

## Homeschooling Session 1

*So you're thinking about homeschooling?*

*Making a decision*

**Questions and Answers with Kim and Sunny**

**Q:** In addition to making this decision for my daughter, I am considering tutoring services, I have had a lot of requests to provide support for both home schooled students and learning from home students. I'm hoping to get some skills from you.

**Sunny response:** As a homeschool mother tutoring has been a necessity for my son's education. My advice to you is to first make certain that you have developed an educational plan for your daughter. It can be very challenging balancing your commitment to her and the demands that will come from offering your tutoring services. I would also consider the max amount of students you would like to offer your tutoring services, the subjects that you will offer tutoring and your availability. Once you have a clear understanding of what you offer and your availability then I would begin to offer tutoring sessions. I do advise that you start small and then grow your tutoring business. I typically see tutoring rates from \$25 -\$100 per hour. You may wish to consider group tutoring or partnering with local co-op/homeschool associations.

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**Q:** Can the child maintain a Gifted and Talented status if they are pulled out for homeschool and then return to a district?

That is a question that would need to be addressed to your district as to how they determine placements for various statuses. In my experience, if the status is based on testing, then your child would need to be present for those tests. I have found that some districts work really well with homeschoolers and others offer little to no support or communication.

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**Q:** Do you expect these homeschooling numbers to grow significantly, considering COVID-19?

I do believe based on what we are hearing from our faculty and students that the number of homeschoolers will significantly increase due to COVID. The question will really be then how many continue to homeschool for a longer period of time?

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**Q:** I would like to homeschool, but my spouse is insistent on our daughter playing sports, hence the disagreement between homeschooling or not. What are ways to accomplish both? Homeschool AND be able to join sports teams.

Some districts will allow homeschooled students to play on the school teams because you continue to pay taxes as a homeschooler. However, there are also club sports or traveling teams if you have a child that wants to play more competitive sports. Some Homeschool coops or support groups also provide team opportunities. Our local group had basketball and volleyball teams that competed nationally.

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**Q: I was more concerned about the social aspect of it. I was worried about them not having the same social learning per say. I originally was planning on homeschooling and pairing it was a social activity. Like them taking a dance class or play football with other kids. Did you refer to the social benefit with personal communication? Or did your kids learn social interaction through the field trip situations? Any insight is much appreciated (:**

The greatest part of socialization with homeschooling is that you can control not only the quantity but the quality. It is also not limited by age as it is with public schooled children that could provide quantity but bullying as well that often goes unreported and unrecognized. All my children are very social, and I believe they have moved into leadership quickly in their jobs because of the social skills they learned while homeschooling. They were able to be more social because I provided a supportive limited social network, one that had the same values that we held, where they did not have to feel they would be made fun of while trying out their leadership skills, humorous side, etc.

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**Q: I have five children but the only ones I am worried of are the last one. Due to COVID the school year will be 100% from home and that is when I thought of Homeschooling for that one.**

**How do I gear myself to doing it?**

The greatest thing you can do to gear up is to get organized with life in general where every member of the family understands their responsibility to the family and home. This includes your child who can help you plan and organize what they want to learn and do. Ownership is a great motivator.

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**Q: I'm an extreme introvert and school is the only place my daughter socializes with her peers. We live in a small community with limited extracurricular resources. How can I make sure she gets enough socialization?**

Depending on your daughter's age, you may or may not need to be a part of the socialization. The younger the child, the more you may need to be present. However, just a few friends and family with regular scheduled events will provide socialization. It is really about the quality not the quantity, and with homeschooling, you have the control of both.

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**Q: Any resources for children with trouble with reading fluency?**

1. Read aloud
2. Create a reading area

3. Work phonemic awareness skills
4. Build site words vocabulary
5. Paired reading
6. Echo reading
7. Pick book kids can relate to
8. Invest in audiobooks
9. Look for reading problems (learning disability)
10. Hire a reading coach or tutor

<https://www.readingrockets.org/teaching/reading-basics/phonics>

<https://www.raz-plus.com/fluency/>

[https://www.education.com/lesson-plans/reading-fluency/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI5OuGmbOo6wIVwZ6zCh0QQwAIEAMYAiAAEgKFV\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.education.com/lesson-plans/reading-fluency/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI5OuGmbOo6wIVwZ6zCh0QQwAIEAMYAiAAEgKFV_D_BwE)

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**Q: What about using the Pomodoro Technique? Is there an age where that is or is not appropriate (or successful)? I have a 9-year-old who is going on 20 and she easily loses focus, so I thought of the 25 mins on, 10 off, 25 mins on, and so on.**

Many homeschoolers use this and similar techniques of chunking material in smaller bits; this is the beauty of homeschooling: to be able to personalize based on your child's needs.

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**Q: I have a competitive gymnast that attends the YMCA. My son loves basketball and plays through a local church program. It's very comparable to the way school games are set up. The Y offers soccer and many states have homeschool football teams.**

Exactly; thank you for sharing.

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**Q: My last is 7 and he is too playful don't know really if am ready for homeschooling him. I don't want him to feel different**

That is a common fear and joining a homeschooling group or coop provides your child the ability to see other children who are homeschooled.

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**Q: Also, you pay taxes, so does the public-school system allow homeschoolers to come for sports, music and even part-time classes?**

This really varies among districts.

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**Q: Is Abeka a Christian Curriculum?**

Yes, it is a Christian curriculum that can be purchased as individual courses, a whole curriculum, or as an online school.

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**Q: I work night shift. How do I make homeschooling work while trying to get enough sleep for work?**

Depending on your child, school can take anywhere from 3-5 hours per day, but much of that time can be done independently for older children so they could be working on assignments while you are sleeping and then you can go over things and introduce the next day's content when you are awake. Learning is not limited to time of day. 😊

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**Q: What is a good age to begin homeschooling?**

You probably begin homeschooling your child from day 1 by teaching them the very basic, how to talk, walk, manners, behaviors, counting, etc... Follow your child's lead with more formal instruction but so much of "play" in the preschool years is geared to learning foundational information for reading, writing, and math.

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**Q: How do you deal with IEPs and homeschooling?**

A few states offer traditional IEPs to **homeschooled** kids. An IEP entitles your child to services, just like in a public school. Other states treat **homeschooled** kids the same as kids in private school. In these states, local school districts will typically offer a service plan, which is like an IEP but provides less. Under a service plan, your child might attend public school twice a week for special instruction in reading or math. But services like **occupational therapy** might not be available.

<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/choosing-starting-school/home-schooling/the-pros-and-cons-of-homeschooling>

<https://hsllda.org/teaching-my-kids/special-needs>

<https://hsllda.org/post/what-is-an-sep-iep-isp>

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**Q: How do you deal with the legal aspects of homeschooling when the local schools refuse to follow the law? We had HSLDA, but they dropped us due to it being potentially too expensive for them to represent us.**

Based on what little information, I would encourage you to reach out to your local or state support group for additional resources.

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**Q: I'm not sure it's worth it to start homeschooling in the 12th grade, what are your thoughts?**

You may be able to work with your local community college and see what is available to your student. Many community colleges will allow students to attend earlier with parental permission. This would allow your child to take courses that are often repeated in the 12<sup>th</sup> and college freshmen year and just

supplementing other things your child may not have mastered in the other grades. The community colleges will usually use testing to place your child in the right level of courses. This will allow them to save time and money for their post secondary education.

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**Q: What if you do not have the ability to actually teach material? Parents are the first teachers, but some parents aren't able to perform from textbook or standards**

Most homeschool curriculum provides the answer keys and such so that the parent does not have to "teach." In other words, you manage their instruction rather than instruct. One other example is Khan Academy, which provides online instruction for math so that the parents do not have to.