too early an age. Research shows that if these tender little boys and girls can be kept at home for a few more years and shielded from the impact of social pressure, they tend to be more confident, more independent and often emerge as leaders three or four years later.

If acquainting them with rejection, physical threats and the rigors of the pecking-order is necessary to "socialize" our children, I would recommend that we keep them unsocialized for a little longer. ①

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Page E1

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY™ COLUMN

Father's role is crucial

BY MICHAEL FARRIS

As distasteful as it may seem to the National Organization for Women, the vast majority of teachers in home-schooling homes are stay-at-home moms.

These women have combined the roles of model-mom June Cleaver and superteacher "Our Miss Brooks," making a mighty commitment of their lives to their children. No one should think, however, that home-schooling fathers aren't important.

After 15 years in the home-schooling movement, I am convinced that an "involved dad" tops the wish list of nearly every home-schooling mom.

Fortunately, opportunities abound for a dad who wants to become the man of his wife's dreams. Gentlemen, it does not matter to your wife how you help relieve her load so long as you do.

A home-schooling mom has two major areas of responsibility: caring for a home and teaching academics to her children. Her husband can pick tasks from either area and make his wife equally happy.

A husband who does the laundry, goes grocery shopping, cleans the kitchen or cooks a couple dinners a week makes a major contribution in the area of keeping the home.

Or a husband can choose the area of academics and help his wife by giving spelling tests, drilling children with the memorization of math facts, doing science experiments, or grading a few assignments.

Many dads have aspirations of teaching their children a couple of subjects—math, science and history

are the usual favorites. If you can pull it off, it is a great idea and a real assistance to your wife.

But let me give you a word of caution: If your child is not yet a teen-ager, do not attempt to teach a core academic subject unless you can do it at least three days a week during the daylight. It's OK to teach a teen a couple of subjects at night, but little children deserve the opportunity to learn during the day while they are fully awake. A dad who assists as needed with academics can be more helpful in the long run than a dad who takes on a course with a lot of good intentions but little chance of following through.

One of the most important things a dad can do is to ensure that his wife gets a regular break in her schedule. My wife, Vickie, has gone for a two or three mile walk virtually every day of our quarter-century of marriage, even when pregnant or during blizzards.

Before we got to the stage of life where we have four children of appropriate baby-sitting age, it was my responsibility to arrange my schedule so that Vickie could go for a walk while I watched the kids as often as possible. That mental and physical break has been a tremendous part of Vickie's success as a home-schooling mom.

Your wife may like to swim or sew or read—whatever it is, provide baby-sitting assistance so that your wife takes the breaks she has more than earned.

One gadget that is a must for home-schooling families—and what man doesn't like gadgets—is the plain, old answering machine. Buy one for your wife

and encourage her to use it. Home-schooling moms get a lot of interruptions during their school day, from long distance telephone salespeople to "a friend of a friend" whose "few" questions about home schooling turn into 45 minutes right in the middle of the time mom was planning to teach math.

Finally, don't forget a few heartfelt words of appreciation to your wife on a regular basis. She is performing academic miracles with your kids.

Tell her that you are both grateful and amazed at all she gets done. I guarantee she'll like that. ①

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SECTION E, PAGE 6

"HOME SCHOOLING TODAY" COLUMN

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of families who choose homeschooling as ideologues and pedagogues. Ideologues are typically the religious conservatives whom homeschooling attracts. Van Galen notes that ideologues want "their children to learn fundamentalist religious doctrine and a conservative political and social perspective" and establish homeschools to communicate to their offspring "that the family is the most important institution in society."(35)

Van Galen defines the pedagogues as those who teach their children themselves primarily because they dislike the professionalization and bureaucratization of modern education. They are parents who "come to their decision to home school with a broader interest in learning--they have professional training in education, they have close friends or relatives who are educators, they have read about education or child development, or they are involved with organizations that speak to the issue of childrearing."(36)

Both types of families share a common characteristic: they have enormous confidence in their ability to do a competent job of educating their children with minimal institutional support.

Are There Different Methods of Homeschooling?

Families may choose to purchase a preplanned, pre-packaged curriculum from publishers that specifically target homeschoolers, such as **School of Tomorrow (800-685-3357)** A Beka Home School, Konos Curriculum, and Saxon Publishers. Other families may choose to enroll their children in correspondence programs, like the Calvert School of Maryland, the Christian Liberty Academy Satellite Schools of Illinois, **the Home School Academy of Pennsylvania (800-683-1474)**, or the Clonlara School of Michigan.

As families gain confidence in their homeschooling abilities, they may opt for a less structured approach and rely on homemade materials or borrow heavily from local libraries. Tutors may be sought to teach particular skills, such as a foreign language or a musical instrument, and older children are sometimes recruited to teach younger siblings a particular academic discipline or task. Homeschooled children also participate in field trips and learning co-ops with other homeschooled students or even take courses at a day school or community college. In Ray's study of 1,657 families, 71.1 percent of the respondents said they custom design their curriculum to suit their child's needs, and 83.7 percent said that their children use a computer in their home. The average cost is \$546 per homeschooled student per year.(37)

No matter the method employed, studies indicate that one-on-one involvement with homeschooled children, especially during their primary years, is high. Theodore Wagenaar of Miami University notes that homeschooled children "are considerably more likely to experience someone in the family doing the following activities with them three or more times a week: tell a story, teach letters, teach songs, do arts and crafts, play with toys and games indoors, play games and sports outdoors, take child on errands, and involve child in household chores."(38)

What about Socialization?

How Do Homeschooled Children Meet Others?

Those are the questions homeschoolers report they are usually asked first when they are asked to explain

their lifestyle. Typically, homeschooled children engage in a variety of activities outside the home--sports teams, scouting programs, church, community service, or part-time employment. Richard G. Medlin of Stetson University notes that homeschoolers rely heavily on support groups as a resource for planning field trips and maintaining personal contact with like-minded families.(39)

In 1992 Larry Shyers of the University of Florida wrote a doctoral dissertation in which he challenged the notion that youngsters at home "lag" in social development. In his study, 8- to 10-year-old children were videotaped at play. Their behavior was observed by trained counselors who did not know which children went to regular schools and which were homeschooled.

The study found no big difference between the two groups of children in self-concept or assertiveness, which was measured by social development tests. But the videotapes showed that youngsters who were taught at home by their parents had consistently fewer behavior problems.(40)

Is Homeschooling Legal?

The U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights do not mention education. In spite of the creation of a federal Department of Education, education is an issue of states' rights. According to the National Homeschool Association, "Homeschooling is legally permitted in all fifty states, but laws and regulations are much more favorable in some states than in others."(41) For example, states such as Idaho, Oklahoma, and Texas are considered user friendly to homeschoolers in that there is no requirement for parents to initiate contact with the state to begin to homeschool. On the other hand, states such as Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York are heavily regulated (curriculum approval by the state, home visits, submission of achievement test scores, and so on).(42)

In the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s, as the homeschooling movement gained more converts, the compulsory attendance laws of various states were challenged in court. One landmark case, for example, occurred in Massachusetts. In Perchemlides v. Frizze (1978), a Massachusetts court upheld the right of the nonreligious Perchemlides family to homeschool their young son. The court concluded that "the Massachusetts compulsory attendance statute might well be constitutionally infirm if it did not exempt students whose parents prefer alternative forms of education."(43)

In response to homeschoolers' court victories at the state level, 33 states had enacted homeschooling legislation by 1995. The more favorable legal and political climate did not mean that controversies with school officials ceased.(44) Christopher Klicka, an attorney for the HSLDA, notes that, during the 1990-91 school year, nearly 2,000 homeschoolers with problems sought assistance from his organization. Those problems "involved various degrees of harassment, ranging from actual or threatened prosecution to the attempted imposition of restrictions in excess of the law."(45)

How Does a Family Begin Homeschooling?

Susan Nelson, a homeschooling consultant and curriculum developer, suggests that new homeschooling parents will find their task simpler if they decide whether their primary goal in becoming home educa-

Preparing Your Infant For a World of Learning

Babies love to listen to the human voice. What better way than through singing and reading! The following activities are designed to help you instill a love for learning in your baby.

- ♥ Start out by singing lullabies and folk songs to your baby. At around 6 months, look for books with brightly colored, simple pictures and lots of rhythm. (Mother Goose is perfect.) At around 9 months, include books that feature pictures and names of familiar objects.
- ♥ As you read, point out objects in the pictures and make sure your baby sees all the things that are fun to do with books. (Pat the Bunny by Dorothy Kunhardt is a classic touch-and-feel book for babies.)
- ♥ Vary the tone of your voice, sing nursery rhymes, bounce your knee, make funny faces, do whatever special effects you can to stimulate your baby's interest.
- ♥ Allow your child to touch and hold cloth and sturdy cardboard books.
- ♥ When reading to a baby, be brief but read often.

As you read to your baby, your child is forming an association between books and what is most loved--your voice and closeness. Allowing babies to handle books deepens their attachment even more. ⓘ

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The Home School Internet Resource Center
[Http://rst.net/home](http://rst.net/home)
The official web site for The Home School Academy

The Gifts of Homeschooling

by Janie Bowman

One has only to glance at the latest numbers to realize homeschooling is not a passing phase. Homeschooling is here to stay. A few years ago, we had difficulty purchasing curriculum programs from educational publishers. Now, we have been discovered and are being pursued as new consumers on the boardwalk. But is this how we should define homeschooling: by our choice of curriculum? Or test scores? Or the number of hours spent in a given topic?

I don't think so. Each family is unique, but we have gifts in common. These gifts make us mentors and role models for others. Let's explore these gifts briefly. As you continue reading, stop and think what gifts your family possesses and share them with others. . .

The gift of time

Our world is experiencing an explosion of information overload. What used to take days or weeks now takes seconds. As time passes faster, the media and cultural expectations erode our sense of grounding. We are encouraged to over-schedule and live life at warp speed. As homeschoolers, we can say "Stop! Slow down." We can learn to simplify our lives by safeguarding our time and family space.

The gift of diversity

Public school advocates would have us believe the only way to be exposed to people of other cultures or with different beliefs is to sit all day in a classroom. (But don't talk or walk over to your friend's desk because you might be sent to the principal's office.) Homeschooled children are encouraged to interact with each other and with the adults around them, including grandparents. This is a natural extension of their homeschooling lives as they grow to accept and appreciate diversity naturally. What a great gift to pass on to future generations!

The gift of interdependency

In my opinion, while public schools focus on helping students become independent, homeschoolers tend to focus on being inter-dependent. We don't live on an island. We need other people, and other people need us.

The gift of breaking dependency cycles

We have the freedom to break the cycle of dependency we have on public schools and the systems that feed into it. Homeschooling is an educational choice that dilutes the power of public schooling by helping others realize there is more than one way in which to learn. When we break this dependency cycle, we look to our families, instead of strangers, for nurture, love and encouragement.

The gift of childhood

Yes, even as adults, we can be kids again. We can be spontaneous and free to learn right along with our children. We can watch our children grow naturally according

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tors is "to provide their child with useful and interesting educational experiences; or to prepare him for [formal] schooling."⁽⁴⁶⁾ Other advocates of homeschooling are more practical and suggest reading homeschooling literature, becoming familiar with the homeschooling laws of one's state, attending a how-to seminar, joining a regional support group, or spending time with a seasoned homeschooling family before taking the leap. Popular homeschooling advice books include How to Tutor by Samuel L. Blumenfeld, Homeschooling: Your Questions Answered! by Deborah McIntire and Robert Windham, and The Original Home Schooling Series by Charlotte Mason.⁽⁴⁷⁾

After a period of trial and error, most families fall into a satisfactory routine with their homeschools. Nancy Wallace, a homeschooling mother, said about her beginning days of teaching her children: "Every morning we practice our French, play the piano, and do some writing. Every evening we read aloud to Vita and Ishmael for about 1½ hours. And in between? Ishmael takes two drama classes, a French class and a piano lesson for 1-hour periods once a week, we go to the library, explore the woods, observe nature and read."⁽⁴⁸⁾

Do Homeschooled Students Get Admitted to College?

A growing number of colleges and universities around the United States, including Harvard and Yale, are admitting homeschooled students to their freshman classes. One unusual family, the Colfaxes of Boonville, California, have had three of their four homeschooled sons accepted by Harvard. The Chronicle of Higher Education recently reported a boom in homeschooled students' winning admission to selective colleges.⁽⁴⁹⁾ In the absence of a transcript or high school diploma, applicants can submit samples or a portfolio of their work, letters of recommendation, and CLEP and Stanford Achievement Test scores. The HSLDA's study of 1,657 homeschooling families notes that homeschooled students want to attend college: 69 percent of respondents pursued a more formal postsecondary education.⁽⁵⁰⁾

See Home School Friendly Colleges & Universities on the internet at:
<http://rsts.net/colleges>

How Does the Education a Homeschooled Child Receives Compare with That of Conventionally Schooled Children?

Lines notes that "virtually all the available data show that the group of homeschooled children who are tested is above average. The pattern for children for whom data are available resembles that of children in private schools."⁽⁵¹⁾ Ray notes that, regardless of income, race, gender, or parents' level of education, homeschooled children consistently score between the 82nd and 92nd percentiles on achievement tests.⁽⁵²⁾ The data from the Washington Homeschool Research Project, which has analyzed the SAT scores of homeschooled children in Washington State since 1985, demonstrated that the scores of those children were above average. Jon Wartes, writing on behalf of the project, notes that "fears that

homeschooled children in Washington are at an academic disadvantage are not confirmed."⁽⁵³⁾ One significant piece of evidence of the educational progress homeschooled children are making: the National Merit Scholarship Corporation chose more than 70 homeschooled high school seniors as semifinalists in its 1998 competition.⁽⁵⁴⁾

**Visit the Home School Academy
on line at:**
<http://rsts.net/home>

What Type of Young Adults Does Homeschooling Produce?

The homeschooling movement has produced its share of talented young adults. Barnaby Marsh, who was homeschooled in the Alaskan wilderness, went on to graduate from Cornell University and was one of 32 Rhodes Scholars selected in 1996. Fifteen-year-old country singer LeAnn Rimes skipped two grades as a result of homeschooling. Army specialist Michael New, a decorated medic who was court-martialed for refusing to don a United Nations uniform, was homeschooled. Jason Taylor, a Miami Dolphins football player, was a homeschool graduate.

The movement is even old enough to have begun to establish a second generation of homeschoolers-homeschooled children who choose to homeschool their own children. Assessing the outcome of that choice remains a future task for researchers, but some information about first-generation homeschooled adults is available. J. Gary Knowles of the University of Michigan studied 53 adults to see the long-term effects of being educated at home. He summarized his findings as follows:

I have found no evidence that these adults were even moderately disadvantaged. . . . Two thirds of them were married, the norm for adults their age, and none were unemployed or any on any form of welfare assistance. More than three quarters felt that being taught at home had actually helped them to interact with people from different levels of society.⁽⁵⁵⁾ ⓘ

Isabel Lyman is codirector of Harkness Road High School in Amherst, Massachusetts, and a long-time homeschooling parent

Edu-Links



Safe Educational Links
[Http://rsts.net/home/edulinks](http://rsts.net/home/edulinks)

Teaching Your Child to Read Is A Family Affair

Children become readers when their parents read to them. It really is as simple as that. And here's the good news: It's easy to do and it's great fun. With a little practice you will be making the memories of a lifetime, memories both you and your child will cherish.

Enjoyment is essential in the process of helping your child become a reader. All of the following activities are written with this thought in mind. So, if you and your child don't enjoy one activity, move on to something else and try it again later.

1. Include The Physical Part Of Reading

Reading is a physical act, as well as a mental one. It involves hand-eye coordination. So, when you read, involve your child by:

- ✓ pointing out objects in the pictures;
- ✓ following the words with your finger (so your child develops a sense that the words go from left to right on the page); and

- ✓ having your child help turn the pages (to learn that the pages turn from right to left).

2. Look For Books You Both Love

They will shape your child's first impression of the world of reading.

3. Keep In Mind Your Child's Reading Level And Listening Level Are Different

When you read easy books, beginning readers will soon be reading along with you. When you read more advanced books, you instill a love of stories, and you build the motivation that transforms children into lifelong readers.

4. Use Repetition And Rhyme

Repetition makes books predictable, and young readers love knowing what comes next.

- ✓ Pick a story with repeated phrases or a poem you and your child like.
- ✓ Read slowly, and with a smile or a nod, let your children know you appreciate their participation.

- ✓ As children grow more familiar with the story, pause and give them the chance to "fill in the blanks."
- ✓ Encourage your children to pretend to read, especially books that contain repetition and rhyme. Most children who enjoy reading will eventually memorize all or parts of a book and imitate your reading.

When youngsters anticipate what's coming next in a story or poem, they have a sense of mastery over books. When children feel power, they have courage to try. Pretending to read is an important step in the process of learning to read.

5. Include Poetry Reading And Action

Poems are often short with lots of white space on the page. This makes them manageable for new readers and helps to build their confidence.

When children act out a good poem, they love its rhyme and the pictures it paints with a few well-chosen words. They grow as readers by connecting emotion with the written word.

- ✓ Read a poem slowly to your child, and bring all your dramatic talents to the reading. (In other words, ham it up.)

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What Resources Are Available to Homeschoolers?

To get started, most homeschooling families join local support groups. Families often find these groups by word of mouth or through public or private schools, religious groups, or state or national associations. At least one homeschooling association is active in every state. These groups offer advice and information and hold conferences at which families who school at home discuss legal, philosophical, and teaching issues.

Parents can also find guidance in books, magazines, and newsletters. Homeschooling Resources for Parents and Students, lists materials and Internet resources that cover a wide range of homeschooling issues. Checkout this site! www.rsts.net/home

Some school districts have established centers at which families may enroll in classes or obtain resources and instructional support. Such arrangements are called shared schooling, dual enrollment, or assisted homeschooling. Some districts also allow homeschoolers to attend public school part-time. Many private schools, some public schools, and the state of Alaska provide homeschoolers with texts, materials, and support. Homeschoolers also rely on libraries, museums, parks department programs, churches, civic associations, and other local institutions. ⓘ

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Resource Center
[Http://rsts.net/home](http://rsts.net/home)

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based education will challenge the motives of any apologist such as myself. What is my bias you may ask? My motive for promoting home education is the fact that I am a grateful homeschooled graduate. Because of the sacrifices of my mother, I was able to receive a solid Christian education, and finish high school at the age of fifteen. The most important aspect of all of this, however, is not the academic successes. They are merely added to us as we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. (Matt 6:33) The most valuable thing I gained as a homeschooled student was godly character, a Biblical worldview, and a close family bond, acquired through the close quarters of family discipleship.

Looking toward the possibility of someday raising children, there is no way I would pass up the privi-

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to their own inner biological schedule, and we can give them room to explore their true selves. Children are valued and cherished, and their feelings and ideas are respected.

The gift of appropriate risk-taking

Appropriate risk-taking can challenge our minds and our bodies and help us to be of service to others. A few years ago, my husband and I attended the graduation ceremonies at the Washington Homeschool Organization Homeschool Conference in Tacoma. The numbers of young people who had already completed missions or service projects, going into areas of poverty and disease worldwide in order to help others impressed us. Some became involved in ecological issues, helping to save our envi-

lege of teaching my own children. It is a responsibility given to fathers in Eph. 6: "Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." With well over 600,000 Christian homeschooling families [3] in the United States today, God's people are returning to the patterns established in Scripture and taking responsibility for their own children.

Israel Wayne is an author, conference speaker, and the Marketing Director for Wisdom's Gate, a national organization that publishes the quarterly journal for serious homeschoolers, HOME SCHOOL DIGEST. Subscriptions are \$18 US. Mention this catalog when you subscribe, and you can sign up a friend for a 1 year gift subscription... Absolutely FREE! Wisdom's Gate, P.O. Box 374L, Covert, MI 49043. <http://www.homeschooldigest.com> Email: Wis-Gate@characterlink.net All Rights Reserved. ⓘ

ronment. Taking the leap into homeschooling can be a risk. This is uncharted territory for some families.

The gift of reclaiming your family

In my opinion, when we homeschool, we get to know our children far better than if they're gone six to eight hours a day. And without peer pressure, they get to know us better, too. We learn what's important and what's not. My family no longer spends precious evening hours pushing our children to finish their homework. Our time is ours. We can play games, read or talk with one another.

And the most important gift of homeschooling? We can change the future, one child, and one family, at a time. ⓘ

(Continued from page 5)

- ✓ If there is a poem your child is particularly fond of, suggest acting out a favorite line. Be sure to award such efforts with delighted enthusiasm.
- ✓ Then suggest acting out a verse, a stanza, or the entire poem. Ask your child to make a face of the way the character in the poem is feeling. Remember that facial expressions bring emotion into the performer's voice.
- ✓ Again, be an enthusiastic audience for your child. Applause is always nice.
- ✓ If your child is comfortable with the idea, look for a larger setting with an attentive, appreciative audience. Perhaps an after-dinner "recital" for family members would appeal to your child.
- ✓ Mistakes are a fact of life, so ignore them.

6. Allow Your Children To Read To You

It's important to read to your children, but equally important to listen to them read to you. Children thrive on having someone appreciate their developing skills..

- ✓ Listen attentively as your child reads
- ✓ Take turns. You read a paragraph and have your child read the next one. As your child becomes more at ease with reading aloud, take turns reading a full page. Keep in mind that your child may be focusing on how to read, and your reading helps to keep the story alive.
- ✓ If your children have trouble reading words, you can help in several ways:
 1. Tell them to skip over the word, read the rest of the sentence, and ask what word would make sense in the story;
 2. Help them use what they know about letters and sounds;
 3. Supply the correct word.
- ✓ Tell children how proud you are of their efforts and skills.

Listening to your children read aloud provides opportunities for you to express appreciation of their new skills, and for practice. Most importantly, it's another way to enjoy reading together.

7. Story Talk

Talking about what you read is another way to help children develop language and thinking skills. You don't need to plan the talk, discuss every story, or expect an answer.

- ✓ Read slowly and pause occasionally to think out loud about a story. You can speculate: "I wonder what's going to happen next!" Or ask a question: "Do you know what a palace is?" Or point out: "Look where the little mouse is now."
- ✓ Answer your children's questions, and if you think they don't understand something, stop and ask them. Don't worry if you break into the flow of a story to make something clear.

- ✓ Read the name of the book's author and illustrator and make sure your children understand what they do.

8. Create A Book Nook

When collecting books is an important family activity, parents send the message that books are important and fun.

- ✓ Visit the library. Get a library card in your child's name and one for yourself if you don't have one. Go to the children's section and spend time reading and selecting books to take home. Check out books yourself to show your child that everyone can use and enjoy books and the library. Be sure to introduce your child to the librarian and ask about special programs the library has for children.
- ✓ Start your own home library. Designate a book case or shelf especially for your child. Encourage your child to arrange the books by some method --books about animals, holiday books, favorite books.
- ✓ Keep an eye out for inexpensive books at flea markets, garage sales, used book stores, and discount tables at book stores. Many public libraries sell old books once a year. You will find some real bargains!
- ✓ Make your own books. Child-made books become lasting treasures and part of your home library.

9. Help Your Children Make Their Own Books

Turn your child's writing into a homemade book. The effect will be powerful. Suddenly books become a lot more human and understandable.

- ✓ Paste pages of your child's writings onto pieces of construction paper.
- ✓ Discuss the order the writings should go in. Should all the writings about animals go in one section and the writings about holidays in another? Which writings are the most important and where should they be placed in the book?
- ✓ Number the pages.
- ✓ Make a table of contents.
- ✓ Make covers for the book with heavy paper or cardboard. You might want to paste colorful cloth or wrapping paper onto the covers.
- ✓ Punch holes in the pages and the covers.
- ✓ Bind the book together by lacing the yarn or ribbon through the holes. Make knots in the loose ends or tie them in a bow, so that the yarn or ribbon won't slip out.
- ✓ Add pages to this book as more writings are completed or start a new book.

Making books is a multi-step process from planning to writing to producing a final product.

Making books to share with others is also a terrific

homeschool project. Older students can write with a specific audience in mind and, once their project is complete, share it with that audience. This is especially effective when writing children's stories.

The study of History can also be integrated into a book making project. Students may choose a period of history, research the popular literature of the day as well as the historical events that shaped the period, and create a book that reflects that time period. All genres can be integrated into this project—from poetry to documentary, this is an outstanding way to review your history lessons.

Making books involves several academic steps: evaluating the interests of the audience; research and planning; writing; illustrating (art), and reading are all combined into one effective project.

10. Make Reading Fun

It is important to keep fun in your parent-child reading and to let joy set the tone and pace. While helping your child become a reader, the qualities of patience, confidence, and playfulness in your approach will get results. If, from time to time, your child gets distracted and loses interest, take a break. Children love to learn. Give them a little breathing room, and their interest will always be renewed.

Although the life of a parent is often hectic, you should try to read with your child at least once a day at a regularly scheduled time. But don't be discouraged if you skip a day or don't always keep to your schedule. Just read to your child as often as you possibly can.

If you have more than one child, try to spend some time reading alone with each child, especially if they're more than 2 years apart. However, it's also fine to read to children at different stages and ages at the same time. Most children enjoy listening to many types of stories. When stories are complex, children can still get the idea and can be encouraged to ask questions. When stories are easy or familiar, youngsters enjoy these "old friends" and may even help in the reading. Taking the time to read with your children on a regular basis sends an important message: Reading is worthwhile.

You may go through a period when your child favors one book and wants it read night after night. It is not unusual for children to favor a particular story, and this can be boring for parents. Keep in mind, however, that a favorite story may speak to your child's interests or emotional needs. Be patient. Continue to expose your children to a wealth of books and eventually they will be ready for more stories.

It's often a good idea to talk about a story you are reading, but you need not feel compelled to talk about every story. Good stories will encourage a love for reading, with or without conversation. And sometimes children need time to think about stories they have read. A day or so later, don't be surprised if your child mentions something from a story you've read together.

From time to time, invite other adults or older children to listen in or join in reading aloud. The message is: Reading is for everybody. ⓘ

Learning . . . In Spite Of Learning Disabilities

A Parent's Guide

Betty Ann Davis,
Director of Essential Learning Institute

I. Structure routine and set within reason

Learning disabled students need a recognizable structure and routine in their lives. Have a particular place and time when learning activities are to take place.

II. Prepare and maintain a relaxed, safe, positive atmosphere.

Children will not learn in the midst of fear, tension, or confusion, nor will they progress if they are afraid to make a mistake. Give encouragement and praise often. Envision and expect reasonable success and improvement.

III. Be consistent in demands, discipline, expectations, and attitude.

Keep behavior demands as few as possible. Have a few general rules which cover as many areas as possible. Be sure to follow your own rules!

IV. Break down tasks into achievable steps.

Determine what you want him to do. Analyze the process and teach him the steps. Allow enough time for practice. Above all, praise him for every gain, however small!

V. Record for the student and yourself short term and long term goals and achievements.

Record what he can do now. When he makes progress, be sure to let him know and praise him for it. Be proud of your child and his progress, however small!

VI. Keep assignments clear, attainable, and varied.

Clearly state what you expect him to do. Vary the presentation, review, and method of evaluation as much as possible.

VII. Reward small achievements.

Praise any real progress with enthusiasm. If there is no progress, praise the effort he has put forth. Plan rewards just because. Let him know that your love is not dependent on his performance or achievement.

VIII. Give limited choices to allow the student to have some control.

Limit the choices to what he can control and gradually increase the amount of responsibility. Never offer a choice when there is none.

IX. Use multi-sensory presentations which involve the learner.

Multi-sensory approaches involve the learner's hands, eyes, mind, heart, ears, touch and voice. Multi-sensory involves the whole person. Be careful

not to overwhelm or confuse.

X. Allow frequent physical and mental breaks.

Children with short attention spans need to stop and refocus more often than we do. Give them the opportunity to break, but also provide directed and assisted return to work!

XI. Provide frequent reviews in different learning styles.

Review does not always have to be the same. Use your imagination. If you need help, buy it. There are many books to assist you in this.

XII. Allow for a variety of expression.

Be creative and encourage your child to be creative.

XIII. Relate the unknown to previously known information.

To be remembered, it must relate to something that is already known, understood, and remembered by your child.

XIV. Don't teach what you will have to unteach.

Don't teach untruth. Don't give your child the opportunity to doubt that there is a truth. Don't give him the opportunity to wonder if you are able to identify

the truth when you see it. Seek out the truth and teach it.

XV. Be as practical as possible.

Try to relate a subject to a need in the child's life. We learn best what we are interested in, so help your child to be interested. Teach first the skills that are needed to cope with normal living, then go on to the extras.

XVI. Give the big picture in the early stages of learning.

When presenting a new topic, show the whole first whenever possible. Then relate each piece to the whole.

XVII. Give the student a purpose for learning.

Decide "Why?" before you determine what to teach.

XVIII. Seek to make the information relevant and interesting.

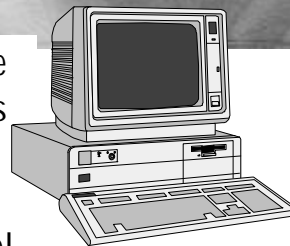
Make it relevant, and make it count. Studies show that information is best learned when taught within the normal context of daily living.

XIX. Show the student his progress at frequent intervals.

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THE QUESTION OF

Socialization

Socialization is probably the most misunderstood issue in regard to homeschooling. Public educators, as well as misinformed parents, believe that homeschooling is detrimental to the social development and well being of children. Nothing could be further from the truth! A parent can provide a much more stable and beneficial social environment for their child than the public school can. This is one issue that you need to be confident on as it will be the most common challenge you will hear from people questioning your decision to homeschool.

We know the public school system does not provide a healthy social environment. A child can often be packed into a classroom of 20 or more students (In our county, the elementary schools have been known to have 30 or more children in each class). As a result, they only interact with children who are the same age. They form social orders that are cruel to those children that are not considered one of the group.

Peer pressure causes children to make bad decisions for the sake of impressing their friends and to remain part of the "in crowd". In addition, parents tend to have no control whatsoever over with whom the child interacts at school. This becomes a greater concern as the child gets older. There are some people who have the opinion that children should be exposed to the "real world," good and bad. I believe that a child should know about the bad things out there but I think our children should learn about these things under the love and guidance of their parents. Children need to learn how to interact in all types of environments and with children/adults of all ages.

Just because your child does not attend public school does not mean that he has to be deprived of quality social interaction. There are plenty of opportunities out there for your child to learn his social graces! I have listed just a few.

♥ **Church activities:** Sunday school, vacation Bible school, children's church, children's choir and other children's activities offered by your church.

♥ **Community activities:** YMCA activities, boy/girl scouts, 4H, sports, dance classes, music lessons and activities at your local library and recreation center. Many local craft stores offer craft classes for children for a nominal fee. There are many summer day camps available with many different themes.

♥ **Family activities:** Interaction with the extended family.

♥ **Activities with neighbors and friends.**

♥ **Activities with other homeschoolers:** Most homeschooling support groups arrange activities for the children. The group I belong to has a weekly P.E. session, a monthly park day and sev-

eral organized field trips every month as well as several other informal get-togethers every month. It is a great opportunity for homeschooled children of all ages to get together.

One of my favorite comebacks to being questioned about the socialization of my children is, "Yes, I am very worried about my child's socialization. That's why we decided against public education and chose homeschooling!" ⓘ

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Would you like to give your child an excellent education without the hassle of lesson plans and boring textbooks? Do you want your children to enjoy their home school experience? Whether you are an experienced home schooler or just starting your home schooling efforts...this is the program for you!

If you're at all like me, you have high expectations for yourself and your children. How to meet those expectations is another thing. How do you manage a household as mother and wife, prepare lesson plans, teach classes, wake up each morning with a smile, keep positive attitudes in your children, and meet all of the other demands on your time?

You can easily accomplish all of this and more with this amazing home school program!

Accelerated Learning Systems **Home School Academy** provides an affordable, easily administered, academically sound curriculum. This delightful, character building program frees a mother from the tediousness of lesson preparation and record keeping and allows her to become a creative partner in her child's education.

Here are just a few examples...

"I was freed from the hours of curriculum preparation to engage my children in many creative projects."

"My children have finished almost two year's work in one year! Their standardized test scores have gone through the roof and they actually love learning."

"My daughter and I have developed a close friendship. She graduated from the program and went on

to earn straight A's in college. We are amazed with what the curriculum has done for all of our children!" Families from all over the country have discovered the ALS Academy answer and can't believe they ever used anything else.

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Parents can cut their preparation and record keeping time by as much as 80%!

"I love home schooling my children but I was so overwhelmed by the time required to prepare lessons and maintain records that I almost gave up. Then I heard about The Home School Academy. Now I can be sure that my children are getting the best education possible and I still have time to be creative!"

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Software Review

Math Maker & Math User

A must for any classroom teacher or homeschooling parent. It is a simple tool to create that extra practice sheet in math for any student from first grade up to junior high level. It covers all levels of Math in the areas of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. It also covers fractions, decimals, percents, word problems, estimating, time, shapes, and area. Math Maker can be used with the first grade student who is just learning those addition and subtraction number facts. It can also be used with the more advanced student in middle school or junior high who is learning or needs to review addition of 4 four digit numbers. All levels between first grade and junior high can also be created.

As a classroom teacher, I often sought extra practice sheets for my students. More often than not, I would spend hours creating them myself. Not to mention, that because of all the different levels that you find in the classroom, you usually have to create several different worksheets for the same concept. Math Maker is able to do all this for you. All you have to do is find the level that you want, and the program creates the worksheet for you. It even creates an answer sheet for you to check those worksheets after they are completed. It will create a worksheet with different problems and answers every time. If you are not sure what level you need, there is a preview option that allows you to see exactly what type of problem will appear on the worksheet that Mathmaker will create. Just click Preview On, choose the area and level, and a sample will appear on the screen.

The worksheets also can be used in the classroom for seatwork projects, or they can be given as a quiz. How many times I would have liked to assess my students' progress, but had no time to create any type of worksheet that would be able to do that for me. This software is very easy to use and creates the worksheets in a very short time. There is no need to give the computer any information other than the type of worksheet you want and how many copies you want made. You can even create a different worksheet for every student in your class.

For the homeschooling student, the Math Maker is an invaluable tool to supplement the curriculum you are using. Worksheets can be created to review any

concept that your student has studied to give them the extra practice to develop mastery. One Math Maker can be used for all your students, no matter what level of Math they are using. Since all the worksheets are different, you can use them to review those concepts already studied whether it is during the school year, the summer months, or in the beginning of a new school year. This will ensure you that the concepts have been mastered before going on to new ones. This software is a definite must to add to your library of resources.

The Math User is a wonderful hands-on part of the software that allows the students to practice reading and answering True and False or Multiple Choice reading problems right on the computer. Many, many students struggle in this area. But where can you find any kind of exercises to help them practice this concept? There are three different levels to choose from. This allows the upper elementary and middle school student, as well as the high school student, to use this part of the program. The problems require that the student add, subtract, multiply and divide. A calculator appears on the screen that the student may use to find their answers. They also need to use percentages, time, the calendar, and money. Many problems in the higher levels are multiple step problems. This is often a difficult concept to teach. Unfortunately most curricula do not deal with reading problems to a great extent. Softbasics Software also keeps track of all the scores the student earns on these computer exercises. This will allow your record keeping to become much easier and more efficient.

You must try the Softbasics Software for your students, whether in the school or homeschool classroom.

Betty Ann Davis, M.Ed.

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- Has poor reading comprehension?
- Has poor handwriting skills?
- Avoids reading and writing?
- Does little or no voluntary reading in class?
- Has poor enunciation of sounds?
- Suffers failure in spelling and other reading-related work?
- Is unable to perceive sounds, letters, and words correctly?
- Doesn't complete tasks?
- Becomes emotionally upset about school work?
- Homework is a frustrating, negative experience for both student and parent?
- Is easily distracted, impulsive or over-active?
- Fails to understand or remember instructions and assignments?
- Has very poor self-esteem?

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Family Rules For Homeschooling Success

Homeschooling requires a lot of discipline, both on the part of the parents and the children. If you make discipline a part of the child's every day life, the discipline of school work will come naturally. All children need to have certain boundaries set. There should be a clear understanding of what is expected. The key to discipline is consistency.

I have included our family rules to be used as a guide. This is only a guide as every family is different. These rules are just as much for parents as for children. A good example is the best form of instruction! Obviously, preschool children are not capable of reading and understanding these rules; but by setting a good example and living by these rules yourself, the children will pick up what is expected of them.

We have found materials from Doorposts to be especially helpful in the area of discipline.

The Lewis Family House Rules.

1. God's Word is our final authority on discipline and all other matters concerning this household.

2. We obey God: We show our obedience to God by actively participating in our family devotions, Bible study and prayer time. We are faithful with our attendance and involvement with our church. We actively participate in Christian service projects and we witness to the unsaved by our actions and deeds. We obey all of God's laws and commandments.

3. We obey our parents: We do as we are told, when we are told, without arguing or complaining. We respect and honor our parents as God has commanded.

4. We are polite: We say please, thank you, your welcome, excuse me and yes/no sir/ma'am. We do not interrupt when others are talking.

5. We clean up after ourselves: We make our beds and keep our rooms and personal belongings picked up. We are responsible for cleaning up any mess we make.

6. We are responsible for helping around the house: We understand that every family member has duties and responsibilities and we do our assigned chores cheerfully, without complaining.

7. We do not make any unnecessary work for others: When we open something, we close it; when we turn something on, we turn it off; when we take something out, we put it away.

8. We keep ourselves neat and clean: We are responsible for bathing, dressing, brushing our teeth and brushing our hair. We wash our hands after using the bathroom and before we eat our meals.

9. We take good care of everything God has given us: We are thankful for what we have and we waste nothing.

10. We do not borrow anything from anyone without asking their permission first, and **we take good care** of their property as if it was our own.

11. We share whatever we have with one another.

12. We speak quietly and respectfully with one another: We do not yell and we do not call each other names.

13. We respect each other's privacy: We knock on closed doors and wait for permission before entering. We do not read other's private writings and we do not snoop in other's belongings.

14. We are modest: We dress modestly. We keep the bedroom door closed when undressing/dressing. We keep the door closed when we are in the bathroom.

15. We support each other: When someone needs correction, we correct him in love; when someone is sorry, we forgive him; when someone is sad, we comfort him; when someone is happy, we rejoice with him.

16. If we are not sure what to do in a given situation, **we ask.**

17. We tell the truth.

18. When we go out of this house, we act just as if we were in this house: We are to always conduct ourselves in a Christ-like manner as a witness to all who come in contact with us.

19. When we disobey or forget any of the rules, we accept the discipline and instruction given by our parents in accordance with God's Word. ⓘ

How To Help Our Children Learn

1. Listen to them and pay attention to their problems.
2. Read with them.
3. Tell family stories.
4. Limit their television watching.
5. Have books and other reading materials in the house.
6. Look up words in the dictionary with them.
7. Encourage them to use an encyclopedia.
8. Share favorite poems and songs with them.
9. Take them to the library--get them their own library cards.
10. Take them to museums and historical sites, when possible.
11. Discuss the daily news with them.
12. Go exploring with them and learn about plants, animals, and local geography.
13. Find a quiet place for them to study.
14. Review their homework.

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Is Homeschooling Really That Controversial?

Each fall when school begins, a growing number of school-aged children do not head off to a classroom. Instead, they learn at home with their families or with other children in their communities. Homeschooling takes many forms, from a daily routine following a scheduled curriculum to child-led learning in which parents supervise and help. Choosing to homeschool or to traditionally educate a child is often a difficult and confusing decision for parents and guardians. To help them make the best choice possible, this brochure answers basic questions about homeschooling and suggests other useful sources of information.

Do Families Have a Right to School Their Children at Home?

All states allow homeschooling. Typically, a state's statutes, through a court ruling, an attorney general opinion, or a regulation that interprets a school attendance law to include homeschooling, consider homeschooling a legitimate option for meeting compulsory education requirements. Because each state regulates homeschooling differently, parents should examine local laws and consult with other homeschoolers before proceeding.

In every state, parents must, at a minimum, notify a state or local education agency of their intent to educate their children at home and identify the children involved. Several states require the submission of proposed curricula and tests or have educational requirements for parents. A few even test parents. Only Michigan requires certified teachers to be involved in homeschooling programs, but the state allows parents to choose a program's teacher and does not specify a minimum level of teacher supervision. (Michigan courts have excused parents from the certification requirement if they have religious objections.) The U.S. Supreme Court has not ruled explicitly on homeschooling, but it did rule against compulsory school requirements in *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972). The Supreme Court has also upheld the right, subject to reasonable state requirements, of parents to direct the education of their children.

What Does the Federal Government Do for Homeschoolers?

Government regulation and support of home schooling is carried out primarily at the state level. However, the federal government also plays an important role by disseminating research-based information on homeschooling to policy makers and others and by supporting research on a broad range of issues affecting teaching and learning.

Most federal support for education is dedicated to programs for children who have special needs, such as low-achieving children, children with limited English proficiency, and children with disabilities. Generally,

local districts have the option of offering services under these programs to homeschoolers who meet the districts' criteria for eligibility.

How Do Educators and Policy Makers View Homeschooling?

Homeschooling is controversial. The National Parent Teacher Association opposes the practice, as do the National Education Association and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union maintain that parents have a constitutional right to school their children at home. Though they don't necessarily approve of homeschooling, a majority of Americans responding to the 1988 Phi Delta Kappa Gallup poll believed that parents have a right to try it. State legislatures agree, and over the past 20 years they have responded favorably to homeschoolers seeking more flexible compulsory education laws.

How Well Do Homeschooled Children Do?

Homeschooling's academic worth is hotly contested. It is difficult to obtain a representative sample of homeschooled children, and researchers cannot say for certain whether these children would do better or worse in a public or private school. Scores of homeschoolers who have taken state-mandated tests or who have provided their results to researchers indicate that while some homeschoolers test below average, **a larger number test above that mark.**

Proponents and opponents also disagree on how well-adjusted homeschooled children are. Although it appears to be true that children who are homeschooled spend less time with same-age children and more time with adults and children of different ages, research has not found that homeschooling harms children's social or psychological development. On the contrary, **these children often demonstrate better social adjustment than their traditionally schooled peers.**

Opponents argue that homeschooling is harmful to children because it isolates them from other children in their community. However, homeschooling is rarely conducted in total isolation. Many families participate in homeschool support groups, scouting, church and recreational activities, and other associations.

Through these activities, homeschooled children share experiences with people outside their immediate families. Although some homeschoolers and their associations emphasize affiliations only with people who share their religious beliefs, many actively seek religious, cultural, and racial diversity. In fact, one national magazine, *The Drinking Gourd*, is devoted to multicultural homeschooling.

What About College Admissions?

Homeschooling teenagers should contact the colleges

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and universities they would like to attend and ask about their admission policies. In a 1994 telephone poll conducted by the author of this brochure, a select group of admissions officers from **large universities and colleges indicated willingness to consider applications from homeschooled students.** In addition, all of the officers said that they accept standardized admission test scores-along with other material showing experience in learning and collaborating with others-in the absence of a regular high school transcript. Although admissions officers do not monitor this practice, some estimated that they admit a handful of undergraduates each year without a transcript. Interested teenagers should ask their local homeschool association for the names of college students who were homeschooled and would not mind offering advice about the college application process.

(Continued on page 5)