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Homeschool Info That Every Parent Needs To Know

By Low Jeremy

Homeschool is one of the alternatives considered by parents and educators to traditional schools.

Although its effectiveness has not yet been proven conclusively, there are sectors that champion homeschooling because it provides a much more flexible process that can be adapted to a child's learning capability.

For now, most experts agree that homeschool can be the best alternative for students who cannot cope with ordinary school setting. This system is often given to students who find it hard to keep up with the lessons in class due to slow mental ability or those who have abnormalities and congenital defects that keep them from performing well in school.

Below are some of the information that one needs to know before considering a homeschool program for your child.

1. Lacking in social component

This is perhaps the number one argument against the homeschooling program. Because the child is taught at home, surrounded by people that they already know, they may have a problem dealing with people in their surroundings. This is especially true with children that have started the homeschool program at an age when they are still developing their social skills.

If your child is at this stage, better think twice before putting him or her in a homeschool program. Unless you can supplant a social component into his program, he will be missing so much in terms of learning how to interact with other people.

2. State laws in homeschool

You may not be aware of it but each state enforces certain rules and guidelines that parents and teachers of the homeschooling program should adhere to. Recognizing the potential effect of the program to the learning and performance of children, the government has chosen to regulate the program. Check with your local government offices for the laws and requirements.

3. Support Groups

There are support groups consisting of parents of children undergoing homeschooling program. Here you will find people who can help you establish a program for your child. They will also be able to provide you with first hand account of their experiences with homeschooling and will be able to advise you in case you encounter some problems.

4. Family involvement

Homeschooling will not only affect the life of the child who will be undergoing the program but also the lives of the people in the house. Not only will they have to cope with the schedule but also in a way help in the overall learning of the child.

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Compelling Reasons For Homeschooling

By All Homeschooling

People choose the option of homeschooling their children for a variety of reasons.

For many years, homeschooling was the purview of those families who lived in rural areas and found the cost and/or time it would take to transport their children to school unbearable. For these people, homeschooling was and continues to be the only real option when it comes to their children's education. Many rural families have traditionally relied on their children to help around the house, and thus homeschooling allowed them to pursue their studies around the family schedule, and work and education could be fit into the day according to a suitable timetable.

Another traditional reason for families choosing the option of homeschool was a fundamental disagreement with what was or is being taught in other schooling environments. Chief among this group are families whose religious beliefs clash with the prevailing educational methods. Families who choose the option of homeschooling are not subject to the rigid curriculum of established schools, and there are many options when it comes to homeschool resources that can offer as wide or as narrow a field of study as far as worldviews that the parent wishes.

A more recent development in the reason people choose to homeschool their children is that of safety. School ground violence seems to be increasing, and that has many parents worried. They feel that the best way to keep their children away from harm is to keep them close.

Hand-in-hand with the safety issue is a concern for the child's self esteem. Bullying is a common issue within any school system, as any parent well remembers from their own school days. Many parents

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cannot bear the thought of throwing their children into the kind of system that breeds a pack mentality, and are choosing instead to have them educated at home.

A very recent development in the reasons for homeschooling is the fluidity in choices that homeschooling children allows. This is especially apparent in Generation X, who seem to be fairly insistent on independence and not being tied down to any one place or situation. Homeschooling eliminates the need to plan all vacations around established school holidays, as the pace is determined by the parent and child.

Finally, parents may choose to homeschool their children because they simply feel they can do a better job than any educational system. Parents of gifted children do not want to see the child wasted in the hard pressed for both resources and qualified teachers system that public schooling represents, and private schools are becoming increasingly unaffordable for the average family. Parents who believe their children need the advantages of a more intimate education are therefore turning to the option of homeschooling.

The rise in popularity of homeschooling has meant a corresponding rise in the materials available to the parent who chooses to homeschool. There are resources available to meet any educational needs, and with a little bit of homework a parent will find the curriculum they feel will best suit their children's needs.

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