

Dear new home educator,  
Welcome to the journey! Many people have asked me over the years why our family home educates. I am in my 16<sup>th</sup> year of homeschooling and have graduated our first several years ago and have four more to go! Having an answer of “why” is very helpful to have on hand. We have spiritual conviction to homeschool and pass on our faith in Christ. We also saw so many pro’s in academically schooling them at home and can hone in on our children’s gifts with flexibility and meeting their different learning styles. We have been through good and hard homeschool years, however, our family is stronger and close knit. Homeschooling is not only doing school and strictly academics. It is also getting to know the WHOLE child, their needs, gifts, struggles, teaching character and life skills, and imparting your beliefs to them. You are investing in the life of your child/family in so many areas. It is priceless. It is HARD. It can be LONELY. That is one reason I firmly encourage any homeschooler to be part of a support group. We NEED each other.

So—why do **YOU** homeschool? This is a valid question for us all to ponder. Each family is unique and my homeschool goals are not going to be exactly like yours. Having a mission statement has helped me from mimicking someone else’s homeschool and has kept me tuned in to what God wants for **my** family. A Homeschool Mission Statement is the BIG picture for your kids’ education and family goals. As a mom-teacher, it is also a guide to stay on track. Know the word FLEXIBLE? Yes, that needs to be part of the homeschool journey as well. The reason of WHY we do school at home stays the same, but HOW to implement it may change direction as you are on the journey. Being FLEXIBLE is the Word to have in your pocket. Continuing to pray and plan, asking God to show you His plan when things do not go the way you thought. Making necessary adjustments along the way.

Keep your Mission Statement short, simple and have a few goals for the year is a good start. As you gain experience and as you see your kids grow, it may be more detailed, and lengthy. Each family is different. We add a key verse, academic goals, spiritual goals, life skills needed, and character skills in ours.

As CHEER’s Leader, one of my desires is to provide opportunities for stronger relationships within the group and giving you the keys to success through speakers and breakout sessions. CHEER is a place where our families can grow stronger in homeschooling, get support, encouragement, ask questions and share answers. We are a sweet family and need each other. Our KEY VERSE is- Hebrews 10:24 says- “Let us consider how to stir

up one another in love and good works.” This sums up CHEER—let’s be at work in helping each other in the journey!

In Christ Alone,  
Jyl Griffin  
Steering Leader