

# Homeschool? No Way, I can't!

*From Clueless to I've Got This!*



# How To Homeschool

*So, you have to start from zero*

There are many reasons why you might have ended up here. At this random blog at this random time. Maybe you are really unhappy with some things that have been happening at your Child's current school. It could be the curriculum being taught, the staff, bullies, school hours interfering with your child's other activities, or maybe you have never even enrolled your child in a public or private school. The thought of it might be terrifying. Medical problems that the school can not address well, safety concerns, or you just want to be more involved with the education of your child. Whatever your reason, you have come to the right place.

It was not too long ago I was in your shoes. I actually probably had a lot of the same thoughts that you are having right now. Things like can I really do this, or am I even qualified to teach my child EVERYTHING?! The answer is yes. If you have your child's best interest in mind, and you are willing to seek out the answers and advice to do it right, then I highly encourage you to keep reading and together we will put you on the path to homeschooling for life.

When I was starting out as a homeschool parent, well ok, before I even started the official journey I started to explore the options. This should be considered first. Even if you think homeschool is awesome and you really, really want to do it.... Weight your options first! Do this the smart way not the hard way. If you were going to buy a car or a new

house you would probably consider several options. You would not just lay down all of your hard earned cash on the first house or car that you passed on the road. You would look at the options in your budget and probably think about some pros and cons of each and begin to find out the true NEEDS and some nice WANTS and extra that you would like to have. The same goes for homeschooling. After all, your child's future is more important than any new car purchase so why not do even more research!

I considered the issues that we were having with out schooling option at the time. I thought about the negatives that we were experiencing and wondered if we should just take the hit and hope that things would get better in the years to come or if it was not worth the risk of a total loss!

Next, I thought about the other options available. For us that was private school. I visited the private school, checked out the facility and the staff. Looked at the curriculum that was available for me to personally see. Then I weighed the options like cost, travel, after school activities available, uniform cost, classes and structure, the student body and many other details.

Then, I took all of these ideas and new information that I had uncovered and waited a while. Not too long, but I did not want to make a snap decision about enrolling my child in a new private school overnight.

After this I started my quest for information on homeschool. How to do it and what was it exactly. It took hours and hours of research to decide if this was even an idea that I could possibly even entertain. I was not really sure about it at first. I did not know anyone homeschool and the

one family that I knew that homeschooled in my neighborhood as a child seemed completely “weird”. Would I end up like them? Ha! Looking back on those thoughts seems so silly now. If you already know someone that homeschools then chances are you already have a better understanding than I did initially.

So, I did as much research as I could. I went online and searched the laws in my area for homeschooling. Here was my first wall. I was actually not in a state at the time! I could not figure out what laws I REALLY needed to follow. I was overseas in Japan and I did not know how to go about figuring out the law there. We were in a different situation than others that might be homeschooling in Japan, and working on the economy, but those rules did not exactly apply to us. We lived in a place where we would need to be using the US schooling laws. However, there was a gray area. I think the best place to find up to date information about homeschool laws in your personal state is the Homeschool Legal Defense Association online. Becoming a member is a bonus and can help you with any legal representation you may need in the future. However, I do not think that you need to sign up as a member for the HSLDA right away. Be sure you have decided on homeschooling 100% before you pay for that membership! This website is really helpful and you will realize that the laws in most states are really flexible. This will help ease your initial legal worries about homeschooling.

Now that you have a reference point for laws you can start looking into the fun and really enjoyable aspects of homeschooling. The next thing to consider is how your child likes to learn, how you might like to teach and what type of teaching style you believe in. This might sound a little confusing if you have never looked into homeschooling before. You will be surprised by the options that you have with homeschooling. I

hand idea when I started homeschooling that I could cater my lessons to the way that my child preferred to learn. And just to be clear your child's homeschool style preferences will change over time. Your teaching styles will change as well.

You can find lots of information on different teaching styles and methods by some simple online searches and I will go into those different styles and methods in another presentation, but for now let me get into the three general types you should consider.

Is your child served best by kinetic, auditory, or visual learning? Of course most children and people in general are somewhat of a combination of the three and find certain subjects become more clear focusing on one way or another example - some kids pick up on literature by hearing the story read aloud by others do best by reading it for themselves. While this may be true for literature the same student may do poorly in math unless they are physically completing the math problems and they may not grasp the concept well by visually watching the lessons or hearing the directions from their teacher. They may excel with hands on math manipulative and physical aides.

So cut out all the hype of specific teaching methods and programs. Just think about your child. Do they do well when you tell them directions vs be given written directions? Do they do best when you model a task and then they repeat it? If you are unsure try talking about some different subjects and concepts or even think about chores in your own house and how they accomplish them best. Do your children respond better to a visual chore chart on the fridge that they can interactively mark off and work with or do they do well when they are just simply told the chore of the day? Experiment with a couple things like this in your house and see

what fits best with your child. If you would like further testing on this idea there are many resources on homeschooling and education websites that will help you to test your child's learning style.

Another important aspect for preparing to homeschool is investing in a schedule. Yes, I said it... a schedule! A homeschooling schedule can play just as important a role in the success of homeschooling as the curriculum itself. Making a schedule and sticking to it will allow you to prioritize your child's educational goals on a daily and weekly basis. It will allow you to visually recount what you have accomplished, what you need to spend more work on, and maybe what part of your week is getting a little too over or under scheduled.

I also find that having a homeschool schedule allows for children to excel as they know what to expect and how their day will go. Children thrive on repetition and they are better behaved when they can stick to their regular routine. This is helpful to parents homeschooling as well, because as the routine becomes second nature this will allow you the time to get your own chores or necessary things accomplished around the house. If the children have a "silent reading time" or something built into their schedule then they will be able to accomplish this with little assistance from the parent. The parent can apply this time to prepare lunches everyday, or to put away laundry or even make a necessary business call. It is all possible when built into the schedule. You can find more tips and tricks to homeschool scheduling on my youtube channel and in additional articles on this blog. Simple search for homeschool schedule.

Perhaps the most fun aspect of homeschool can also be the most overwhelming for a newcomer. That is curriculum of course. I think it is important for a future homeschooling parent and child to know that curriculum can change for you! This is the joy of homeschooling. You do not have to force what is not working. Most likely something with traditional school was not working for your child or family and that is why you were seeking out homeschool in the first place. Never forget that part! Adapt the curriculum to your situation. Keep a record of your child's progress and look back over the accomplishments when you feel that you are stuck in the rut or overwhelmed. Being able to look back at your work and curriculum gives you evidence of successes and failures. This will help you adapt your curriculum. If something doesn't seem like the right fit change it or alter it and try again. Pick a curriculum that seems like the best fit for starting out with. It will change over time. That is ok. As your confidence grows with homeschooling so will your curriculum choices.

Lastly - the key to homeschooling is starting. You can want it, you can wish for it, you can daydream about it but it will not happen unless if you start. If you want to try it, stop waiting for an invitation and try homeschooling. The worst thing that can happen is you decide that it is not for you and you send your child back to their previous schooling routine. That's it. The world will not end, you will not ruin them for life. However, if you try it and you like it, it will all be worth it. I find that usually what holds people back is the thought of how much work and time they they they will have to commit to homeschooling. And yes, it is time and it is work, however when I think about all the hours we spent crying over public school homework, money we spent on constant fundraisers, bad habits they were learning at school, and the lack of academic

advancement ... I can say without a doubt the work I have to put in is a very very small sacrifice. The amount I am paid back by enjoying the short time of childhood with my kids, their quickly advancing education, their growth of their personal interests, and the closeness our family has outweighs any negative by far. Pick a curriculum and start for crying out loud!