

Strategies for Successful Homeschooling

1. Set your priorities! God: Have your quiet time to get ready for the day.
Husband: Set aside time for the two of you to catch up and talk each day. Have a date night.
Children: We do want to raise Godly children, disciples. We want to educate them well. Bring them up to love the Lord. At the end of the day when the dishes are put away and the children are tucked in bed – truly what matters is each child's relationship with the Lord.
2. Have a lesson Plan!
Lesson planning is critical and is one of the most time consuming tasks you will do to both plan for an upcoming school year and conduct your school throughout the year. You use lesson plans to identify when you will be covering each part of a curriculum for each student. As you move through the year, you will use your lesson plans to measure your progress and to make adjustments for the rest of the year – should things go not quite as you had planned them.
3. Notebooking. Have students keep what they are learning in a notebook. Papers are easy to keep track of when everything is in a notebook.
4. Catch-up. Overwhelmed? Feel like you are falling behind? Take an entire day or more and use it to catch up in one subject. You can cover an amazing amount of territory in a single day. Have a special pizza and school night if you and your kids work well in the evening hours. Then camp out in the school room and play favorite game when everyone's work is completed
5. Don't forget to add in the extra's! We often get so focused on getting the 3 R's done that we put aside the fun stuff like art, music, nature studies and field trips.
6. 5 min. rule: Do you want a tidy house and some organization. Several times during your school make a game at the 5 min clean up time. Set your time and yell go. Pick up the books and put them on the shelf, file the papers that are complete, put the crayons in the bin, and have fun while doing it.
7. Develop Special Interests: extracurricular activities like sports, drama club, or music. Others use their time to develop expertise in cooking, ancient history, costume design, chess, horses, sailing, family history, gardening, pottery, and a myriad of other activities.
8. Learn the "I, We, You" strategy
First, I do it for you. Next, we do it together. Finally, you do it alone. It is a pretty simple idea. Identify areas where you are still taking charge and bring your student in on the process of working together until they are capable of doing the task on their own.
Your older students need to learn to set their own goals and understand how to break bigger tasks into smaller ones. Learning how to plan out study time is a necessary college readiness skill. Regular meetings and planning sessions can help teach teens the skills they need to create and carry out learning plans.
9. When you want to scream sing! Let's face it, we have all been there. This is the time to take a break. Get outside, maybe a trip to the beach. Later reassess what was going wrong. Was it poor planning, is the work too hard/missing fundamentals. Are your expectations too high for that age level? Do you all need a nap?
10. Most important no request from our heavenly Father is too small.
Phil 4:6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.