

Outline of Topics Covered in 'How to Start Homeschooling' by Ellen Davis

The Definition of Homeschooling: practice of teaching one's own child at home

History:

- Homeschooling has always been around – age old method of instruction
- With the emergence of compulsory education in the early 1900s, homeschooling was limited to
 - Foreign service workers, missionaries, illnesses, remote location, isolated regions
- In the 1970s and 80s – a renaissance emerged when people began to question if the existing public and private system were right for their individual child
 - Thus the modern movement was born
 - Facing many adversaries and legal challenges – homeschooling in the united states during the 70s and 80s was difficult but as families stood their ground, numbers increased

Homeschooling Today:

- Over 2 million, 75% increase since 1999
- High achievers, actively recruited by colleges
 - Enhance classroom discussions, tend to get involved on campus and student leadership, and hold their own academically
 - Well rounded, well traveled, taken risks, and studied intense topics
- Score higher on SAT/ACT, usually at least a year ahead of their private/public school peers

Homeschooling is:

- Gathering with friends
- Learning alongside your child
- Building family relationships
- Museums, fieldtrips, friends
- Piano lessons, sports, relaxing
- Meeting famous composers, meeting football stars
- TRAVEL
 - We have been up and down the east coast, out west
 - With more trips to come

Typical Day:

- Breakfast, morning chores, sometimes we stay in PJs (jk)
- Begin school work between 8 and 9
 - I work with my younger ones first – math, reading, map tracing, spelling, handwriting, presentations
 - My older ones work on their independent work and I check it
 - Our curriculum – Classical Conversations – we use memory work – classical education for the earlier years and then apply that knowledge in the later years and focus on latin, logic, research, persuasive writing

- We are involved in sports, speech and debate team, piano/competitive, our homeschool co-op, meet with friends outside of co-op and other activities at least 1-2 times a week, neighborhood full of kids
- Our goal as a family is to teach from a wholistic perspective, not just about academic achievement and the top job – teach responsibility, family bonding, being a community member, relating to people older and younger to your age, political awareness, and religious foundations
- We usually gather around the kitchen table – as my kids have gotten older they find nooks of space around the house – from their desk in their room, our sun room, or the couch. Lately they have been working at my desk with me taking turns.

Types of homeschooling:

- Classical education, traditional, charlotte mason, unschooling, Montessori, eclectic, etc.
- Resources on any of these tracks