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Home Schooling?

By Debra Slater

Every parent wants their children to get the very best education they can, but with the public school system having the problems it is currently experiencing and private schools not being financially available to all, many parents are turning back to homeschooling.

Homeschooling is not a new idea; in fact our public school system is newer than parents teaching their children at home. Our founding fathers did discuss whether or not to require children to attend school (compulsory schooling), but they decided to leave the decision up to the individual families and state and local governments. In 1850, Massachusetts was the first state to require children to attend school. There were many reasons for this law, but the main reasons were to keep children out of the workforce and teach them to be "good citizens."

Even with laws being enacted across the United States, many parents continued to homeschool their children. Homeschooling became an underground movement, but has picked up speed. With American children falling behind in math and science and violence continuing to escalate in schools, parents feel the public system is failing. Statistics show that the top 3 reasons parents decide to homeschool are: safety for their children, being able to teach from a religious perspective and having a program tailored to their child's learning needs.

There are many different approaches to homeschooling. Here is a small list:

* Classical Homeschooling. The people who use this approach believe that the brain develops in three stages - grammar, logic and rhetoric. * Structured Homeschooling. This approach most resembles institutionalized schools. * Unschooling. This approach was started in the 1960s by John Holt, a Boston educator who did not agree with how children were taught in schools. He felt children should be free to learn at their own pace, not to be dictated to by teachers.

Again, this is a small list of different approaches. Each one has its own idea of how children learn best.

There are many advantages to homeschooling, but the one disadvantage I see is the child not being able to socialize with other children. I am sure that there are programs for homeschooled children to be sociable and as this educational choice continues to grow, more opportunities will be made available.

We parents know better than anyone what is best for our children. Homeschooling may be the future for education. And maybe we should look to our past to find the future.

Debra Slater: With over 25 years of experience in the baby related industry, <http://HappyMothers.com> & <http://MommysLittleBaby.com> has the most experienced and knowledgeable sales staff. We have provided and continue to provide exceptional service to Mothers, Fathers, Grandmothers, Grandfathers and all family and friends.

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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