



Smart Start
HOMESCHOOL CONNECT

A Quick Guide to Homeschooling

BEGIN WITH CONFIDENCE

INTRO

Who is this quick guide for?

PARENTS WHO ARE LOOKING TO BEGIN HOMESCHOOLING THEIR CHILDREN BUT NEED A LITTLE GUIDANCE ON GETTING STARTED.

What will this quick guide do?

PROVIDE YOU WITH A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HOMESCHOOL IS, WHAT HOMESCHOOL IS NOT AND HOW TO PREPARE YOUR FAMILY FOR THE BEST POSSIBLE BEGINNING TO AN INVALUABLE LEARNING EXPERIENCE.

WHAT HOMESCHOOLING IS:

Homeschooling is an educational approach where parents take on the responsibility of educating their children at home instead of sending them to a traditional school. It involves designing a personalized curriculum, often tailored to the child's learning style, pace, and interests. Homeschooling allows for flexibility in scheduling, individualized attention, and a customized learning environment.

WHAT HOMESCHOOLING IS NOT:

Homeschooling is not synonymous with isolation or lack of socialization. Many homeschooling families actively engage in various social activities, such as homeschool co-ops, extracurricular classes, and community events, to ensure a well-rounded social experience. It is also not necessarily a reproduced version of traditional school or an escape from educational standards; many homeschooling programs adhere to state or national educational guidelines.

10 STEPS FOR A SMART START TO HOMESCHOOLING

Get ready to homeschool like the pros when you follow these 10 steps!



BE IN GOOD STANDING

1

Research Your State's Regulations: Understand the homeschooling laws and requirements in your state, as they vary. Some states may require notification or assessments while others do not. It is always wise to begin with what the law requires so that you create a solid foundation for your homeschool.

2

DEFINE YOUR APPROACH

Once you have gained a full understanding of your state's requirements, it is now time to begin thinking about the structure and function of your homeschool. It is best to choose a method that suits your child's learning style while accommodating your preferences. This part is mostly trial and error as different methods work for different children.



SET GOALS AND CURRICULUM:

3

Now that the serious parts are squared away, you can begin to focus on the funner parts of homeschool. Identify the educational goals for your child and select a curriculum that you will follow to ensure they meet those goals. Resources like textbooks, online courses, or educational apps can help structure your lessons.

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4

CREATE A SCHEDULE

Now that you've narrowed down the resources you'll pull from to build your curriculum, develop a daily or weekly schedule to build a routine and to maintain consistency. Include breaks and outdoor activities to keep your child engaged.

5

DESIGNATE A LEARNING SPACE

While some go all out and decorate an entire space with white boards, desks and more, there are others who's space is straightforward. The good news is that there is no right way to do this. Simply find a comfortable space or room to create a focused environment. This helps to separate school and home life.



ASSESS THEIR PROGRESS

6

Regularly evaluate your child's progress and adjust your approach if needed. Flexibility is key to adapting to your child's evolving needs. Depending on the requirements of your states, you may be able to assess progress with weekly progress report or report cards.

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7

STAY LEGAL AND DOCUMENT

Even if your state is one that does not require this, it is always a good idea to keep records, including attendance, portfolios, or standardized test results. This documentation may be necessary for compliance.

JOIN HOMESCHOOLING COMMUNITIES

8

Connect with local or online homeschooling groups for support, advice, and social opportunities for your child.



9

UTILIZE RESOURCES

Don't bypass your local treasures to be part of your curriculum. Take advantage of local libraries, museums, and community resources to enhance your child's learning experience.

LASTLY...

10

JUST ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Homeschooling is a unique opportunity that allows you to tailor the education specifically to your child's needs while you spend quality time with them. Embrace the journey, stay patient, and celebrate successes along the way.



THANK YOU!



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