

10 Tips for Home Schooling

Adapted from Tammy Takahashi

- 1. Slow down and let learning happen.** Our culture encourages us to push our kids to learn faster, better, more. What if we said, "It may take a day, it may take a year, it may take 10, but they will eventually learn. We're in no rush?"
- 2. Let go of our grip on fear.** Fear is a natural emotion, but if we let fear control us, we don't make wise decisions. Feel the fear, explore why we have it, then walk right on by it and discover our own path to education.
- 3. Let go of the notion that making mandates on our kids' learning means we're good teachers.** Good teachers are listeners, watchful, adaptive, curious, supportive, non-judgmental and accepting. Not controlling.
- 4. Create a circle of supportive people.** Whenever we make a major life change, it's important to have people around us who support our decisions and trust us. Create a group of supportive people around us by going out and supporting others.
- 5. Seek out help, but don't follow advice blindly.** There is an infinite amount of literature out there about learning, homeschooling and parenting. Seek it out, learn and explore. But remember the final decision on which advice is appropriate is up to us individually.
- 6. Have a concrete understanding of why we want to homeschool.** Create a list of positive reasons to homeschool. That list can remind us why we are putting so much effort into our new life when it seems like nothing is working. It can also help us refocus on what's important so we don't get lost in the details.
- 7. Find a mentor or someone to emulate.** We can find role models or mentors to help us on our way.
- 8. Take baby steps.** Lasting change is easier to accomplish with small changes. Also, pick one thing at a time, instead of working on everything at once. Working on too many things is the good way of setting ourselves up for failure.
- 9. Exercise daily.** Good advice for anyone.
- 10. Get involved with learning something new yourself.** Set for your children the example of a lifestyle of learning. Do not become so consumed with "teaching" that you do not take time to "learn".