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## **Home Schooling And The Internet**

**By Madison Lockwood**

A brief history of home schooling

During the settlement of this country, home schooling was accepted as the primary means of educating children. Surprisingly, this led to a literacy rate of almost 98%. Of course, as the nation's population grew, so did the number of schools, both public and religious (private). This trend continued at a growth rate of nearly 15% per year. However, driven in part due to the Supreme Court decisions relating to the practice of religion in publicly funded educational institutions, the face of education began to change.

How does use of the Internet assist parents (and students) who home school?

Parents who home school use several means of determining the age and grade appropriateness of their subject matter. As they progress through basic subjects such as math, reading and writing, they can also enhance their curriculum by performing online research. For example, the Humane Society in their community has elected to adopt a "no kill" policy. The children have expressed a real interest in this topic and want to know more than the newspaper is providing. By accessing the Internet, this parent can provide her students with all they need to know about "no kill" shelter facilities close to home or around the world.

Once a home schooling parent feels comfortable moving around the Internet and websites, then they are ready to pass this knowledge on to their students. They now have access to a very valuable teaching tool - usually right in their home. Parents can even create their own websites with curriculums and objectives for the students to review and follow over the course of their education.

Online research not only yields written material about specific subjects, from Aardvarks to Zen, it also offers photographs, drawings, sounds and videos - things that are particularly attractive to students. Visiting websites prior to teaching about a subject obviously allows the instructor to select the sites that best suit their curriculum. This "multimedia" learning experience keeps the student's interest while preparing them to deal with the new realities of a world increasingly focused on technology.

The final word(s).

Because there are technological advances taking place every hour of every day, it is very important that home schooled students enter the "digital age" with both eyes open and both feet embedded in this new ground. This is because public and private schools both focus on using computers and everything related to them to give their students a competitive edge. Even children as young as six are "computer literate." The needs of a parent who home schools mean they must increasingly rely on computer competency. They can easily achieve these skills by accessing online tutorials and related websites.

Madison Lockwood is a customer relations associate for <http://www.apollohosting.com>. She helps clients understand how a website may benefit them both personally and professionally. Apollo Hosting provides website hosting, ecommerce hosting, & VPS hosting to a wide range of customers.

## **Important Considerations For Home Schooling**

**By James Brown**

The decision on whether or not to home school your child can be a very difficult one to make. Most two income families may not be willing to make a financial sacrifice when one of them will have to give up work to take on the reigns as a teacher in a home school set-up. Many are even thinking on whether or not their children will still obtain the same level of education in a home school set-up.

There are many more concerns about home schooling but despite certain apprehensions home schooling is on the rise. There are various reasons why many parents are considering home schooling education. If you are thinking about home schooling your child, it is important for you to consider several factors.

Your commitment to time is one important factor to consider. Home schooling will have the tendency to take up a lot of your time most of the day. Home schooling is not merely sitting down for several hours with books. There is more to it as it involves experiments, activities and projects plus lesson plan preparation, grading of papers, music lessons, field trips and so much more. To get an idea of a typical day, you can always research online for a sample schedule.

Home schooling entails personal sacrifice. As a home schooling parent, you may not have that much personal time for yourself as you will be spending a great deal of time with your child. The parent can feel overwhelmed if he or she will not allot personal time for himself or herself.

Home schooling will require one parent to stop working and sacrifices will have to be made if the family is used to having two sources of income. The gravity of the problem increases when you are a single parent.

It is of utmost importance in any home school set-up that the child be given enough time for socialization. It is essential to get your child together with his or her friends. With home schooling though, you get control over your child's social encounters. One drawback of home schooling is that it can isolate your child so you must prepare him or her with the necessary social skills to be able to socialize with other children.

Both of the parents must agree to home schooling. Chances for its success are slimmer if one is not in favor of it. It is also very important that the child is willing to be home schooled. Critical to the success of home schooling is a willing student. You might have a hard time teaching your unwilling child. The decision though rests ultimately on the parents.

Every parent knows that education is very important to ensure any child's future. There is more to home schooling and your time, commitment and involvement is very much important. If you are considering home schooling, associate with other parents in the area who are into home schooling their children for some helpful tips and advice. A good network will help in the planning process and sharing of ideas is very much possible.

James Brown writes about <http://www.homeschoolingcatalog.com> website

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