



- Check out [HSLDA](#) (HomeSchool Legal Defense Association) for your state's regulations for homeschooling
- Take the [Homeschool Style Quiz](#) to find out what style you might want to research more
- Don't worry about your homeschool looking like another seasoned homeschooler's homeschool. You will not meet your kids' needs that way. Theirs works so well because of trial and error and was catered to their kids who have different needs.
- Don't expect to get it perfect the first time. Concentrate on relationship first, school second. Homeschooling is not crisis schooling and homeschooling is not classroom schooling. Don't try to recreate the classroom.
- It is better that your child is grasping, retaining, and has a love for learning than it is to rush the year just to "finish" every book. It is OK to not do every page or worksheet.
- You aren't perfect and your kids are not perfect. There will be times of struggle, conflict, and bad attitudes from all of you. Call on the Lord daily to guide and direct peace in your home, grace for another, and that every single thing that He wants done in that day, gets done. Let Him guide you and at the end of the day, in reflection, you can honestly believe that God ordered your day. There is peace and rest in committing your day to the Lord's care. Take comfort knowing our heavenly Father is sovereign and that He cares for you and your children. You are not alone, God is for you. You can trust the Lord with your children and with learning together in your homeschool. He is faithful. Remember that relationships are hard work. Doing life with your little and big people takes self sacrifice, but it is God honoring to raise your children in the way they should go, no matter how imperfectly you do it, do it as unto the Lord. He will see you through. Pray,

pray, pray. Pray alone and with your children and ask God to bless the teaching and learning in your family.

- **Decide now that your first year will be a year of figuring things out. Give yourself grace.**
- Don't try to do too much. Start with a couple of subjects because you can always add more.
- You're not doing it wrong. It just feels that way.
- Your homeschool is NOT supposed to look like [fill in the blank person you know or saw on the internet]. Homeschools are as unique as the families themselves. No two homeschools will look the same.
- Figure out what you want to join. Many areas have so many opportunities for homeschoolers you could never be home. Do what fits your family and don't feel guilty for saying no to the rest.
- Breathe. It's not easy, but you are not alone. There is always someone willing to listen and help.
- Do not worry about socialization. Kids do not go to school to socialize, kids go to school to learn. Find groups that share your interests and goals and join them. That is all the "socialization" your child needs.
- Education.com is a great resource for worksheets and ideas for elementary school grades.
- Rainbow resource is great for books and supplies (they have some amazing prices).
- Alpha Omega Press has multiple ways of presenting the same basic content it is also great for the parent who needs a kit that tells them what to do, suggestions on how fast to go, and it is student led, and has electives for middle school and high school aged kids.
- Just relax and don't expect to have it all together! There will be days that are a bust and days that are fantastic. Its an extension of parenting!
- Allowing for physical movement breaks (or even bouncing on an exercise ball) or better yet within the lesson if possible (kinesthetic learning) can help some kids solidify information. Some kids learn and retain better when physical activity is incorporated. This can even

happen for learning to read and spell. Especially good for children with dyslexia.

For working mommas:

- Utilize online and DVD curriculum, many out there have self-grade options too (faith based options as well). It is ok to not be hands on for every subject and every child
- Set your child daily outline of subjects, estimate of time spent, and allow them to be accountable instead of hand holding them. Many children will thrive with this independence and own their work.
- You can be a “learning facilitator” and teach your child how to find answers, how to research, how to apply themselves, how to learn, while LOVING the learning process.
- Find a schedule that can compliment your work schedule! Don’t mirror other homeschool families. You are homeschooling AND working so you have to figure out what works for you.
- Find a great planner whether online digital (Homeschool Planet or Google Calendar), or paper form. I do my entire year over the summer and use online digital so we can easily shift it all out by a day here and there for work appointments, sickness, and so forth that arise last minute.
- Save larger hands on projects for the one day a week you have the least work. For example science labs, painting/art projects, map work, research for larger reports (in our house, I work less hours on Fridays so we save Friday for this). We get all main subjects done Monday-Thursday to account for this.
- Some mothers that work find it easier to do a file folder system where EVERYTHING for each week is in a weekly file folder ready to go. They tear papers out and organize it over the summer so it is ready to go each week. This system works great for many working moms. I found it cumbersome with papers everywhere so for our house we like to leave EVERYTHING in the books.
- When you have phone conferences or where you need it 100% quiet, IT IS OK to use TV during those times. Use Amazon Prime or other streaming

networks for educational content that pertains to what they are learning that week. Electronics can be a babysitter and they can learn from it – it just should not be your main form of education but to supplement it while allowing you to earn a living.

- Get up 30 minutes to 1 hour before kids if possible. Pray, meditate, do stretches, take your vitamins, drink your coffee, read emails to put any work fires out before starting school.
- Do what you gotta do FOR YOU before trying to wear all the hats!
- By HIS grace and strength, it can be accomplished. We are not striving for perfection. There is no perfect strategy, no perfect homeschool family, no wrong way of doing this. It is doing what works for your family. If you try to pray together and put God at the center of your day, the rest will follow.