

**THE
HOMESCHOOLING
REPORT
2017**



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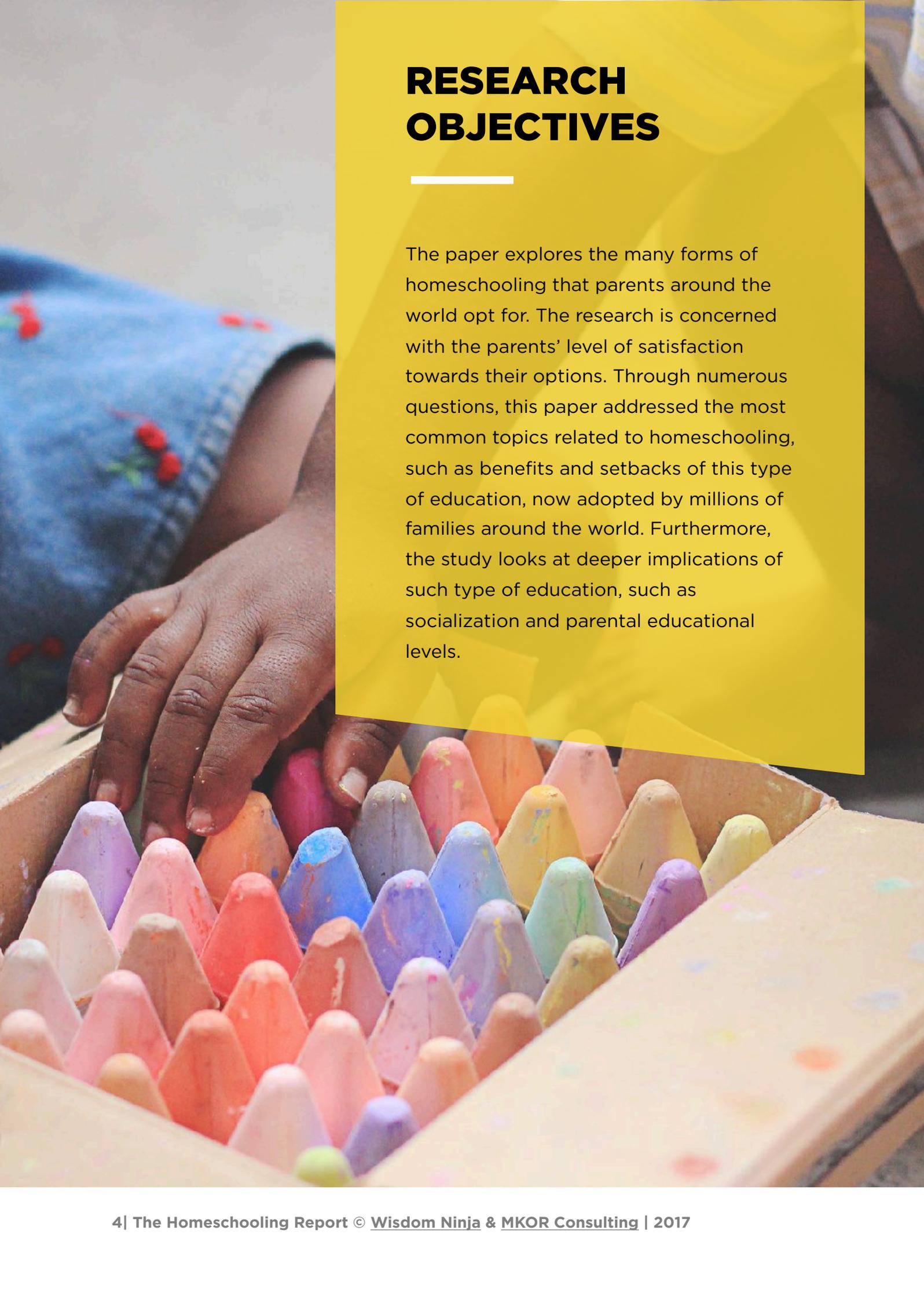
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BACKGROUND

We, at [Wisdom Ninja](#), strive to bring inspiration and insightful information to parents that look to improve their everyday life. Our journey so far, as a community of parents and bloggers, proved to be a continuous learning. At some point, we noticed that homeschooling is a hot topic among parenting groups.

Thus, questions came up. Why homeschooling? Why are so many parents choosing it? Who are those parents? Once our curiosity had been challenged there was only one step towards answering it. In a matter of days, with the expertise of our partners and friends at [MKOR Consulting](#), we've set up a survey that would answer our questions and much more.

By obtaining facts from those who homeschool, the study provides a better understanding and setting to the purpose and function of homeschooling. The key findings indicate that parents take decisions based on individual circumstances and needs.



RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The paper explores the many forms of homeschooling that parents around the world opt for. The research is concerned with the parents' level of satisfaction towards their options. Through numerous questions, this paper addressed the most common topics related to homeschooling, such as benefits and setbacks of this type of education, now adopted by millions of families around the world. Furthermore, the study looks at deeper implications of such type of education, such as socialization and parental educational levels.

Julie Gilbert from [Homeschooling Ideas](#)

Demeria Zinga from [Christian Homeschool Moms](#)

Jolanthe Erb from [Homeschool Creations](#)

Purva Brown from [Purva Brown Coalition for Responsible Home Education](#)

Beth Napoli from [Techie Homeschool Mom](#)

Lisa Marie Fletcher from [The Canadian Homeschooler](#)

Lindsey Whitney from [Growing Kids Ministry](#)

Ka and Katie from [The Sundance Family](#)

Liesha Ann B from [Crossing Over to Homeschooling](#)

Alicia Toore from [Homeschooling Pagan Momma](#)

Beverly Paine from [The Educating Parent](#)

Jennifer Lynn from [Acellus Homeschooling Parents](#)

[HSC Homeschool Association of California Discussion Group](#)

[California Homeschool Network](#)



WHAT IS OUR RESPONDENTS' PROFILE

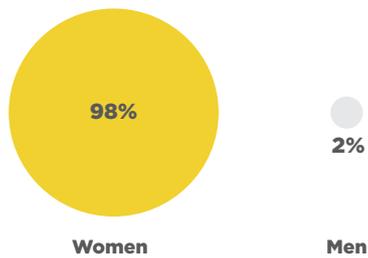
Gender: 98% women, 2% men;

Age: 18 - 24 years old (1%), 25 - 44 years old (77%), 45 - 64 years old (22%);

Area: respondents from 24 countries all over the world, 80% coming from the United States of America;

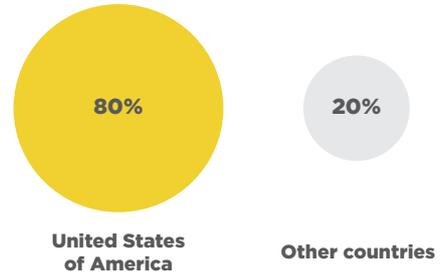
Level of education: College degree (58%), Graduate School (20%) and High School graduates (22%).

GENDER

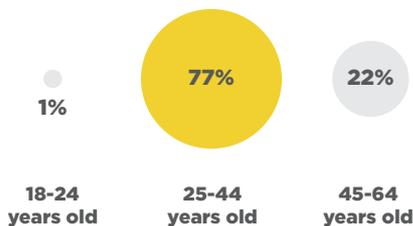


AREA

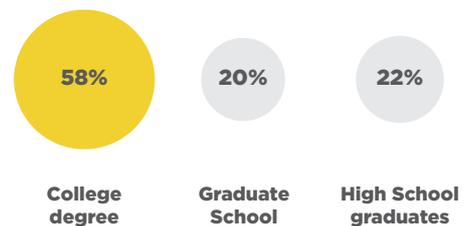
% NO* OF RESPONSES



AGE



LEVEL OF EDUCATION



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"I have come to believe that a person's schooling is as much a part of his private business as his politics or religion, and that no one should be required to answer questions about it. May I say instead that most of what I know I did not learn in school, and indeed was not even 'taught.'"

John Holt

For Holt, the problem with compulsory education is the premises from which it starts. There is a predefined set of knowledge that all children should learn, at the same pace and at the same time, from professionals in conditions established by a distant authority. *One size fits all* defines, in essence, the problem of compulsory education. Holt created the *unschooling* method. In 1977, in collaboration with Early Holt, he started the *Growing Without Schooling* magazine.³

Inspired by Holt, the educational theoretician Raymond Moore strengthens the current, saying that children until the age of 8-9 years should be homeschooled in order to ensure a solid moral, psychological, and educational ground. In 1981, Moore's book, *Home Grown Kids*⁴, becomes a major success, often being the first book read by those interested in homeschooling.

With Holt and Moore providing a theoretical support, and with many parents being vocal, the practice has been legalized in all American states. Restrictions were put into place, many severe, some of which even asked parents for a pedagogical license. The first forms of homeschooling took shape after frequent meetings between parents and local school councils in order to frame a teaching plan.

³ <http://www.johnholtgws.com/growing-without-schooling-issue-archive/>

⁴ <http://www.homegrownkids.co.nz>

Homeschooling as a religious movement

In the 90's, the homeschooling communities have become explicitly religious, while the laic ones from the 70's have been marginalized. In front of the new movement is Michael Farris, a lawyer who founded Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) in 1983. The HSLDA Association became most influential in the 90's, tying up connections with other leaders of homeschooling at that time, Greg Harris and Sue Welch. The laic organizations survived those harsh conditions while being shadowed by the political power of HSLDA.

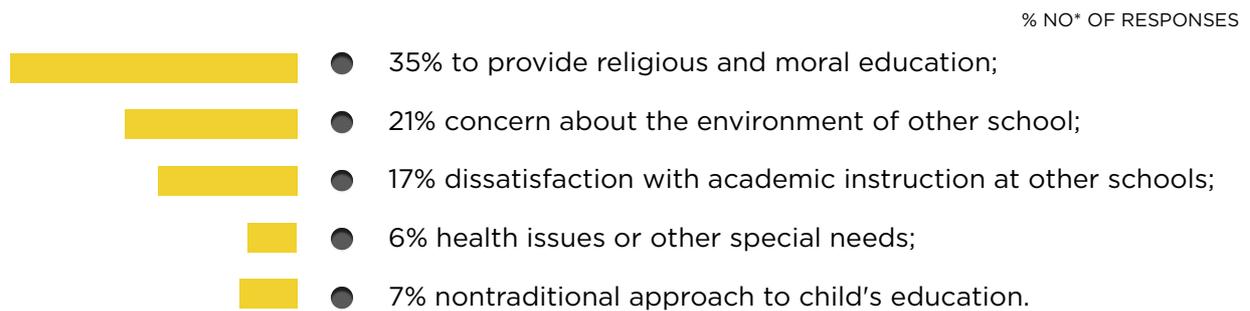
While the leaders of early homeschooling were focusing on liberating children from formal schools, following their interests, the new leaders came up with a new social and religious vision, arguing that the U.S. should reinforce its nation based on the Christian faith.

Homeschooling today

Meanwhile, homeschooling continued to grow in the USA. The Internet loosened the influence that Christian homeschooling groups once had. Getting an education at home is a growing movement: from 850,000 homeschooled children in 1999 to 1,770,000 children in 2011, or 3,4% of all school-aged children in the USA.

In some states, there are communities of parents that homeschool together. If one of the parents has a better capability of teaching a certain subject (history, mathematics, grammar, etc.), children from the community meet up at that parent's house for lessons.

The most important reasons parents mention for homeschooling their children:



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Homeschooling around the World

The Anglo-Saxon countries and former colonies are the ones that are most open when it comes to homeschooling. By popularity, the largest number of homeschooled children are in the United States, the UK, Australia, Canada, Ireland⁵, Italy⁶, India, New Zealand, and South Africa.



Homeschooling is regulated in Europe as well, being present mostly in Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Russia, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Ukraine.

⁵ Home education is completely legal and supported by the Constitution.

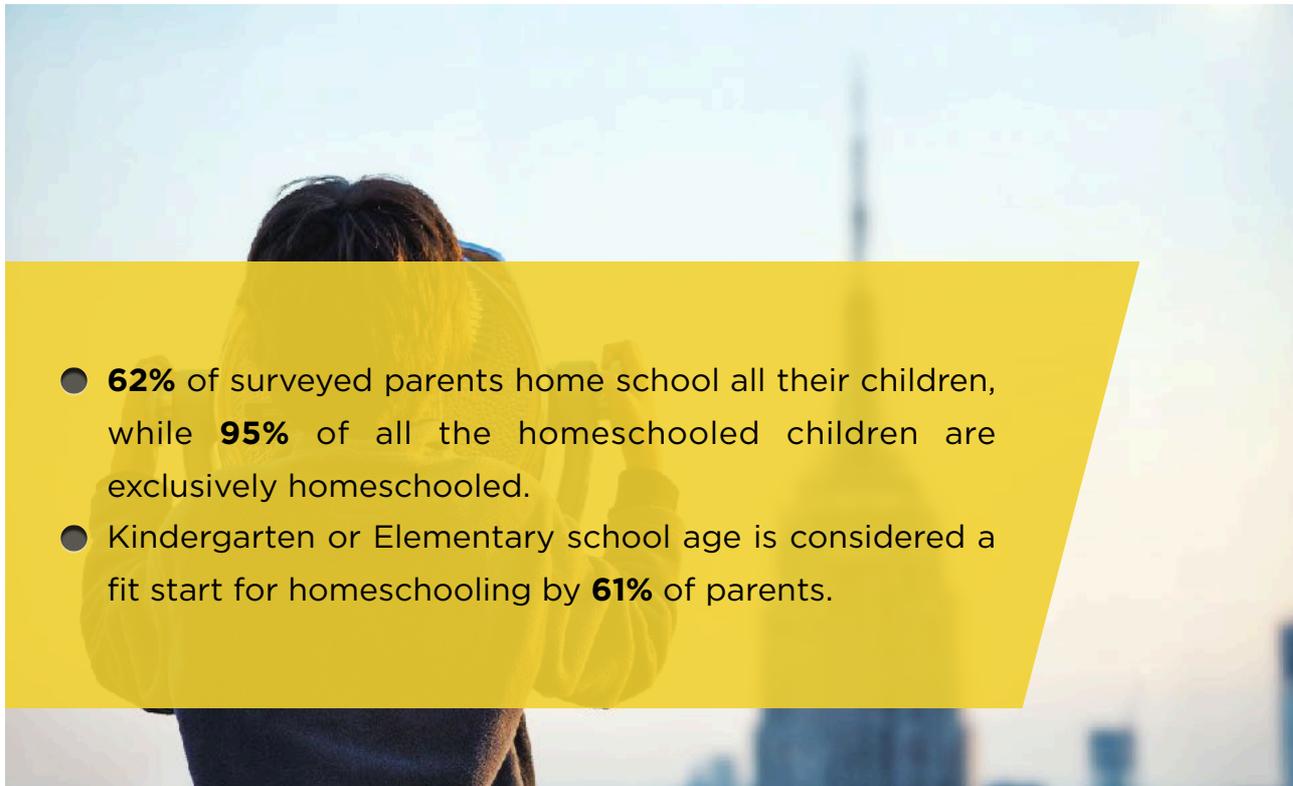
⁶ Home education is completely legal and supported by the Constitution.

Schooling at home is legal, but with limitations to certain situations, in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania⁷ and Switzerland.

There are countries where homeschooling is completely illegal. From Europe, we ought to mention Sweden, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, and Liechtenstein. Other countries where homeschooling is illegal are South Korea, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Brazil and Cuba.

Due to the fact that many states do not keep a register of children that are outside of the schooling system, it is difficult to know how many children are receiving an education within their families. However, there are some estimations: about 2.5 million in the US, 20.000 - 100.000 families in the UK, 60.000 in Canada, 15.000 families in Australia, 5.000 in France, 7.400 in Hungary.

KEY FINDINGS

- 
- **62%** of surveyed parents home school all their children, while **95%** of all the homeschooled children are exclusively homeschooled.
 - Kindergarten or Elementary school age is considered a fit start for homeschooling by **61%** of parents.

⁷ According to the Education Law, homeschooling is limited to children with poor health or special needs.

RESOURCES AND STYLES USED IN HOMESCHOOLING

When looking for information about homeschooling, half of the parents use Internet resources. The website of Home School Legal Defense Association is considered to be the most resourceful. Friends are also a good source of information for almost one-third of those who intend to start homeschooling.

Relaxed, eclectic style is practiced by more than one-third of the families that homeschool their children, as it allows them to adapt and choose what's best for their child's interests.

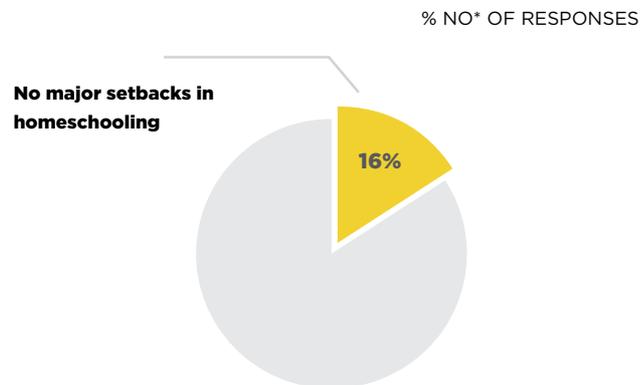
Unschooling is practiced by 12% of the respondents, a method that encourages exploration of activities initiated by the children themselves. This method supports personal learning as meaningful, well-understood and, therefore, useful to the child.

Homeschoolers use and combine a variety of resources during the learning process. Educational games, textbooks, printables and online curricula are most common.



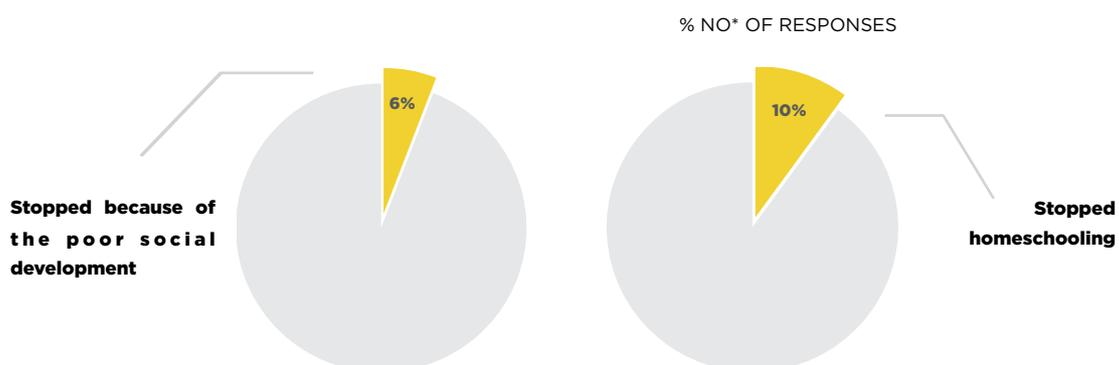
SETBACKS

When asked about major setbacks of homeschooling, **16%** of respondents **said there aren't any.**



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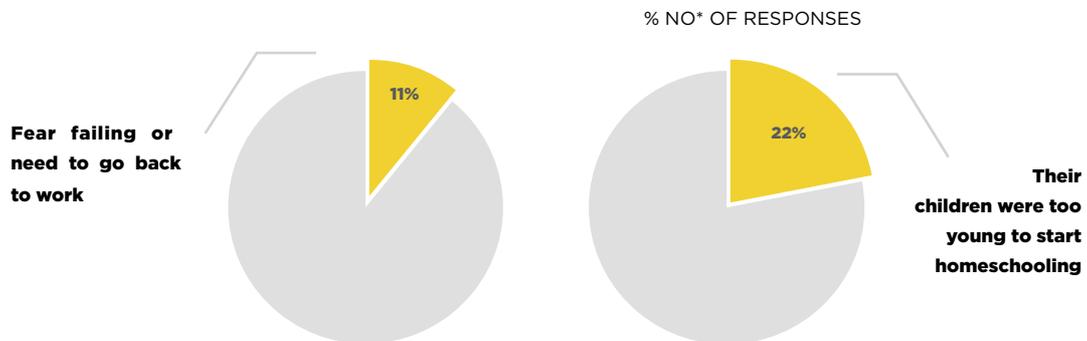
However, the most difficult part of homeschooling seems to be the fact that it is **very time-consuming**. A challenge for parents is to **act as parents and teachers at the same time** and find it difficult to balance between the two. This also leads to limited personal time for the parents, which can become frustrating. Moreover, parents bear on the **lack of social and academic interaction of children**. Another concern for homeschooling families is the **high cost** of teaching materials, especially for those who have to stay at home in order to teach their children. This translates into a lower household income.



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Some of these setbacks are also reasons for quitting homeschooling. **10% stopped homeschooling** due to the **lack of time**, while **6% stopped** because of the **poor social development** of their children.

Lack of social development, together with the fear of failing and the need to go back to work are also the main reasons for which 11% of the respondents didn't engage into homeschooling. However, 22% of the total respondents didn't engage into homeschooling because their children were yet too young to start.



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More than three-quarters of the respondents who do not homeschool would take it into consideration and 36% would start homeschooling in the next year.

Half of the respondents who homeschooled their children reported that they were successful in their endeavors. They stopped homeschooling either because their children graduated (31%), went to High School or College (13%) or simply grew up (6%).



RESPONDENTS PROFILE

Respondents from 24 countries all over the world. 80% coming from United States of America

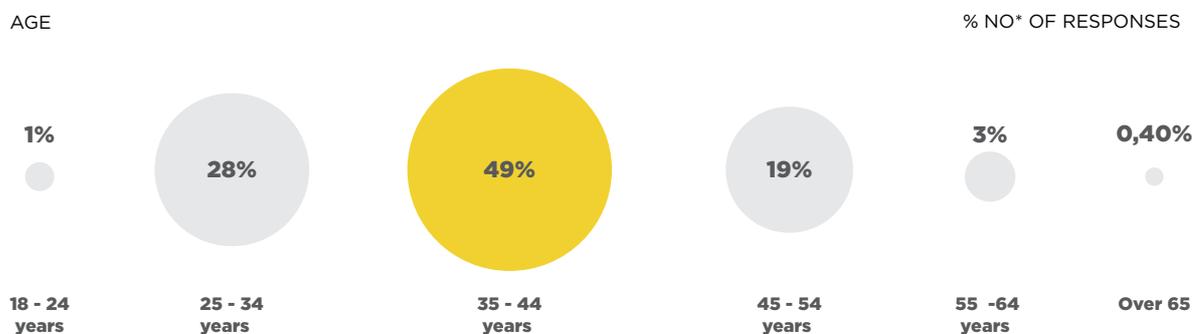
1,506 respondents took our questionnaire, coming from 24 countries, located all over the world. Nevertheless, 80 percent are from the USA, while other 8% are from Australia.



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98% women, aged between 25 - 44 years old (77%), with high-levels of education (78%) and 2 or 3 children (59%)

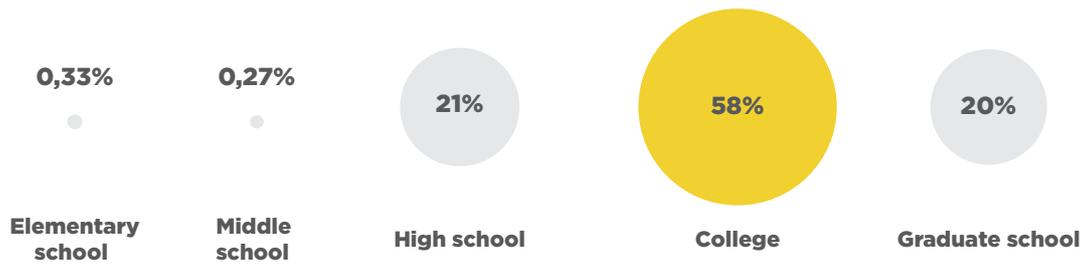
The majority of respondents of our survey are women, between 25-54 years old, most of them with College degree (58%) or Graduate school (20%). 21% graduated High school and less than 1% Elementary and Middle school.



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LEVEL OF EDUCATION

% NO* OF RESPONSES

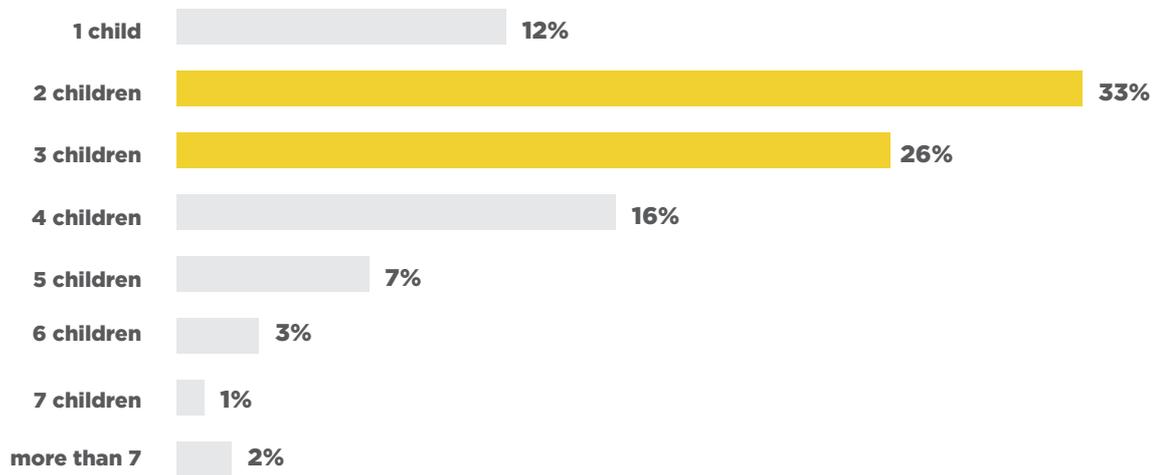


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Most of the respondents have two (33%) or three (26%) children, while 6% have more than 5 children.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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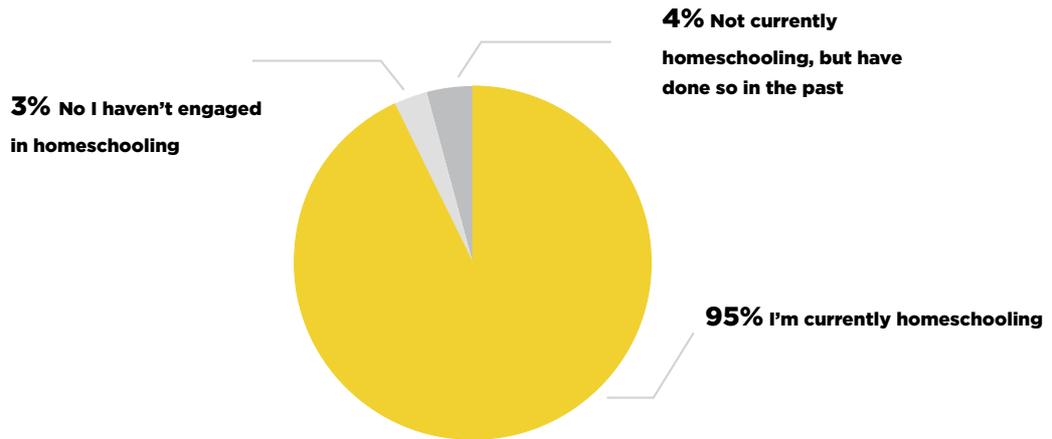
96% currently homeschooling or had homeschooled their kids in the past

93% of the respondents were homeschooling at the time of the survey, while 3% had homeschooled in the past.

Only 4% of the respondents have never engaged into homeschooling, many of which (22%) have not engaged into homeschooling because their children were yet too young.

Are you currently homeschooling your children?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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PARENTS CURRENTLY HOMESCHOOLING

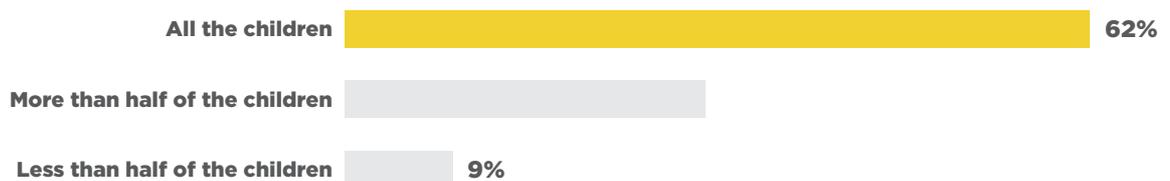
Families who chose homeschooling pursue this education form for all of their children

62 percent of the people who chose to educate their children at home are doing this with all their kids. One-third of the respondents are homeschooling more than half of their children, but in most cases, the reason is related to children's age (they were still too small to be homeschooled).

The vast majority of the children are 100% homeschooled. Only 5% of them are also attending a public or private school.

How many children are you currently homeschooling?

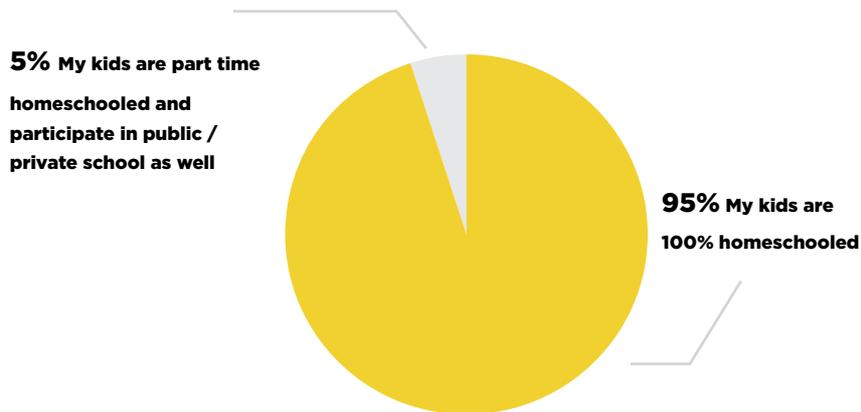
% NO* OF RESPONSES



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HOMESCHOOLING TYPE

% NO* OF RESPONSES

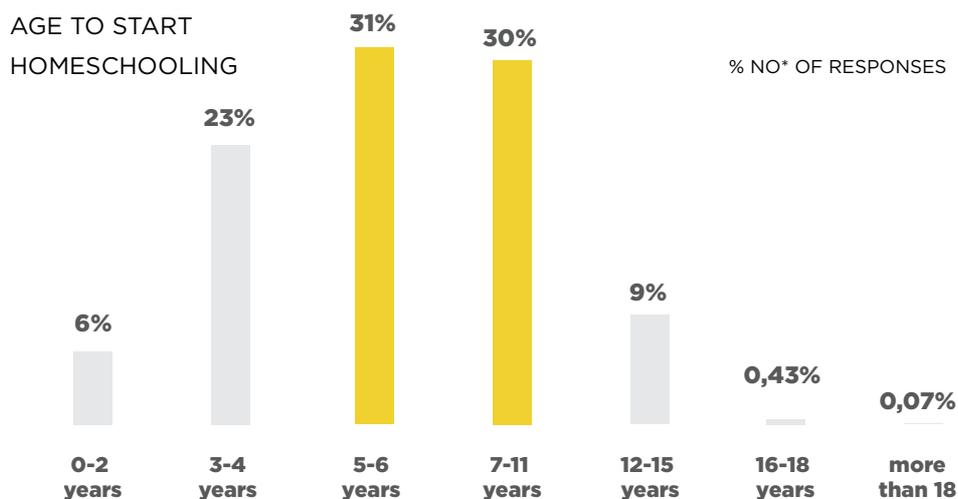


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Homeschooling starts at Kindergarten or Elementary school age and continues for at least 2 years

Most children start homeschooling when they're 5-6 years old, at Kindergarten age (31%) and at 7-11 years old, the age for Elementary School (30%). Some 23% start homeschooling sooner, at the age of 3-4 years.

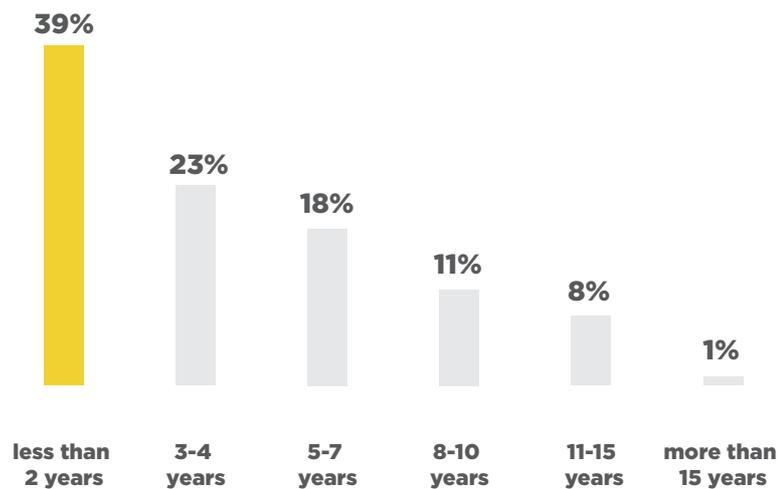
Some 39% of the respondents say that their children were homeschooled for less than 2 years and 23% were homeschooled for 3-4 years. However, in most cases, homeschooling is an ongoing process.



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FOR HOW LONG HAS BEEN
YOUR CHILD SCHOOLED?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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What made you start homeschooling?

The reasons for which families decided to choose homeschooling over traditional schools for their children are varied:

- **Religious education and the desire to provide moral instruction** – is important for 17%, when choosing to homeschool.

“To be able to educate my own children the way I believe is best and be able to instill the correct morals and values in them. To concentrate on the aspects of education that I believe will be most beneficial for them in the future. For them to have time to enjoy family, life, travel, pursue interests and hobbies and involve in extra curricular activities. For them to be raised as aware, moral, intelligent and holistic individuals.”

- **Benefits of one-on-one teaching** (15%) and **lack of trust in the public education system** in general (14%) are the main reasons that led most parents to homeschool.
- Parents argue the inefficiency of the public schooling and **standardized testing**.

- **Setting their own timetables** was the reason for which 13% of the families decided to start homeschooling. **Family time and travel flexibility** were also frequently mentioned in the “Others” category.



“More family time, the ability to go at child’s pace, to travel and set our own schedule, let the kids sleep.”

“Got sick and tired of the mountains of homework daily. School all day and all night was creating unnecessary tension and taking up family time.”

“Family time/ relationships; promote happiness and good mental health; avoid unnecessary stress and pressures of school; developing intrinsic motivation and self- knowledge.”

“Freedom, family connections, real-world experience, schools operate in similar fashion to prisons, avoid teaching to the test, encourage creative independent and skeptical thinking.”

- Another important reason was **giving kids the possibility to lead their learning** (13%) and the benefit of an adapted curriculum. Also, **education for gifted children** was often mentioned by respondents

“Public schools aren't safe. If your child is gifted they get bored, and the teachers don't have time for them.”

“My child was above average in all subjects when he entered Kindergarten. He could already read proficiently, write well and knew basic mathematics as well as some science. Public school bored him. They refused to advance him. His own teacher recommended homeschooling since I had already taught him all of that to begin with.”

“Choosing curriculum that I feel is important, especially life skills and also developing creativity.”

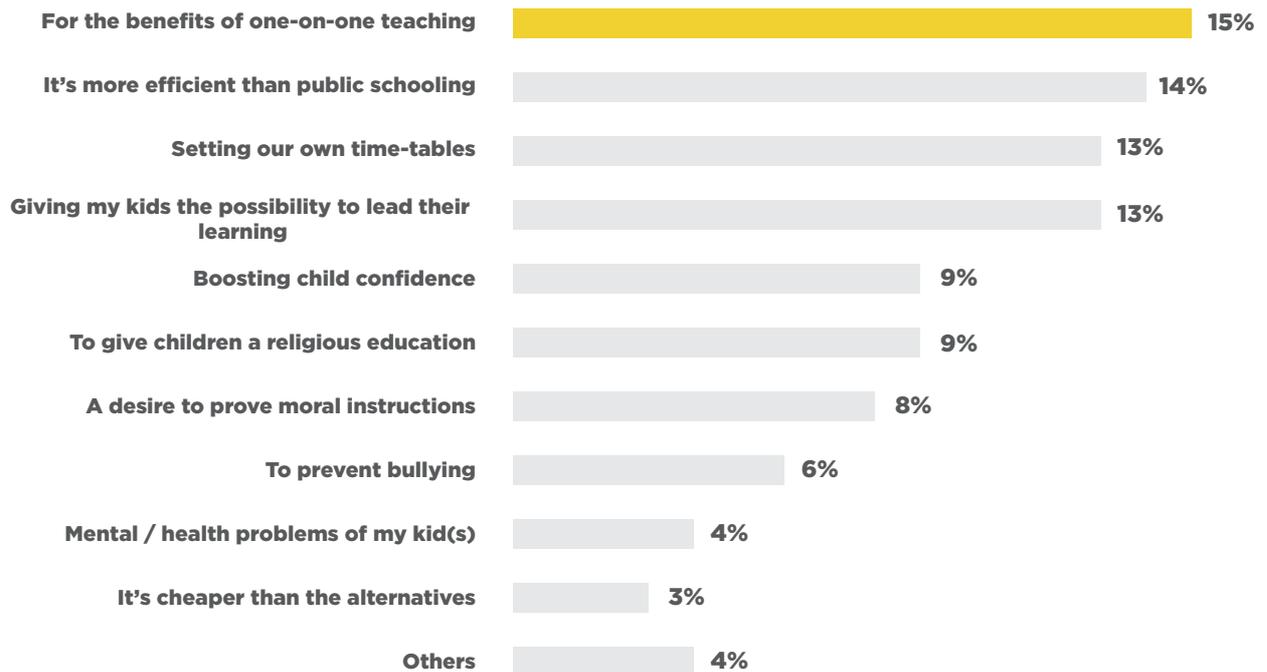
“Curriculum in public school too vigorous, long days and was creating anxiety in child.”

“Children don't all learn the same way. With homeschooling, you can cater to their way of learning. I can change curriculum mid-year if I need to.”

■ **Bullying prevention** is an issue for 6% of the respondents.

“Not so much bullying, but exposure to situations and experiences that weren't age appropriate. We pulled my oldest out before he started 1st grade.”





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SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING

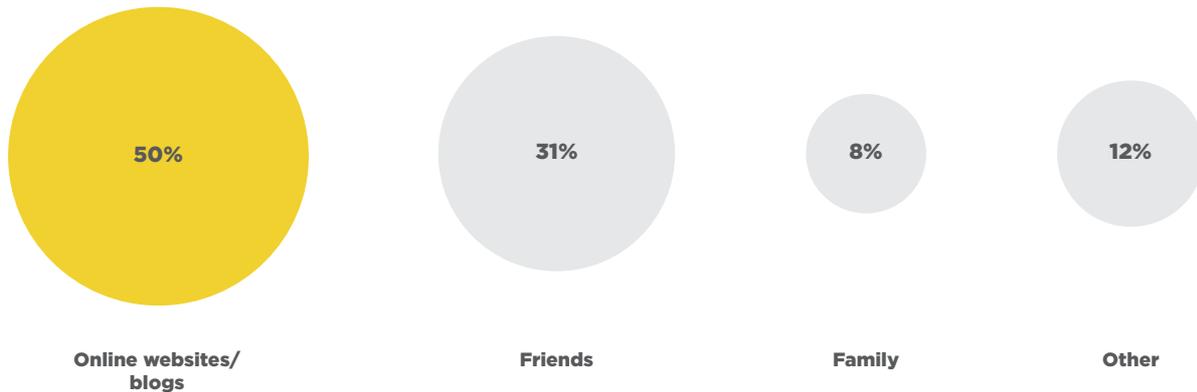
When starting homeschooling, **half of the parents got their information online**, while 31% relied on their friends to get the information they needed.

Other frequently used resources for information were books, such as „[The Well Trained Mind](#)” by Susan Wise Bauer, „[Homeschooling for Excellence](#)” by David Colfax or „[A Charlotte Mason Companion](#)” by Karen Andreola.

Facebook homeschooling groups were also a good source of information for many of the respondents, while others attended homeschooling conferences, seminars, and conventions to learn more about the subject.

MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION WHEN
STARTED HOMESCHOOLING

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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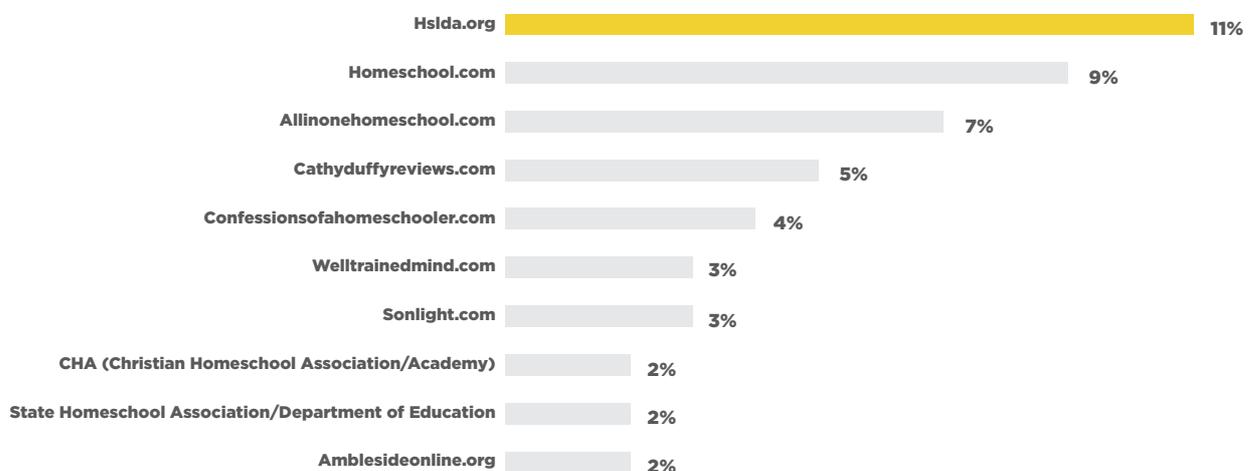
The most common used websites to get informed about homeschooling are **Home School Legal Defense Association website** (hslida.org) and Homeschool.com - homeschooling community.

Some 7% of the respondents use Allinonehomeschool.com - that offers a complete, free online Christian homeschool curriculum.

However, general Internet resources, such as Facebook, Google, Blogs and Pinterest are also in top 10 web resources used when getting information about homeschooling.

TOP 10 WEBSITES USED TO GET INFORMED WHEN
STARTING HOMESCHOOLING

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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HOMESCHOOLING STYLES

More than one-third of the respondents are practicing an eclectic homeschooling style, which means they choose and adapt the curricula and methods of teaching to the specific needs of their children.

"Whatever works at that moment in time or for the desired outcomes at that time"

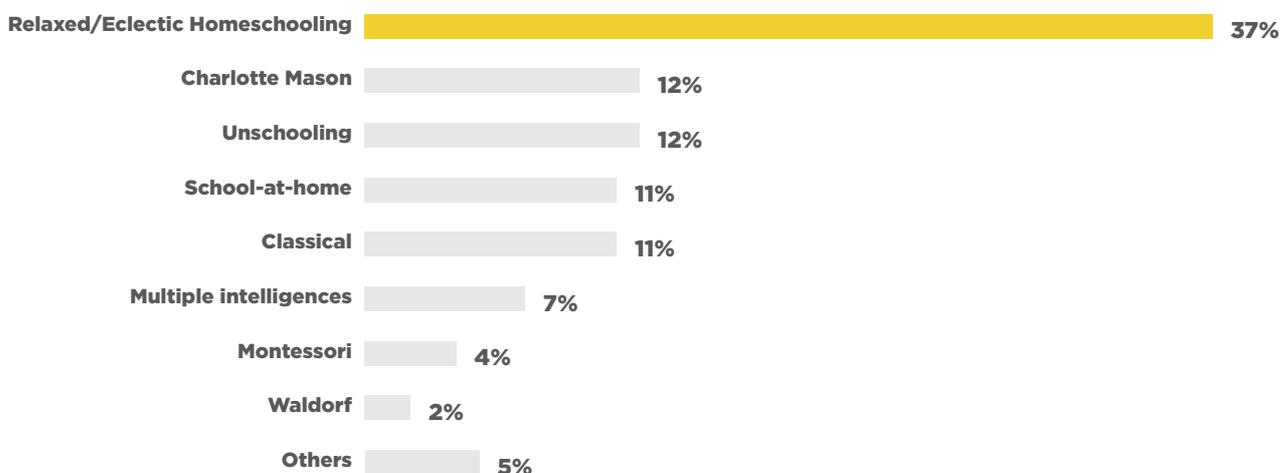
"A mixture of online learning, co-op group lessons, private lessons, after school hours workshops/classes, text book learning and student directed learning."

"Community-based (seek out instructors/experts in their fields)"

"My homeschool is like a classroom. I believe in workbooks, etc. just like regular school. I follow what is expected in public school at each grade level. However, I have time to also do other activities like going to museums, science projects at home, wood-working, all types of art, music, etc. I believe in hands-on as well as doing much of what other kids do in public school."

WHAT IS YOUR HOMESCHOOLING STYLE?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



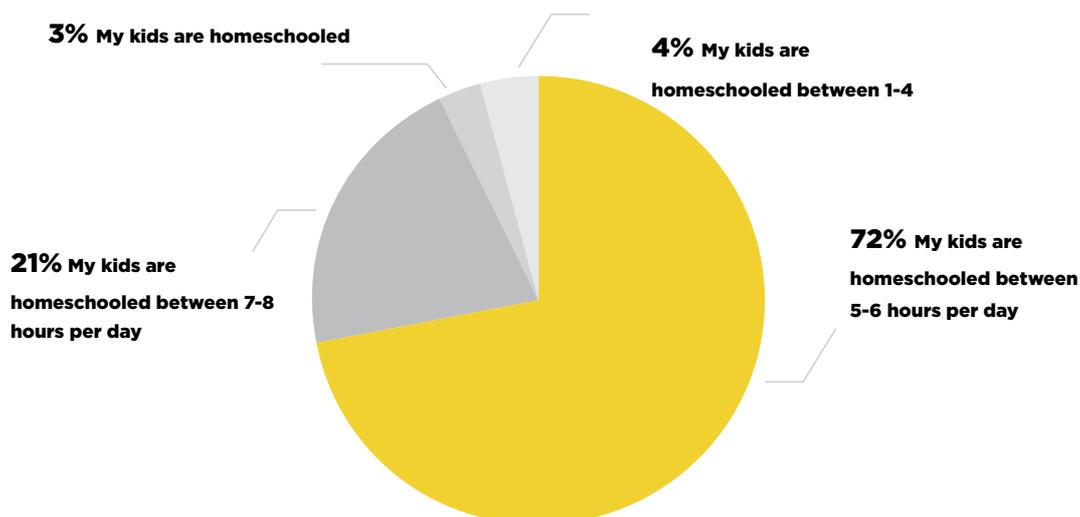
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Charlotte Mason homeschooling curriculum and "style" is adopted by 12% of the people who answered the questionnaire, while 12% say they are unschooling their kids.

Anywhere between 1 and 4 hours per day is a sufficient time to homeschool for 72% of the respondents. However, a significant number of respondents mentioned that they don't follow a precise schedule since learning is strongly related to each child's age and abilities. Besides, homeschooling is considered a lifestyle and learning opportunities are found everywhere (mostly for unschoolers).

HOW MANY HOURS A DAY DO YOU HOMESCHOOL?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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With children of varying ages, the amount of time spent each day homeschooling is hard to limit to one number. Further, that response requires a limit placed on the hours learning in a way that runs counter to the methodology of homeschool. The ability of children to work independently and the ability of the families to acknowledge the skills gained through informal educational experiences, play merry havoc with the ability to count exactly how many hours are spent each day by each child, with each child or on each child.

Formally 4-5 hours, 4-5 days per week, informally is harder to measure.

Homeschooling is a lifestyle and it bleeds into all aspects of life. It isn't something we do from 9 to 5. It is something that we live. Any number I put on that would be a guess at best.

Really didn't want to put a number on how many hours we homeschool. We learn all day and don't do formal learning hours.

Hard to answer some questions since we unschool - for example, how many hours do I spend homeschooling each child...zero is not an option. So I put 12, since we spend all waking hours learning, though we don't dedicate specific time to "school".



It's difficult to answer as an unschooler... We're always learning!

"How many hours each day" varies for us from 0 to 4 because we don't keep a formal schedule.

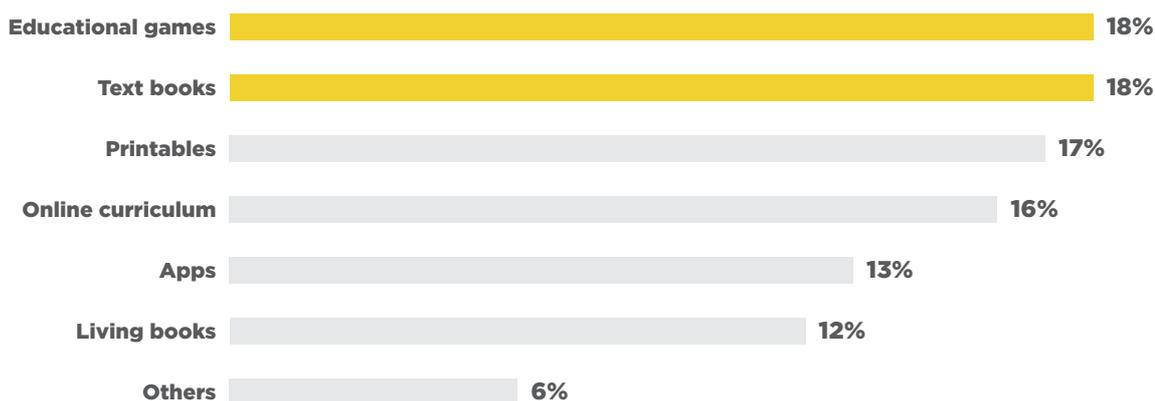
There are different kids in the family and their ages mean there are different needs. Learning is really a lifestyle, we have discussions while on a walk, while learning to cook or during read aloud times later at night, etc.

RESOURCES USED FOR HOMESCHOOLING

Educational games and textbooks are the most frequent resources for homeschooling – 18% of the respondents say they use such materials to teach their children. Some 17% use different printable materials found on the internet in order to complete homeschooling activities. Online curriculums are also used by 16% of the parents.

MATERIALS/RESOURCES FOR HOMESCHOOLING

% NO* OF RESPONSES



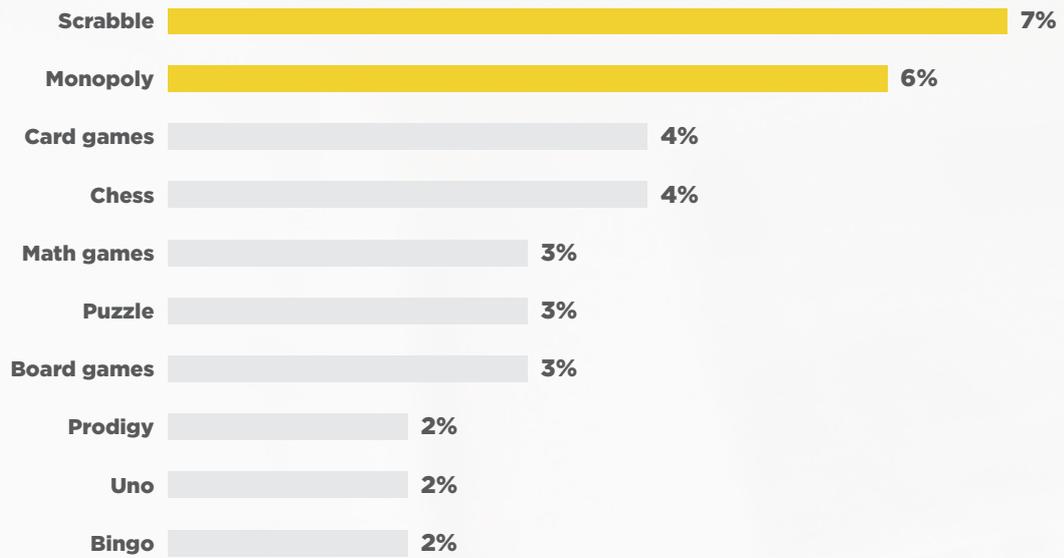
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Educational games

There is a large variety of educational games used by homeschooled children. More than 200 types of educational games are mentioned by the respondents. Scrabble and Monopoly are the most commonly used. Thus, in the following, we present Top 10 Educational Games.

TOP 10 FAVORITE EDUCATIONAL GAMES

% NO* OF RESPONSES



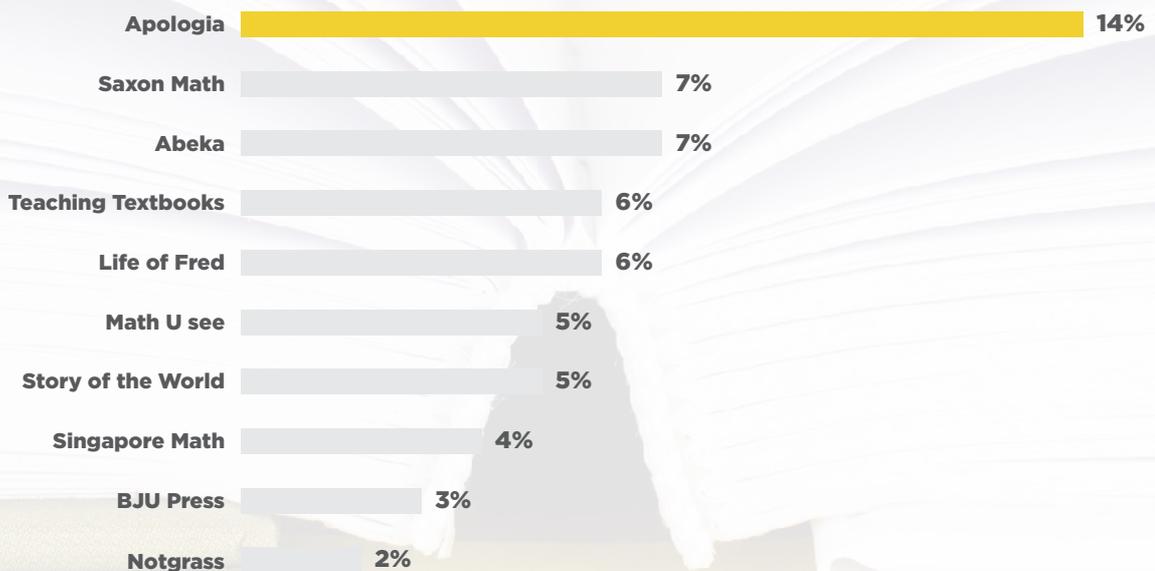
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Favorite Textbooks

More than 80 different textbooks are mentioned by the respondents. **Apologia** books are used by 14% of the respondents, the 1st in top 10 textbooks for homeschooling.

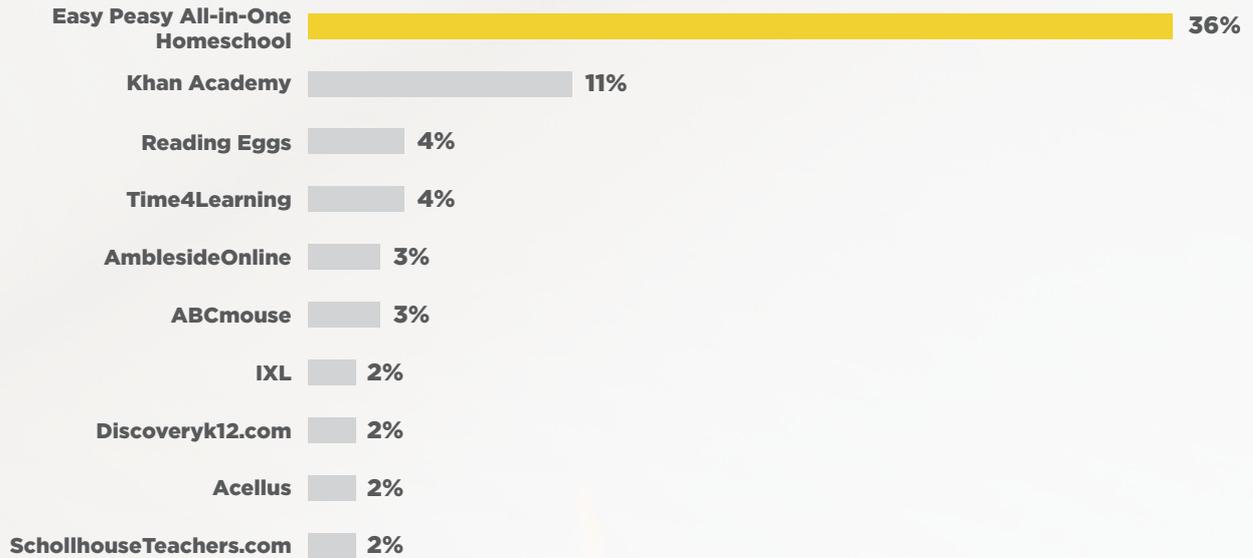
TOP 10 TEXTBOOKS USED FOR HOMESCHOOLING

% NO* OF RESPONSES



TOP 10 ONLINE CURRICULUMS USED

% NO* OF RESPONSES



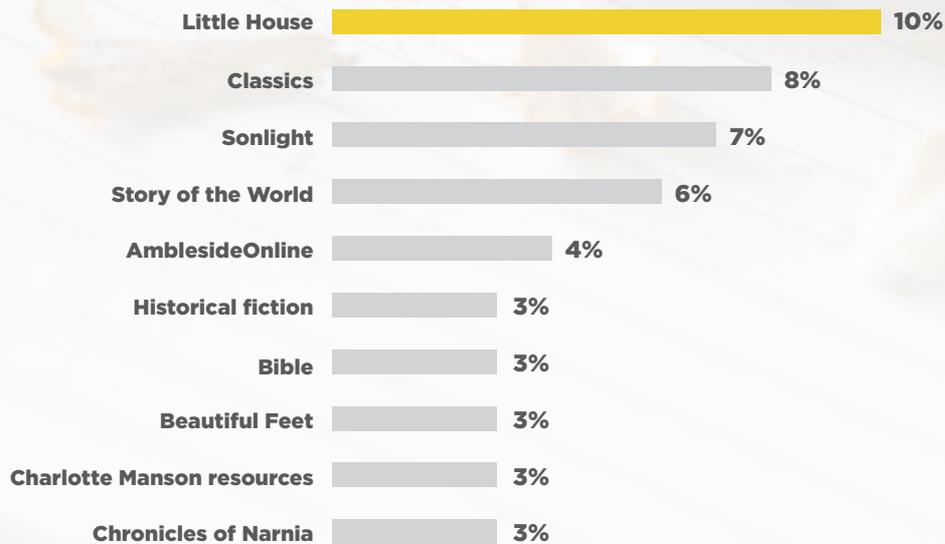
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Favorite Living Books

More than 100 titles are mentioned by the respondents. **Little House** is the most frequently mentioned, by 10% of the respondents. However, classic literature, biographies and historical fiction are among most used living books for homeschooled children.

TOP 10 LIVING BOOKS USED

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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THE BIGGEST BENEFITS OF HOMESCHOOLING

The main benefits of homeschooling are the same as the top reasons that made the respondents start homeschooling. This could be considered a sign that their expectations were met and homeschooling proved to be a good choice.

More than one quarter of the respondents who chose to homeschool consider that the biggest benefit of this education style is that it **allows families to spend time together**, without being constrained by a fixed schedule and time spent with homework. This leads to family bonding, better parent-child relationships, and the possibility to teach children about values and morals.

“Knowing my kids even better and keeping better tabs on their social/emotional well-being.”

“Closer family connections, leading to greater self-confidence and more success in school.”

“Family bonding, one on one learning, absence of negative outside influences”

Flexibility in setting their own timetables and choosing the curricula that fits the child’s interests is yet another benefit, appreciated by 20% of the families that homeschool their kids. This is related with the third top benefit, that is **“learning at their own pace”** (19%).

“My daughter can stand up and move while doing her work without getting in trouble. She needs flexibility in the classroom and frequent breaks. I can give her that!”

“Being able to choose what we study, especially topics that aren’t really studied in traditional school.”

“Freedom from externally imposed schedules, no standardized testing, child-led learning, a much fuller, richer education.”

“They seem to retain more information by doing things at their pace and using methods they excel at.”

Also **providing children with religious and moral values** are considered among the biggest benefits of homeschooling, by 10% of the respondents.

“Being able to be their primary educator and ensuring that they raised with values that you hold and grow up to be holistic individuals.”

“I get to teach them who God is, I get to teach them about moral values and character.”

“Being able to teach Bible history and morals along with the “usual subjects.””

Other interrelated benefits of homeschooling, appreciated by 4% of the respondents, are **the lack of stress** and the **avoidance of public schools**. Respondents consider that public schools create a state of anxiety and stress due to the school and standardized testing pressure, while the flexibility of homeschooling leads to less stress and better mental health.

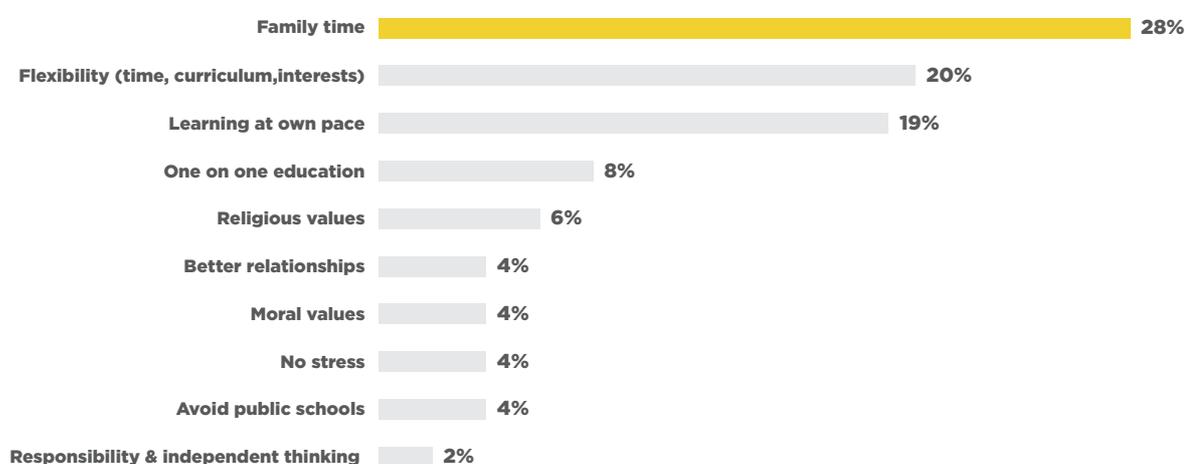
“No more anxiety, personalized education, bonding, REAL socializing.”

“Avoiding all the damage schools inflict to their curiosity, self-esteem, cooperativeness and joy.”

“My child is no longer put in situations where he is unable to cope. He enjoys his learning and his greater relaxation time. He told me what he loved most about homeschooling was that he doesn’t have to do recess and lunch anymore.”

TOP 10 BIGGEST BENEFITS OF HOMESCHOOLING

% NO* OF RESPONSES

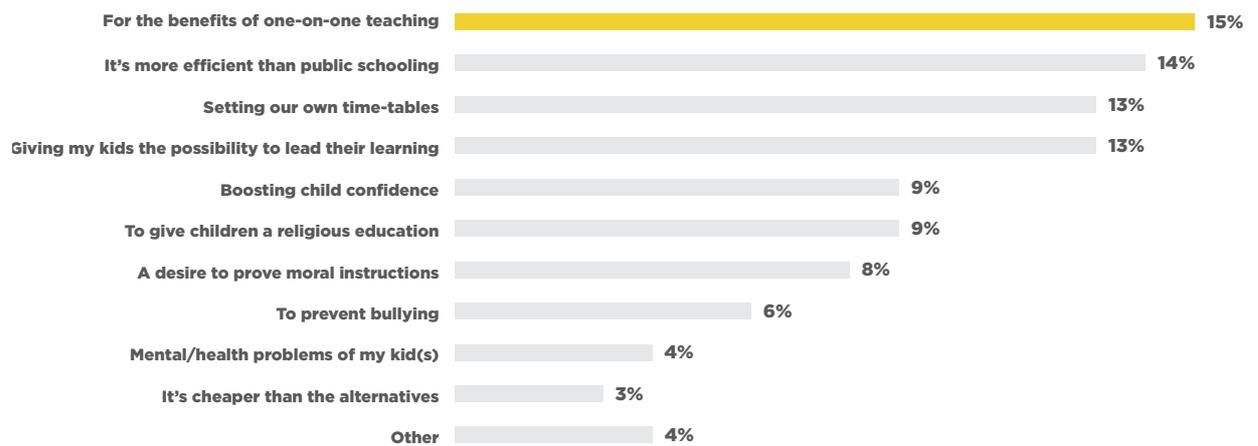


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WHAT MADE YOU START HOMESCHOOLING?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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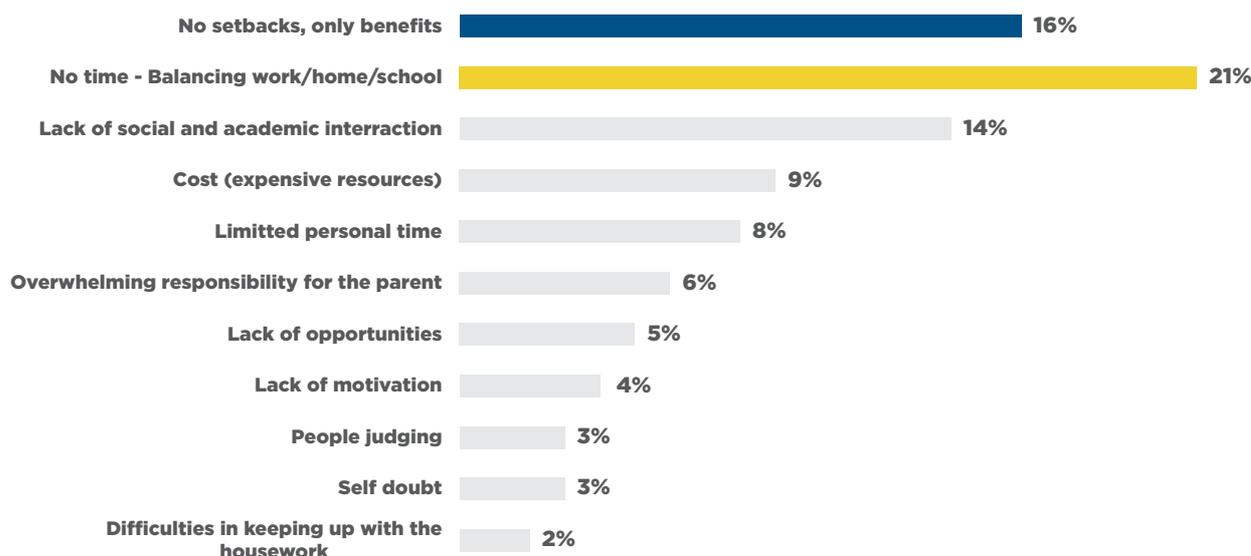
THE BIGGEST SETBACKS OF HOMESCHOOLING

16% of the respondents consider that there are no setbacks in homeschooling, they see only benefits.

Most respondents see homeschooling as very time-consuming. 21% of them consider it is difficult to find a good balance between work, housekeeping, and teaching. This is also related to limited personal time, an issue for 8% of the respondents and the difficulties in keeping up with the housework (2%).

TOP 10 BIGGEST SETBACKS OF HOMESCHOOLING

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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“Not enough of mom to go around, teacher, mom, wife, housekeeper, etc.”

“The biggest setback is I have less time for me as a mom, plus it is a sacrifice financially to stay home. I recently shared this with my children that I had a career prior and as a family we chose to sacrifice that in the best interests of our children.”

“Typically one parent needs to commit to being the home educator and has much less time to pursue other personal endeavors.”

Lack of social and academic interaction of the children that are being homeschooled is the second important aspect for 14% of the respondents, while **limited financial resources** is another important setback (19%). This is due not only to the fact that resources and materials needed are expensive but also because at least one parent must stay at home to teach. Not being able to work is also tied to a lower family income.

“Having to make extra effort to have them engage with kids outside of our family. I worry that they are not getting exposure to a wide enough variety of people.”

“It is a lot of work for the parent/teacher to find and implement the proper curriculum, more than that it is sometimes prohibitively expensive to get what you need. I am still paying taxes for public schools I do not use and get NO tax breaks for all the educational material I buy.”

“Money - I have to stay at home so don't make an income and we have to pay extra for music classes, PE, and other things that are included in a public education.”

Respondents also mentioned that **homeschooling would be overwhelming (6%)** and 2% are having doubts about their ability to teach children what they need to learn.

“It is a lot of responsibility being the sole person in charge of my children's education. The stress/worry is the biggest reason I'd consider putting my children back in a brick and mortar school.”

“Feels like a lot of pressure on me. Also, often wondering how my children compare academically to other kids.”

“Not really a setback, but always second guessing if your kids are really reaching their potential, if you are challenging them enough to learn.”

Lack of opportunities (5%) similar to kids that go to public schools and **lack of motivation (4%)** are also mentioned as setbacks. Lack of motivation is, in this case, due to the fact that it is difficult to motivate the child to learn from the parent, who may not be so passionate to teach, as a teacher would.

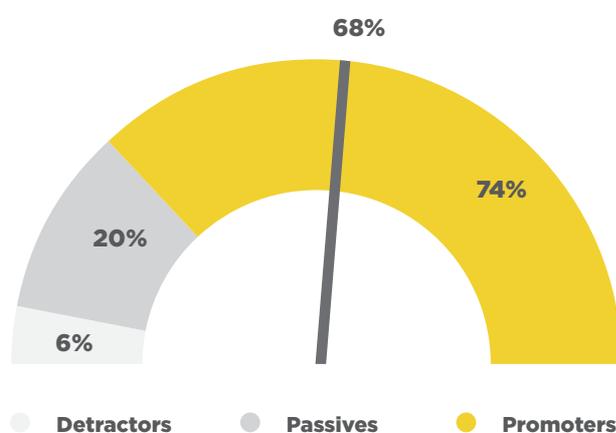
“I do believe children benefit from having teachers passionate in particular fields their parents are not so passionate about. So, the lack of this opportunity can be a setback of homeschooling.”

“That they don’t get as many opportunities as public schools kids like Band/ Sports.”

“Limited access to group sports, discrimination by non-homeschoolers.”

WOULD YOU RECOMMEND HOMESCHOOLING?

Net Promoter Score – 68



Families who homeschool their children can be considered Promoters for this type of education style. When asked to rate how likely are they to recommend homeschooling to a friend, on a scale from 0 to 10 (where 0 is extremely unlikely and 10 means very likely), 74% of the respondents marked 9 and 10, other 20% marked 7 and 8 and only 6% offered lower rankings on this scale.

FAMILIES WHO HAVE HOMESCHOOLED IN THE PAST

44% of the respondents who homeschooled their children in the past stopped either because their children had graduated (31%) or because they went to High-school or College (13%). If we add up the other 6% who stopped homeschooling because their kids grew up, that means the 50% of those who don't homeschool anymore have "graduated" from homeschooling.

"I homeschooled my son from 2nd to 12th grade, He graduated from our homeschool in 2012."

"One graduated and the other wanted to try school this year."

Other 10% **didn't have time anymore** to practice homeschooling, as this education style can be very time consuming and overwhelming for the parents.

"I needed to take a full time position."

On the other hand, 16% of the respondents found it difficult to continue and decided to **try another school** (10%) or decided to quit homeschooling because of the **lack of social development** (6%).

"More extracurricular options in our state for public high scholars."

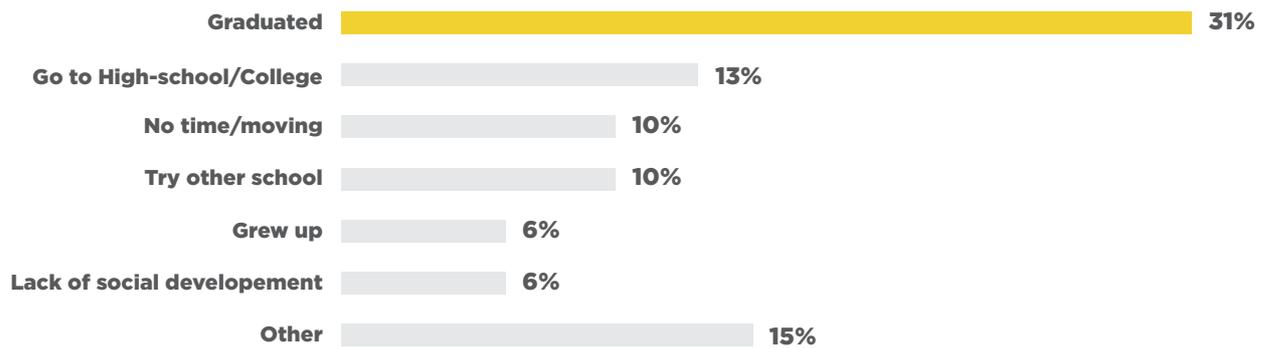
"My child wanted to try public school and enjoys it."

"Child wanted to be with the same consistent group of children - homeschooling activities were too variable."

"Team sports participation, social development, child needed more structure."

WHY DID YOU STOP HOMESCHOOLING?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



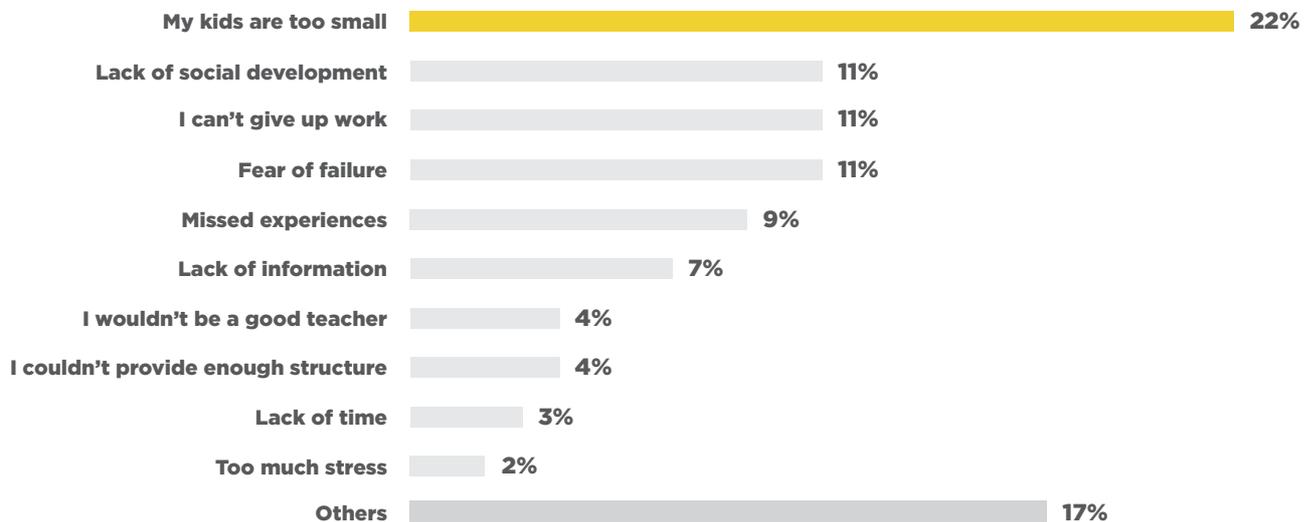
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NOT HOMESCHOOLING

22% of the respondents didn't engage into homeschooling because their children were yet too young

WHAT STOPS YOU FROM HOMESCHOOLING?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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Lack of social development (11%), fear of failing (11%) and the parent's career (11%) are issues that concern one third of the respondents who didn't homeschool their kids.

Fear of failure (11%) can also be related to the fact that 4% of those who didn't choose to homeschool, consider that they wouldn't be good teachers and provide enough structure for their kids.



Moreover, **the lack of time (3%)** could be linked to “I can't give up work”. Other issues that stop parents from homeschooling are related to costs, other people's opinions about them or a preference for public schools.

“Kids listen to others better; we do enrichment activities at home.”

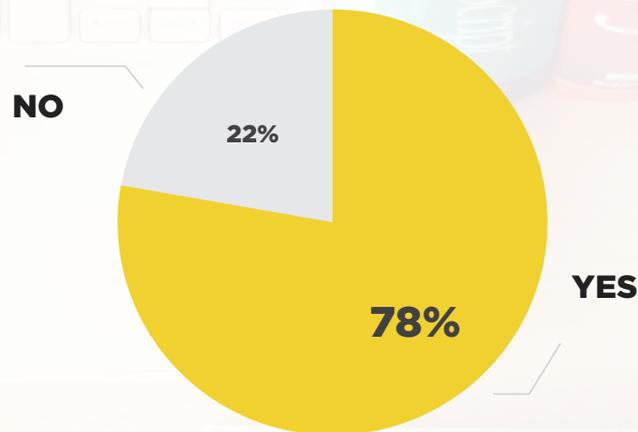
“I suspect I would be blind to those areas I could not teach my children; plus I want other adults to help teach my kids. My relatives that homeschool end up with weirdly sheltered, overly naive kids that lack basic life skills and go off the rails the first chance they get.”

“Partner disapproves, stigma, don't want them to be more different than they already are, etc.”

78% of those who haven't homeschooled would take homeschooling into consideration. Furthermore, 36% of them are likely to start homeschooling in the next 12 months.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER HOMESCHOOLING YOUR KIDS?

% NO* OF RESPONSES

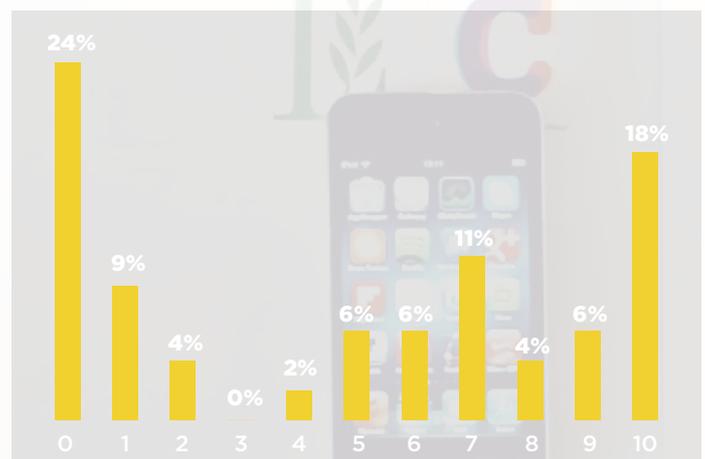


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HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO START HOMESCHOOLING IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR?

% NO* OF RESPONSES

5.39
is the weighted average for *how likely is to start homeschooling in the following year*



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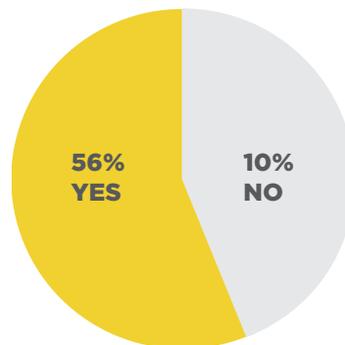
PLAYTIME

There is a relative equilibrium between parents that allow their children to play digitally without time restrictions (56% of all respondents) and the ones who impose fixed time schedules for watching TV or playing digitally, such as iPad, xBox, PSP and so on (44%).

From our findings, 82% of families allow their kids between one and two hours a day of “digital play time” while the remaining 10% allow 3-4 hours per day.

DO YOU SET FIXED TIME-SCHEDULES FOR WATCHING TV/IPAD/XBOX/PSP ETC.?

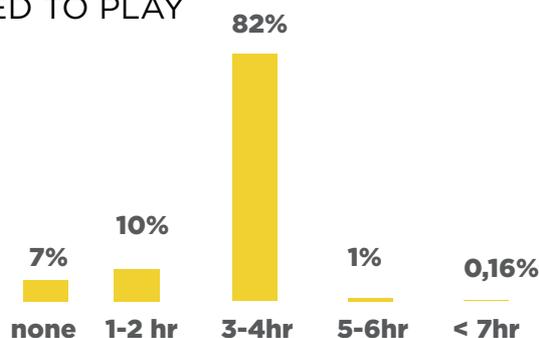
% NO* OF RESPONSES



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HOW MANY HOURS PER DAY ARE THEY ALLOWED TO PLAY

% NO* OF RESPONSES



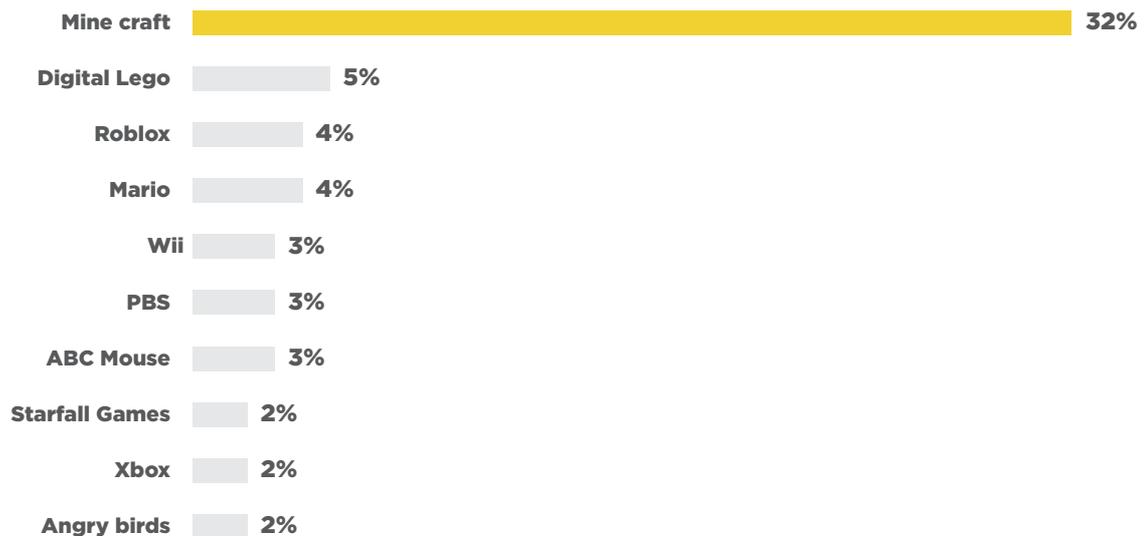
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Minecraft is by far the favorite digital game kids like to play

Asked about the digital games their children like to play, respondents revealed a list of more than 120 digital games. However, Minecraft is played by 32% of the respondents' kids, followed by Lego, with only 5%.

TOP 10 DIGITAL GAMES KIDS LIKE PLAYING

% NO* OF RESPONSES

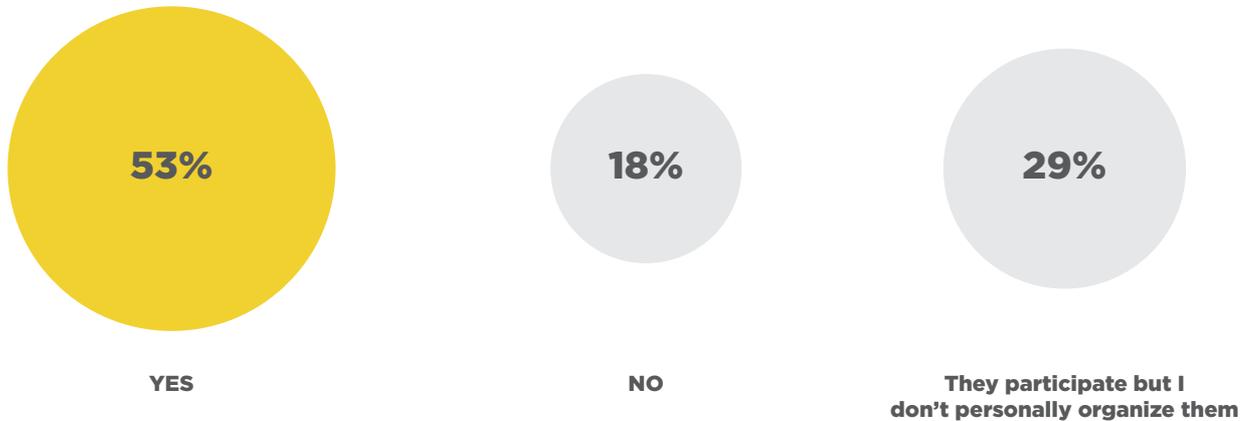


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DO YOU ORGANIZE PLAYTIME MEETINGS WITH OTHER KIDS?

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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82% of the respondents consider opportunities to socialize as very important.

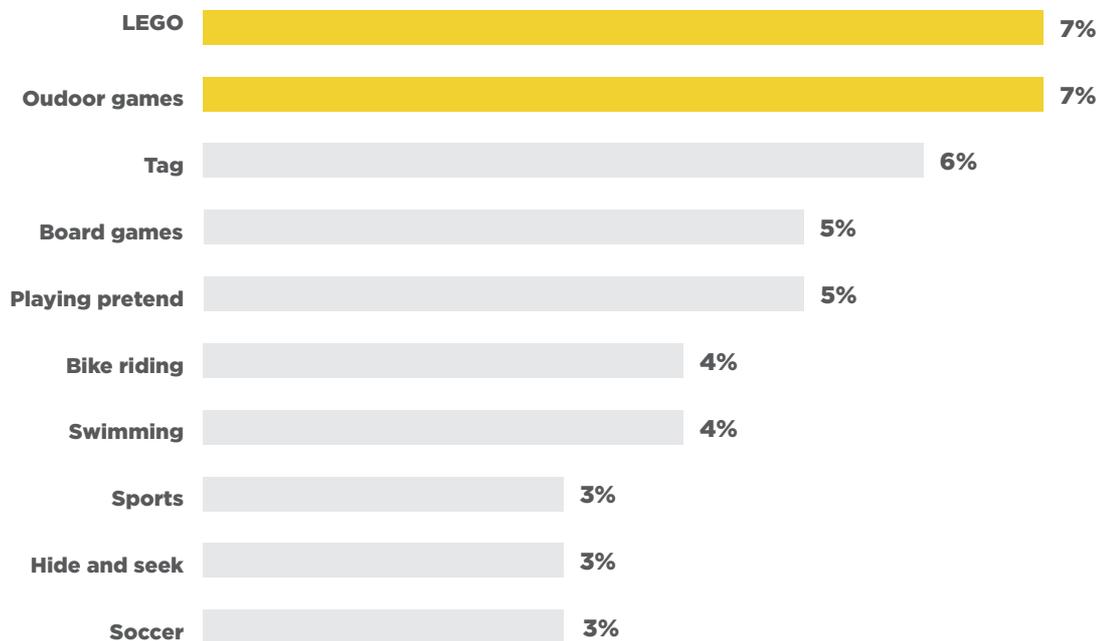
Playtime meetings with other kids are organized by 53% of the respondents. 29% of parents that homeschool take their children to these kinds of socializing opportunities, although they don't personally organize them.

There are a vast variety of activities that children do when playing with other kids, either outdoor or indoor, sports, educational games or just playing. These vary in correlation to the child's age and gender. LEGO and outdoor games are the favorite playtime activities.



TOP 10 FAVORITE ACTIVITIES WHEN PLAYING WITH OTHER KIDS

% NO* OF RESPONSES



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CONCLUSION

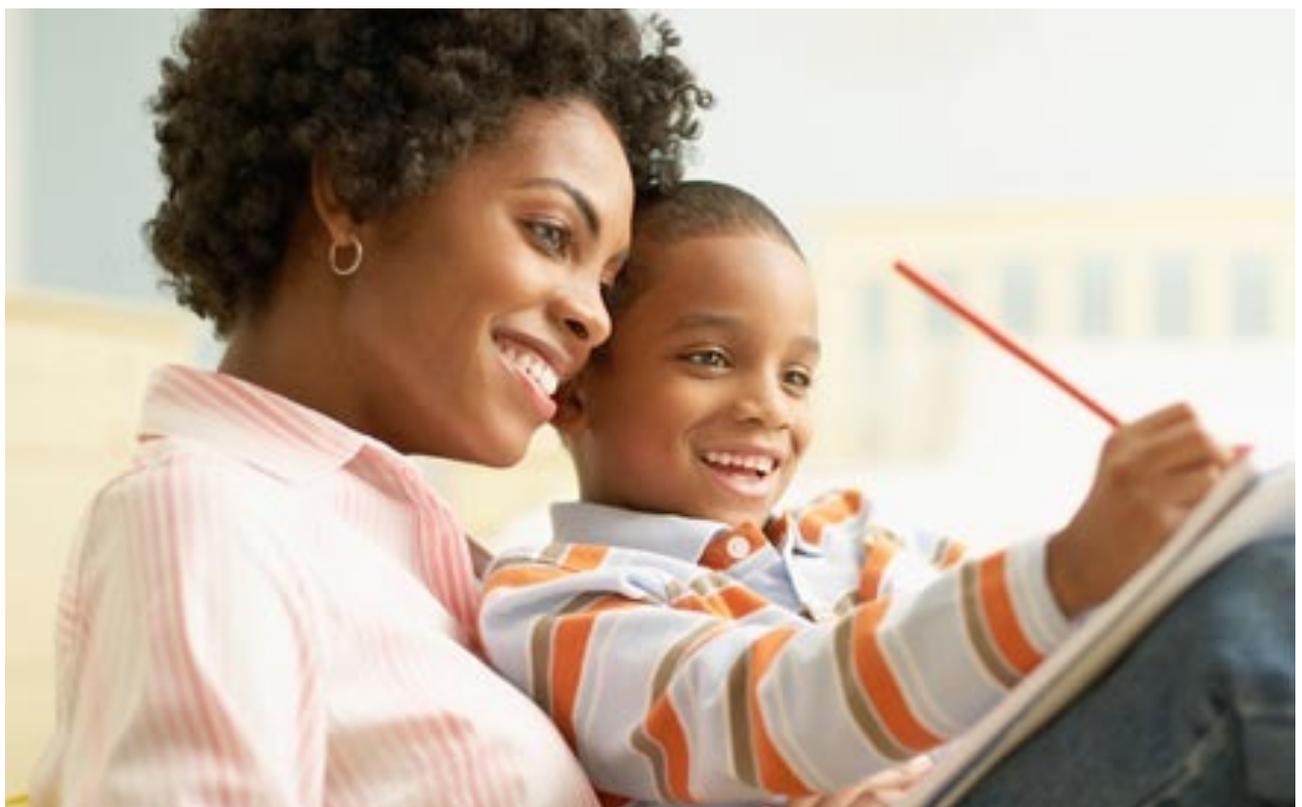
Homeschooling is considered controversial in its essence, but this does not stop millions of parents around the world to pursue it. Depending on which side you are, alternative learning at home certainly has pros and cons. Homeschooling is a lifestyle for 93% of the 1,506 respondents of our survey.

Why do parents choose to homeschool?

This varies in reasons, from pedagogical to ideological ones. Some families (17%) find homeschooling a safe and controlled space for the core morals that they value.

By homeschooling, they have the means to pursue Christianity or any other faith and pass their moral values to their children. On the other hand, 14% of families argue that their beliefs are in contrast with the public school system. They believe that the traditional educational system does not do a good job in educating their children. For this reason, they prefer to keep them at home and provide a better education than what they feel the school system is capable of.

Furthermore, parents say there are clear advantages when homeschooling. Their children do not have to deal with bullying, negative peer influence, fixed schedules or keeping up with academic information. Flexibility is a key word for them as they can provide one on one education, customized curricula or a religious based education.



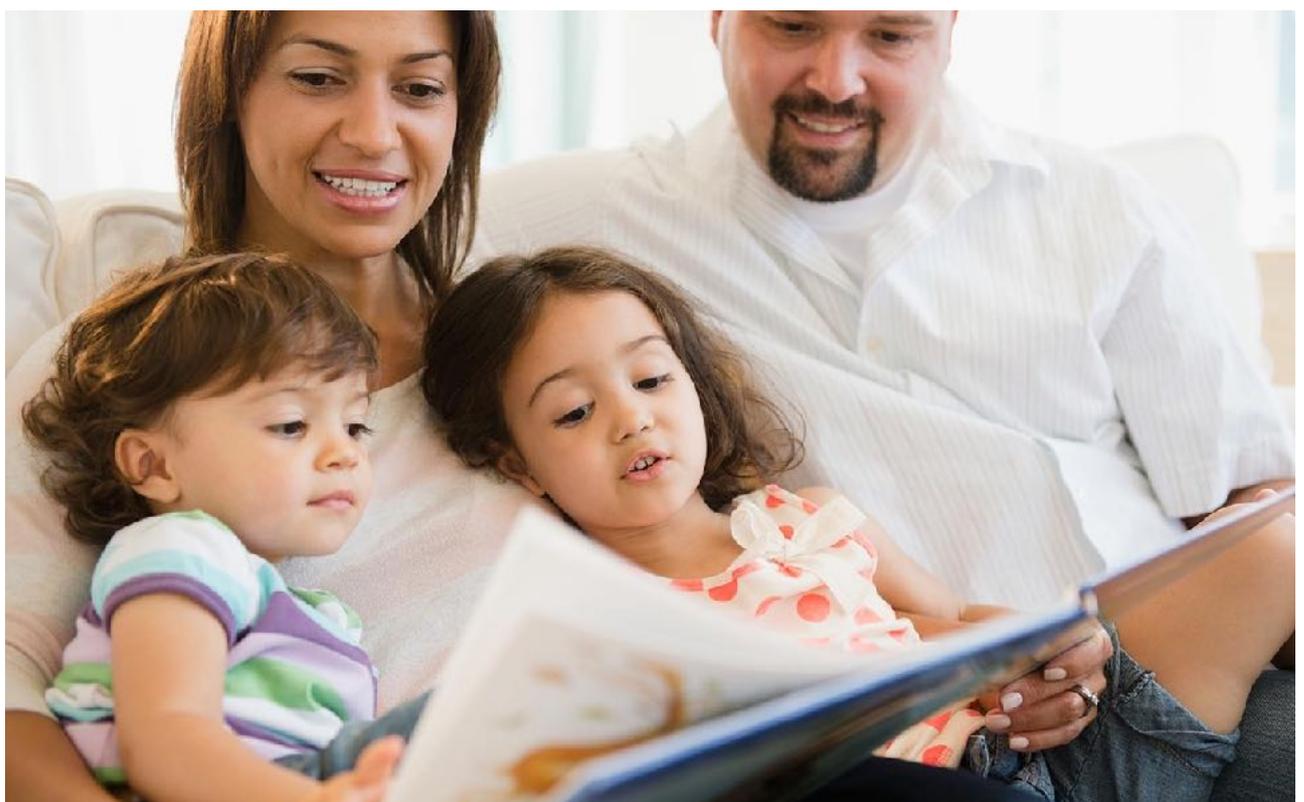
Living in a society that's on fast-forward, parents are more concerned with the importance of spending time with their children. In this context, those who chose to homeschool can make a valid point. Parents involvement in

their children's education can have a more positive outcome when compared to the public educational system. More than a quarter of the respondents who chose to homeschool consider that the biggest benefit of this education style is that it homeschooling allows families to spend more time together, not being constrained by a fixed schedule and not having to spend time with homework.

One key finding of our study highlights the fact that expectations of families when starting homeschooling are indeed met.

While homeschooling has plenty of supporters out there and the evidence of positive outcomes for homeschoolers is confirmed, the setbacks for some families can not be ignored. Some parents that homeschool find it overwhelming, time-consuming or have difficulties in finding a good balance between work, housekeeping, and teaching.

Homeschooling, according to our survey respondents, can be a proper tool for education. It allows families to spend time together, while children can truly enjoy the learning experience. If done properly, children that are schooled at home can have a greater advantage over those that follow the traditional school system.





INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

We asked the respondents of the study to *Tell us a short inspirational / funny / sad story related to homeschooling your kids*. The responses received are phenomenal. Here are some of the stories, in no particular order.

Lindsay from the USA, 3 children:

Last weekend, we celebrated Christmas with my dad's extended family. My kids were the only kids in attendance as one large side of the family couldn't attend because of weather and illness. My kids played games with the adults the entire time and everyone had the best time. Several of my uncles hugged me goodbye and told me what amazingly kind, funny and social kids I have. I was beaming. It made all the "un-socialized" comments from this year, disappear.

Katrina from AU, 2 children

My son is so interested in everything and highly motivated to learn topics thoroughly. He has been known to wake-up, eat his breakfast, stretch and say "Right Mum! Today I would like to draw the Solar System." He proceeded to do this, labelling and colouring each planet in order of their orbit, then tested me on their composition, distance from the sun, relationship with earth etc, at least one fact for each planet.

M.E. from the USA, 2 children

The day we took our son to the public school for his kindergarten assessment, we were told to sit outside and not allowed to come in while they quizzed our son.

As we spoke to other parents who were waiting, we were stunned to discover that most of them had taught their children almost nothing to this point. We had started working with our son when he was a toddler. He was able to read by age three. He became obsessed with science early on and could not get enough of it. We bought him a Grey's Anatomy colouring book, took him to every science museum we could, spent countless hours at the library letting him pick out books. By the point he entered kindergarten, our son could read, write, do simple math, knew the basics of biology and human anatomy, could tell time, and could sort and count money. These other parents had children who barely knew their ABCs. When we expressed surprise, they snarked at us, "Well, isn't that what kindergarten is for? So they learn all that stuff?"

Within a few months our son was labeled as a daydreamer who wouldn't follow directions. We were concerned because he had always been a focused, quiet and well behaved child. Luckily, a teacher's aide in the classroom decided to take a personal interest. She quickly discovered what was going on. When the teacher would hand out the assignments, by the time she got them all passed out and had explained them to the entire class, our son had already read them, figured them out and done them. He wasn't a daydreamer, he wasn't defiant. He was too advanced for the class. The school flat out told us they did not have advanced

classes for elementary age students and they did not believe in advancing students or allowing for grade skipping due to their concerns about "socialization". In other words, they would rather he be bored out of his skull, as long as he was in a classroom with children his own age.

When his own teacher suggested that we homeschool him rather than let him flounder and possibly come to HATE school and learning in general, we needed no other encouragement.

Since bringing him home, he has continued to advance at a stunning pace. He participated in the World Education Games and scored 5th place for the USA and 33rd place worldwide for his grade level.

Homeschooling was the best decision we have made. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Marsha from the US, 4 children

The third child was very slow learning to read. I was very discouraged but kept reading to him, had him listen to audio books while following in the books. I tried everything. When he realized he couldn't read well enough and spell/write well enough to play games online with his friends, his reading improved dramatically very quickly. Homeschooling is helping each child move forward at their own pace. He's much better in science than the other three, but we had to move very, very slowly with the reading. I believe he wouldn't have progressed in school w/o the one-on-one help.

Carmen from the USA, 3 children:

I noticed that my boys were really excited when we talked about the moon and stars so I decided to start a unit study on space. I made planets for their room and hung them up along the wall we bought some Christmas lights that are star shaped and differing colors. Now every night, my boys tell me the names of the planets in the correct order from Mercury to Neptune. They also tell me stars are hottest (blue) and what stars are coolest (red) using the string of lights. My 5 year old also likes to take our Nat Geo kids space book and he reads/teaches his

little brothers. He asks the questions and then follows up with a very enthusiastic "yes, you are correct" when they answer.

Anonymous from the USA, 3 children:

Our 2nd grader was struggling in the public charter school he attended. We asked if the curriculum could be modified, and they said no. We had him evaluated for SPED, and we were told by the evaluator that he could not access a second grade curriculum, and he should be put into special ed classes in the local public school. At this point, we decided to homeschool, and chose Acellus for a curriculum, and enrolled him in second grade classes. This was October. We provided a quiet learning space, and Acellus provided a curriculum that was and is well suited to his learning style. He only has to work about 3 hours a day, so he has lots of time to follow his own interests, to get lots of exercise, and to play with friends. We administered the Stanford Achievement test in March. He scored at grade level in reading, and slightly below in math. By November of his third grade year, he tested at grade level in math, and more than a year ahead in reading. Being able to respond to his needs and teach him the way that he learns, has made all the difference in the world.

Lauri from USA , 1 child:

My son learns from traveling on the road with our touring entertainment troupe. How often does a child need to do a project about the importance of the Panama Canal on US history and actually get to travel to panama to see the canal in person and do his own research! My son has learned history, geography, theater arts, life skills and numerous other great things while traveling on the road. He has learned to conduct himself professionally in many different environments. I am continually astonished at the level at which he understands things by living them. There is no greater experience than being at the Alamo or the White House or standing in front of the Hope Diamond or the Lincoln memorial or looking out of the window or the tour bus watching the changing landscape as we drive from east to west. A blessed childhood for sure. Homeschool makes that possible.

Anna from the USA, 4 children:

I threatened them I was going to send them to school last week. I thought I was serious and started protesting. It was funny seeing their reaction but I honestly loved the feedback it gave me.

Meghan from the USA, 3 children:

We were discussing the US presidential elections the next day. I asked my seven-year-old who she thought had won the election and she announced, "Abraham Lincoln." As we'd just studied all the US presidents, I was glad to see she came up with a presidential name!

Brenda from AU, 4 children:

I am an ex-teacher and before I had children I believed home schoolers to be crazy. Then 6 years ago my then 7 year old son asked me if he cut open the blue veins in his wrist would he die. I was shocked and said he could if no one was around to stop the bleeding. I asked why he would want to do that. He said that then he wouldn't have to go back to school. This was my push to remove him from school. I had known in my heart from the first day he went to preschool it was not the right place for him. He cried daily and was so stressed he had chewed all the buttons off his school uniform and his fingernails were often bleeding. I believed that kids had to go to school up until that point. My instinct to do the best for my son kicked in and I took him out of school. We enjoyed the time together immensely and within 3 months the whole family were no longer going to school. We love the lifestyle, the freedom, the family togetherness and the bonds I see my kids forming with each other. I was concerned about them bickering like they did after school everyday but that didn't eventuate. I also worried I'd feel overwhelmed with kids home all day but that didn't happen either. I was less stressed in not having to rush to their timetables and rules any more. Imagine no packing lunch boxes, ironing uniforms and hurrying them to the bus

stop every morning only to have them return tired, grumpy and worn out at the end of the day. I felt like i was getting the leftovers and the teachers were getting the best bits of my kids. I now get the best bits of them and that does overshadow the grumpy or tired times. This feels natural to us now. They proudly tell anyone who asks why they are not at school that they dont go to school. Not once has anyone been negative. We love home education and will do it for as long as it suits our family and lifestyle.

Susan from UK, 2 children:

My 8yo space-lover recently discovered Minecraft, and within two weeks went from not reading to being able, at the library, to sight-read me the fairly complex table of contents of a book about Exploring the Solar System. He was word perfect until "Index & Glossary," which he read as "Vortex and Closet," and then "Acknowledgements," which he was already chuckling about as he said, "Jack, Now, Gremlins?"

Also, in the above q, How many hours, my answer, "24, or zero, depending on your definition," was not allowed.

Heidi from the USA, 5 children:

Starting a new book and feeling unsure as a mom if it is way over their heads and will it hold their interest, then upon announcing that we are done being begged to keep going! Not only was I surprised but I was so thrilled that it is a book by an author that I was deeply affected by myself growing up, George MacDonald is the author.

Linda DuLac from the USA, 1 child:

My daughter loves to learn but disliked school. The funny thing is, my daughter has never attended a traditional brick and mortar public school. Her first schooling experience was kindergarten but instead of a traditional classroom, she attended from home on her MacBook with a bright pink cover she got to pick out herself. She attended virtual public school online. At first she was

excited, then bored, then frustrated, then just done. She was finally allowed to move at her own pace after much back and forth with the school as well as a call to the state department of education. Shortly before the end of first semester she finished all of the work for kindergarten. They allowed her to have access to the first semester of first grade. She had almost completed that halfway through second semester when we were told she was no longer allowed to keep moving forward. We were discouraged, frustrated, bored, then just done. Unfortunately, when she began a virtual homeschool program she was started back at the beginning of first grade even though she had already finished the entire first semester of work. We only lasted two weeks before we quit!

Now our daughter homeschools, although she mostly homeschools. She loves learning again! We take frequent trips to the library and she enjoys reading. There is a local co-op that we attend field trips with, where she also takes Spanish and farm classes. We found a Facebook group of homeschooling moms who plans regular Park Days, field trips, and has clubs. She attends gymnastics club 3 times a week with her homeschool friends. There are a ton of free programs offered by our library that we can take advantage of, including a free art class twice a week. On one hand our calendar has never been more full, but we pick and choose what we put on it. Oddly enough, our daughter did attend public school this year for the first time, but she only goes two mornings a week for a half hour each. Last year she was evaluated and received an IEP for speech. Our local school offers her speech therapy and it's going very well. She likes her teacher and enjoys the small class. She is sad that the kids in school only get to play outside for a short time each day while she can play at the park for hours with her homeschool friends.

Of all the learning tools and resources we have found for our daughter her favorite has been electronics! She LOVES youtube, educational games, and especially apps on her ipad. At first we became somewhat worried about this, too much screen time and all that. Then, I started watching her. Sure, she may be playing a game, but she's learning. Those youtube videos she watches, sure sometimes she's just being entertained, but a lot of the time she's learning. She codes. She has watched videos of every kind of animal giving birth just because she loves animals. She can explain all manner of complex ideas which she learned about on her electronic devices. Most recently, she asked for a new iPad game. It had monsters and it featured illustrations of monster DNA that kids get to swap around to make new monsters. Just another silly game right? The other

day I left one of my hair accessories lying around after I removed it from my head. It's a double spiral with one open end made out of metal. She picked it up, and I watched her twirl it over and over as she stared at it. Then she said, "This looks like DNA!" My jaw dropped. I don't think we'd ever even had a conversation about DNA and here she was telling me about it. Where did she learn this, I asked. "My monster game has DNA. It's shaped like this. We have DNA too." Yep, we're in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing for us. She's happy and she's learning, even when we don't see it in some silly game, it's there!

Vanessa from the USA, 4 children:

When my daughter was 7 we saw *Taming of The Shrew* at The Shakespeare Theater. When the character said "the moon shines" she interrupted the whole play to let them know the moon reflects, not shines.

Janell from the USA, 3 children:

In public school my middle daughter was so shy and withdrawn, she barely spoke, since pulling her from public school she has blossomed. People have told me that it was the best decision I ever made

Kimberly McKinney from the USA, 2 children:

My favorite memory is of my son when he was 5 or 6, who hated writing, deciding to make writing more fun by wearing underwear on his head. It was the only time he would writ without crying about it!

Heidi from the USA, 2 children:

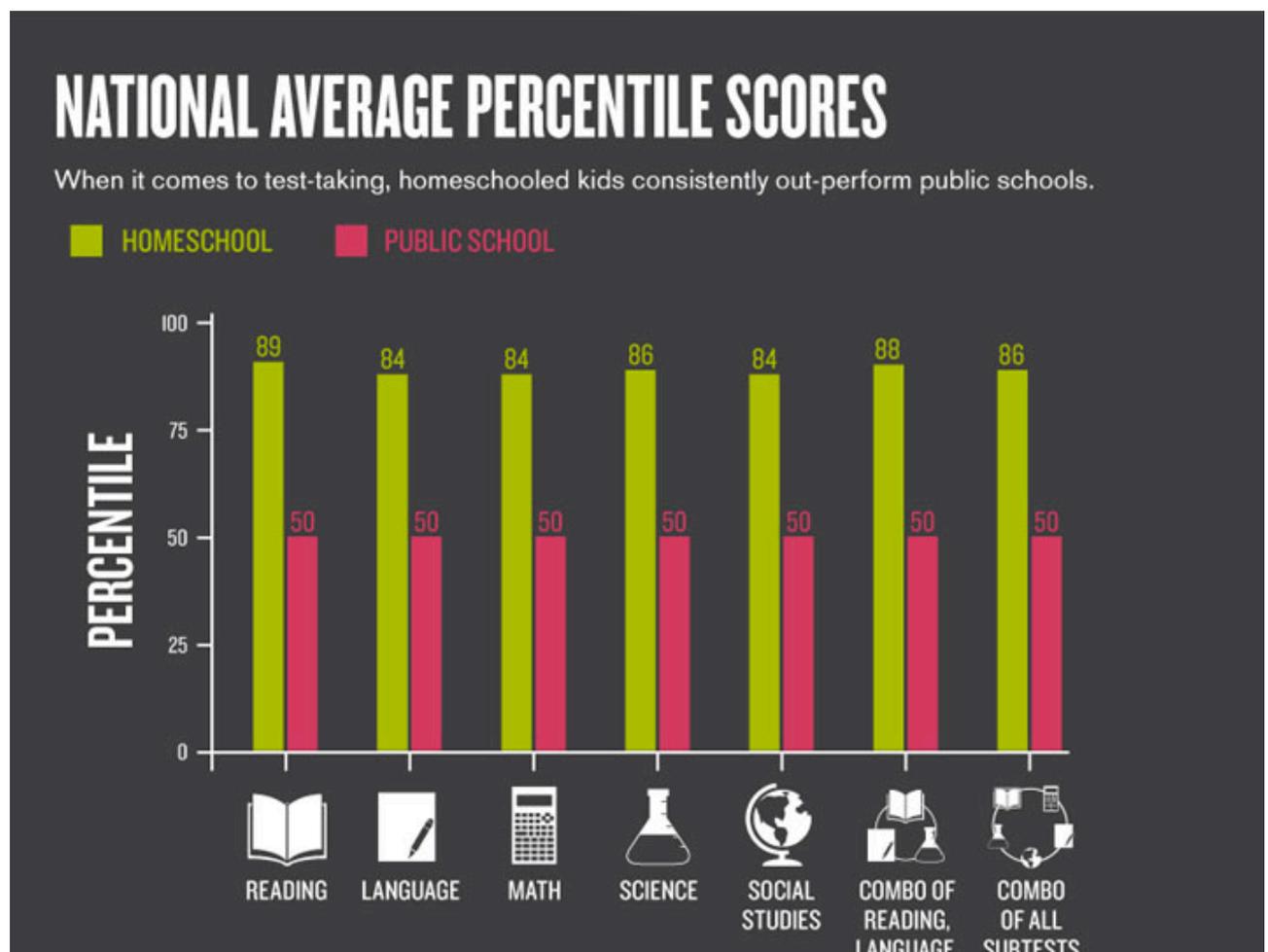
My kids always have their noses in a book! They love to read now!

Debbie from the USA, 1 child:

It was better for the mental health of my child, seeing as she wanted to kill herself because of public school.

Peggy from the USA, 2 children:

My oldest came to me, with prepared speech in hand, requesting to be homeschooled. She had thought of everything! Pros and cons, questions I would have, etc. All of this from a 9 year old. She was very stressed about the



standardized testing at her public school, and even though she did very well on the tests, it caused much anxiety and she didn't like how much time was taken away from actual learning in order to prep for the tests. It's been 4 years now and we haven't looked back!

Kathy from the USA, 3 children:

My son spent most days in a special education classroom (many in an isolation room) because he was labeled by school as a "behavior problem." After a call from school to come get him (he usually rode the bus) from school the same day we had a lengthy IEP meeting & finding him in the dark in the isolation room, we pulled him. He was in 4th grade. We started homeschool October 2014 & haven't looked back! We've had him tested & found out that he's not a behavior problem, but has a learning disability. We will continue to homeschool until high school graduation.

Emily Lewis from USA , 1 child:

Realizing as she talks with other people that she is learning what I Teach her and she fully understands concepts.

Anonymous from the USA, 2 children:

When it comes to homeschooling for me it has always been about the "oh!" moments. Those are not found when things are coming easy to my child/student. They are found when things are not going well and we are climbing the mountain of difficult learning together. My primary tool is the nudge. I nudge their mind toward the knowledge. Often I spend a lot of the learning time circling them around, through, over and under the concept or information. Until they stop and utter "oh!" Those are the moments I am clearest on why we took this path and continue to walk along it.

Rachel from the USA, 1 child:

When we first started my son absolutely hated art. He would crumble up his work and throw it away and say it was no good. This stemmed from a terrible incident he had in daycare/preschool (a main reason we homeschool). Within one year I was able to bring his spirit up and he now absolutely loves art. It is such a blessing to see how far he has come.

Kenneth from the USA, 5 children:

We sent my oldest to 2 weeks of First Grade. She came home tired, irritable and miserable. She would snap at her siblings. She told her classmates she would leave in two weeks. They all called her a liar. They said that you HAD to go to school and there was no other way out. Then she left.

We're sure those kids are wondering what the magic was that let her escape the system that everyone else was required to stay in.

James Thomas from the USA, 3 children:

We call our homeschool "From Playdough to Plato"

Rubria from the USA, 1 child:

Home schooling/Unschooling my daughter has been the most beautiful and meaningful learning experience for me. Slowly but surely, we are both getting to know each other at a level I never imagined possible. I am breaking patterns and paradigms imposed by the education system I was put through as a child. I see a naturally happy, curious, inquisitive child enjoying every day at her own pace, learning everything she "should" know for a child her age and much much more!



Janine from AU, 1 child:

Ever since I started homeschooling, everyone I meet is extremely interested in what we are doing and are constantly quizzing my son on what he has learnt. These can be family, friends, acquaintances or even strangers we meet. I find it very sad and insulting that he is interrogated during a time where he is learning the most in his life but no one ever asked those questions when he went to a formal school. He was disengaged, bullied, made to feel worthless and highly regimented at school which made him angry, depressed and potentially suicidal at school. He has turned into a boy who loves life and learning, is respectful, eloquent and interested in life. That alone is worth the sacrifices I make to homeschool.

Anmarie Garman from USA , 2 children:

He's much smarter than the public school system would ever be able to recognize

Joanna from the USA, 2 children:

My son is high functioning autistic. Because I chose to homeschool, he was able to start a first grade curriculum at age four, which he enjoyed and because of this, he's able to focus on the subjects he loves for longer and not be bored.

Ingemarie from the USA, 1 child:

One day , a man asked my daughter -- "You are very smart and well behaved for your age . How did you get to be that way do you think ? . Her answer was " well , we are all born smart I think but I am homeschooled so my mom helps me grow and helps me know what to do with my emotions . And oh . thank you sir -- for the compliment you gave me . " The three of us shared a big smile and she and I both had happy tears as she looked at me so proud and confident and she came and gave me a hug and a kiss . The man winked at me and nodded his head toward me and smiled again .

Becci from AU, 4 children:

My now 8 year old hated reading. Would refuse to read aloud. Which irked me a little because isn't that what kids were meant to do? Read aloud to their parents each night?

I decided that I would take a leap of faith after reading some inspirational stories on one of the great facebook support groups. I decided not to require E to read aloud to me. I would ask him if he wanted to, but if he refused, which he did daily, then that was ok.

A couple of months after making this decision, I was in the kitchen peeling the vegies for dinner. E sat himself down in the family room and started to read aloud from a book he had borrowed from the library. I stayed silent, unless he asked a question. Then we had a chat about what he had read. From that moment on he would often come to me and read a paragraph about something that interested him and he now loves to read!



The same is happening with writing. He is a very reluctant writer, so we are relaxing about that too. I have found him writing more of his own free will than I ever have before.

Nicholas from the USA, 3 children:

My kids can move ahead as fast as they are comfortable. I also love how there is time left in the day to do nontraditional learning like cooking/baking or on a nice day, playing at the park or a bike ride.

Kelly from AU, 5 children:

At 12, my eldest daughter is learning Latin, doing university level courses in history and science, setting up an online ecourse business, and can sew, cook, crochet, bead, garden and dye like a pro. The time that homeschooling has given her to follow and develop her interests has allowed the time to learn all of that at a young age.

Paulina from the USA, 2 children:

It's amazing to be at home and watch the little aha moments when they get something that they have been working on, If they would have been in school those little moments would have been missed. those aha moments is what keep me motivated to plan more lesson and let me know that I am doing what is best for my son.

Gloria Stengel from the USA, 3 children:

I was the most worried about how my unconventional approach to teaching writing would translate to the college arena. When my oldest child completed his first college English class, with not only an A, but with glowing reports from his professor, and an offer to tutor other students, I put my fears to rest. It was freeing to realize that my belief in the best way to teach each child, is to teach the way they learn best was true. My oldest child has completed university and is working in his chosen field, my middle child is at university currently, and the youngest child will finish homeschool this spring, at the age of sixteen. My last homeschooler will begin college in the fall of 2017, shortly after his seventeenth birthday. Is has been a wonderful journey!

Elizabeth from the USA, 5 children:

My children wish the publicly schooled children had time to play and spend time with them outside of school, homework, and chores.

Julie from the USA, 1 child:

Homeschooling has allowed my daughter to learn multiple instruments and play in several venues, have time for multiple sport teams, speed up in math, read more of what she wants, avoid kids that were unkind, study when she had an illness or injury, travel when my husband went to professional meetings, explore dozens of museums, feel comfortable asking questions of people that knew the answers, join and learn to lead groups, take college coursework in junior high,

get to know and be comfortable with her quirky self, spend more time with family, and be herself.

Elizabeth from AU, 5 children:

I have too many beautiful stories.

But I think the best thing was when my son first started.

I had become aware that he was not receiving the fullness of education he needed so we moved from mainstream school to home education.

One sore spot for him had been multiplication of double digit numbers by double digits. He just couldn't get it the way the school had "taught" him.

There were tears and heartache. But after showing him how I'd learnt as a child and him having some practice goes, I gave him a sheet of questions I'd written for his.

He picked up a pen and I suggested he may want to use pencil just in case.

He replied, "no need Mum - I'm confident!"

As I looked at his face he beamed.

"Oh... why is that?" I enquired.

"Because you taught me".

This was the foundation of our home education journey!

Brigitta from the USA, 2 children:

I took the 3rd grader to our local county historical museum to hear a presentation about the Conn music factory fires- we live near the county where the factory was (an area that in the early 1900's was the music instrument production capital of the country with numerous instrument factories headquartered there). The presentation was a little dry and boring for a 3rd grader but she stuck it out and then went exploring through the museum to see the exhibit. Since she ended up missing music class (because I couldn't tear her and her friend out of the museum in time), I instructed her to create a presentation for her music teacher and taught her some basic desktop publishing skills. She then spent 5 hrs over the next 2 days both researching the topic of the Conn company and instruments (even found a video about an

instrument that Conn made only ONE of) and learning how to use Publisher and various special effects. She then went on to share her presentation with her music teacher. While visiting a traveling bi-centennial exhibit for our state we noticed that they had no information included about the state being the instrument capital inn the 1900's and the state historical society was delighted to accept the 3rd graders presentation to add to their collection of information for state history.

Stephanie from the USA, 4 children:

Sad would be people, including family and friends saying they don't understand how I can stand being around my kids all the time. The best is when they find something that fascinates them, and I learn something new as well. They can be obsessed about hummingbirds (and have been). But the funniest with being at a store and someone bringing up something and said person gets a lesson on what a probusicus is. From a 5 year old.

Kelsey from the USA, 4 children:

Our daughter struggled in math so much that she failed her math sol right before we pulled her out of school because of food allergies. We began homeschooling the next September. She couldn't even identify proper placement of numbers past the hundreds place. We stopped all of our book work, grabbed a few games off pinterest and worked non stop for a week on placement. She now has skipped a grade and is in a higher math than her grade calls for . Our 6 year old has also surpassed her grade and is working one grade ahead because they get concentrated help on problem areas.

Heidi from CA, 4 children:

Homeschooling has allowed my previously very reluctant reader TM the freedom to explore books of his own interest and become a hungry devourer of books. My toddler begs to "do school" every day with the older ones, then proceeds to break all the pencils and eat all the erasers.

Children love to learn when we can allow them the space to discover it.

Barbara from AU, 2 children:

Being able to choose when and what she reads and writes has allowed my daughter to self regulate her passion for imaginative composition and she has been very productive in writing several YA novels and novellas.

Megan from AU , 1 child:

My son was bullied when he was at school which resulted in chronic fatigue and depression. After a lot of research and soul searching we decided to homeschool. It was the best decision we ever made. Our son is now happy, healthy and excelling. He has discovered a he has a talent and love of acting and at the age of 12 is driven to pursue a career in the film industry. Home schooling has given him opportunities he had never dreamt of.

Anonymous from AU, 3 children:

There's been several times when well meaning people express their concerns about the socialization of our children...then they meet them and are enraptured by their confidence & friendliness.

Rebecca from the USA, 5 children:

Giving my children the option to pursue their interests keeps driving me to continue homeschooling. My oldest (13) has a love of farming and also plans to start a lawn care business. We are able to cater to him by setting him up with an internship of sorts at our family dairy farm and choosing curriculum that teaches him the basics of business go like small engine repair. My next son (12) is severely dyslexic, homeschooling gives us room to work very closely with his needs. We also can encourage him with what comes easily for him...his current interest is filmmaking and editing.

Ann from the USA, 1 child:

When she was 3 or 4, we picked up a book for telling time at the bookstore which she mastered before we got home. That was 3 years ago, and since then she has resisted telling time, until today when she bought her very own, very pretty analog watch with her own christmas money. We've gotten time updates by the minute for the rest of the day.

Dawne from the USA, 6 children:

Q: What is your advice to new homeschoolers?

A: Look ahead; not behind. The public school is not the holy grail of education. It is, essentially, simply a place to hand over your child physically, mentally, and spiritually, to government workers. Follow your instinct on the how, what, why, and when, of your child's path to learning what he/she needs to know (or not waste time on) for adulthood. You will not fail! After all, no teacher or politician on earth cares about, or is as invested in your child as you are.

Mary from UK, 7 children:

I did worry that I was doing it for me and not preparing them sufficiently. Then two of them decided, as teenagers, to attend secondary school. They fitted in almost effortlessly, both ended up in the top streams with heaps of friends, teachers constantly telling us how prepared they both were, how confident, how able to cope socially, how motivated and organised. I knew the years they had at home had paid off, and I also knew I was right to listen to them when they voiced their decision to enter main-stream schooling. We had achieved what we had aimed to do- independent, critical thinkers able to determine what they wanted to do and how to get it, able to get what they wanted out of an experience (in this case, school) and discard the rest, to get the positives and not be badly affected by the negatives.

Lee from the USA, 6 children:

My daughter is on the verge of receiving a full scholarship to her only-choice school. My son started getting job offers at 13 (by people who didn't know his age) just based off of his work that he showed on YouTube. Homeschooling has given them the time and space to find and pursue their passions.

Tammy from the USA, 2 children:

My daughter was in her first year of public high-school and she was having a tough time with all the different classes to go to in a specific time. She was so overwhelmed. She was a B+ student to an F. She was even scared to ask for help from the teachers or us. I asked her what is wrong one day when she was just looking at her homework and she just started crying. I hugged her and asked her what is wrong and she told me that she was so overwhelmed she wanted to just give up and drop out. I told her that if she did then I would home school her at home. The teachers were okay with it.

Dana from the USA, 4 children:

When we began Homeschooling, I wasn't sure this was right for us. I prayed for weeks about it and suddenly signs just started showing up. Shopping in a thrift store, I found books about homeschooling I'd never noticed before. I kept finding materials that were inexpensive for educating my children. Just small things that spoke to me saying God wanted this for us.

Over the years, I've come to realize how important it was that we chose Homeschooling. All of my children have special needs. 3/4 of them have Epilepsy. With their health issues, we would have never made it with Public Schooling. Homeschooling has proven again and again to be our best choice.

I'm thankful we were led here and we will continue to homeschool. We love it. We love being together, learning together, sharing together. Nothing beats that!

Nancy from AU, 6 children:

My 10 year old son struggles with reading and writing. I had been agonizing over whether my choice to homeschool him was right and how I would ever get him to learn. Then we went to a homeschool get together at the local art gallery. The guide asked the kids to write or draw about the artwork they liked the best. I didn't expect

Him to want to participate. However, he did, drawing an excellent likeness of the pottery piece he chose. Then he said he had learnt to draw when listening in to a conversation between his aunt and grandma when they His aunt was instructing his grandma about how to paint! He had certainly learnt about shading and perspective and all kinds of other things just from that one conversation. That's when I realized homeschooling really works.

Beth from the USA, 2 children:

My first lesson was from an activity a Pooh bear book suggested. I wrote some sight words down from the book. 6 months later, she remembered them and wrote down "Pooh Bee". Yesterday she asked me what b-o-o-k spelled. I told her book, and she studied the word for a long time. I then heard her say to herself, "so two l'd make the uh sound...Boooooook." - I also love watching her give lessons to her little brother, copying the way I did them :)

Teresa Gold from the USA, 4 children:

My children love to talk and talk and talk. Since we've started homeschooling they're learning how to have a conversation and care about what others have to say.

Amanda from the USA, 2 children:

My six year old is forever trying to relay her lessons to her three year old brother and it's wonderful to watch and such an amazing opportunity for them both.

Kate from AU, 3 children:

I love seeing the light bulb go off when they get something. Especially if you have been teaching it for a while and finally they get it. Best feeling ever :-)

Jess from AU, 6 children:

My son had read the book "Pagoo" (Holling Clancy Holling) - story of a hermit crab - with reasonable interest and narrations. After we had finished we had a family beach holiday. As we were wading one day in the middle of a shallow sandy stretch devoid of sea life there was one tiny beautiful shell. I picked it up and out waded two tiny hermit crab claws!! We examined and appreciated, and then he said seriously, "You'd better put him back mum. Hermit crabs can't breathe long out of water". For me this summed up the essence of CM teaching: "It is not how much a person knows, but how much he cares".

Dani-Lee from AU , 3 children:

When joining a new church twins (then 4) were told by the children that they couldn't play with the group because they were not old enough. Big sister (just turned 7) told group "that is just stupid. Everyone should play together". Next few months saw a cultural change in that group where all children played together and looked out for each other.

Elise from the USA, 2 children:

When I finally decided to homeschool, I was very excited and nervous. How would our days look? Should we have a schedule, stay at home, go on field trips, join a co-op, choose a curriculum??? It was overwhelming. Then, after a great deal of research and observing my sons' Montessori preschool, I decided to go with a Montessori approach. I read, studied, observed some more, practiced and finally started. I even invited my sons' preschool teacher to come to our house and observe. She did not hesitate. She spent the morning with us and even stayed for lunch. When I asked her what she thought of our environment, she said, "You're really doing it! And it is working! When you have a bad day, a question or feel like quitting, just call me. I'll help you remember why this is such a good choice. I will help you work through it." That was all I needed. We have relaxed our schedule and eased into our new lifestyle very slowly. We change things when we need to. We follow the child.

Stacy from the USA, 5 children:

My son has ADHD. He had a lot of trouble with his peers and teachers while in public school. He was on the verge of failing and expulsion before we started to



homeschool. When homeschooling I give him his work and give him the control over when he takes breaks and how he processes the information. He asks to do more Math, wants to work until he is finished, and takes pride in his work. He does so well when he is in control of how he learns.

Sharon from the USA, 1 child:

It has taken my son and I well over 2 years to recover from the trauma public school caused. I am finally beginning to see the happy boy emerge from his shell and that makes it all worthwhile.

Leigh from the USA, 1 child:

The more I prep and plan the more successful we are ... one day my child said "mommy I love homeschooling with you, that was the best day ever"

Kitty from the USA, 5 children:

My relationships with my daughters has greatly improved. our lives are more like discipleship and not adversarial like many teenagers we know.

Mary from the USA, 2 children:

My kids are very curious, so while my 1st grader still doesn't know his math facts for addition completely, he is asking lots of questions about multiplication. My 3.5 year old was listening in, and while I am pretty sure it was a total guess, he said, "And if you had 5 20's it would be 100". It pretty much blew my mind that he was correct, even though it was probably just luck.

Dea from the USA, 2 children:

Every year I ask my son who has been to a brick and mortar if he wants to go back and every year he says no. I like my school and the trips and freedom to learn cool stuff.

Stephanie from USA , 3 children:

My children really struggle with free time. They want to play with other homeschooled children in our neighborhood but realize we all have chores and things that need to be done before they can play. Not to mention we like to save their tv/video game time for when it's no longer daylight hours. I assume they will painfully learn time management.

Laurel from USA , 4 children:

I just love the look in her eyes when she gets a new concept.

Cynthia from USA , 2 children:

I have no particular captivating story except to say that homeschooling has changed our lives. My children are happier, more interested in actually learning, and more cooperative with each other than they ever were in public school. It's absolutely the best decision our family has made.

Cassandra from the USA, 4 children:

*We literally just started 75 days ago. My kids absolutely love what they are learning and at their own speed. They feel like they are on top of the world. My troubled child has grown for the positive because apparently public school made her mad so SHE was the bully! Not anymore!
My kids get a lot of attention and people have mentioned that my kids are so much happier, healthier and relaxed.*

Michelle from the USA, 6 children:

We just spent 10 days in China and hearing my kids defend their homeschooling venture was amazing to me. Also being forced to explain why I chose to do it for my kids helped me remember why I decided to do it. Lately I have been very overwhelmed by homeschooling and I needed to be reminded why I chose to do it.

Amanda Leigh Free from the USA, 4 children:

Because of homeschooling I get to see the light bulb moments. I get to experience the joy in their eyes when reading finally makes sense. Also those moments aren't trivialized by a grade or hurried to get to the next thing. We get to enjoy that moment for the miracle it is.

Shannon from USA , 2 children:

My 11 year old, grandson had been studying the 1500's and was wanting to move forward a few decades. I advised him that we needed to learn from some of the masters on what is needed for the future. After we had learned about Leonardo DiVinci and Michaelangelo's beautiful works of art, I took him to Italy to see the works in person. Had he been in school this opportunity would have only been available for a short period of time in the summer. We were able to walk through history, taking our time and enjoying the Vatican, St.Peter's square and the Sistine Chapel. You can't just have the pictures and stories to tell, you need to make them "come alive" and realize these great masters were real and relevant even today.

Donelle from the USA, 3 children:

Our children are self-taught. Whenever my son is asked if he likes his teacher, he has a great response: If I didn't like him, I'd have a huge self-esteem problem.



Samantha from the USA, 2 children:

My son went to public school. It started in kindergarten and slowly progressed to 2nd grade. The school was sucking the life and vivacity out of my little guy. When he started being picked on is when I noticed the biggest change. And when he came home with bruises, one day, I had had enough. I went the principle and the Superintendent. Neither seem to care. In fact, both seemed to lean toward the fact that my son had it coming. That is when we decided to homeschool!

To help our son, we put him in kickboxing and MMA training. This instantly boosted his confidence! He held his head high. And didn't let anyone mess with him ever again! Now he is forming his own gym. (That's in our basement) to help other children his age combat their bully fears. He is teaching them not only when to throw a punch but when not to. He does this at no charge, by the way. Our son is such an extraordinary little person. I cannot wait to see what he does in the next ten years!

Christie from the USA, 3 children:

One day I was really frustrated with the kids because they just weren't paying attention. I decided to take a break and let them go out and play. I had been struggling with self-doubt as to whether I had made the right choice in homeschooling. As I listened to them, I realized they were acting out what I had been trying to teach them. They HAD been listening, just not in the way I was expecting. They got the chance to reinforce the ideas through play and they still have a good grasp on that material. This was when I realized I had definitely made the right choice for our family.

Crystal from the USA, 4 children:

Early on, when I was only homeschooling my oldest, her younger sister was playing quietly off on her own, where I thought she was not paying any attention. Then I noticed that the younger child (about 3) was answering math facts questions her older sister was saying out loud. Learning truly happens when you least expect it!

Another time, we had helium mylar balloons in the house after an event. We were planning to follow our curriculum for the day but the kids ended up experimenting with those balloons for HOURS that day. We counted it as science and started back up on our lessons the next day.

Tammy from the USA, 4 children:

People were and still are always asking when I was sending the kids to school. I wondered why. We graduated 3 daughters. #1 has an AA in Psychology, BA in Education and a Master's in Nutrition. All while moving. 5 times and with 2 little girls. Her husband is in the Army. #2 has owned and operated her own business since age 21. #3 is working full time and going to college online full time....as she deals with Lyme. So you can't tell me homeschooling does not work.

Shawna from the USA, 2 children:

Homeschooling is awesome. We all have fun, lose our patience, learn, love, lose, win together!!!

Kelly from the USA, 2 children:

I had just started homeschooling and was starting to network with other local homeschooling parents. My oldest was only 4 at the time and we decided to do a dairy tour at a local farm. My kid's loved it, and I got to meet some other local homeschooling mom's. I was talking with some other mom's and I see my son on the swing with another mom. I'd recognized her as someone I'd gone to school and church with. She came over to me laughing saying that when my son saw a school bus drive past he told her, "I'm so happy I don't have to go to school like those kids - they miss out on all the fun. I'd be sad if I went to school....I would get to see my mom all day. I'd really miss her, I think those kid's miss their moms, too!" Everyone always worries about homeschooled kid's not being socialized, but my kid's are the most social kid's I know. They introduce themselves to everyone they meet, and always find something to talk to them about (adults and kids).

Heather from the USA, 4 children:

My oldest just got her GED and graduated with honors in English and History. We didn't know honors was possible with a GED.

KT from the USA, 3 children:

My boys came home looking glum from a visit with their cousins, who attend public school, one weekend. When I asked what was wrong, they said their cousins had told them they disapprove of homeschooling because homeschooled kids don't get to make friends. I asked if my boys believed that to be true, and my youngest (then 6) said, "I don't know, Mom. When do we get to make friends?" I said, "Who is Will? Who is Joe? Who is Seth?" and the list went on. I think I named off 10 kids of different ages. Each time he answered, with an ever-growing smile, "My friend." Sometimes even homeschooled kids forget they don't spend all their time at home and have to miss out on socialization! Now it's a running joke in our homeshool--every once in while, for no reason, we remind Littlest who his friends are.

DeAnn from USA , 1 child:

My daughter is behind grade level in reading. It took me two years to figure out that something else must be going on! Her vocabulary and communication skills are high above grade level and math is slightly above. I finally took her to an eye specialist to find out that her vision is 20/20 but her eyes don't cooperate. No wonder she is struggling with reading! If she would have been in a classroom, they would have just dismissed her as a poor learner. Because I'm her teacher I was able to get her the help she needed.

Colleen from USA , more than 7 children:

My three year old explained the respiration to my sister and she was shocked. It was very detailed and I hadn't even taught her that. She just listened to the older ones.

Jodi from the USA, 4 children:

My second son was the most opposed to homeschooling. He dragged his feet big time. Now, two years later, I hear him telling his friends about. and some of them leave asking to be homeschooled. It's taken a while for the benefits of this lifestyle to really sink in!

Cheryl from the USA, 2 children:

I love watching my boys learn at the levels that challenge them. They work hard and my oldest helps his younger brother.



Vicki from USA , 3 children:

My son picked up a book at the library and wouldn't put it down. He also was so interested in all the states he made a pile of all the state books we could find in the library and tried checking them all out

Amber from the USA, 3 children:

My middle child struggled with learning to spell for several years. We tried several different programs and nothing worked. Finally, I decided to just use our original program and just keep working on it. This year it finally "clicked" for him and he went from getting just a few words correct on his tests to usually getting all of them correct. It was just a matter of letting him see how correct spelling matters in his daily life.

Heather from the USA, 3 children:

In the ups and downs of homeschooling and raising teenagers it's often easy to fall into a self doubting head dialog. In the quiet afternoon of some downtime in front of the TV`my son was half tuned into and half focused on a computer editing program and heard the casual mention of President Truman and he exclaimed "ugh! I know who that is now." Funny and reassuring to me as he really was grasping and remembering our history lessons and was then able to get casual references in a sitcom. The self doubt was shhhd in that moment.

Dawn from USA , 1 child:

Because we can focus longer on a topic of interest, my son was able to develop a shared interest with his history & science loving grandfather before he passed. They were able to have intelligent conversations regarding those interests that he would not have discovered & developed in public schools due to the demands of a classroom.

Amy from the USA, 2 children:

Because of homeschooling my daughters are able to spend time together and learn from one another, even though they are five years apart. With this age range there are, of course, differences in abilities and desires but every day they work together to make breakfast, do chores, and discuss ideas at our kitchen table. Every time I question if this is still the right path for us, I remember all of the wonderful benefits such as that in addition to the one on one teaching they are receiving. All I have to do is look at them and how well they do with their school work, how polite they are, how curious and interested in learning they are, and I know that at least for now we are on the right path.

Carrie from the USA, 4 children:

My oldest couldn't read. She knew all of her letters, but couldn't sound out a simple three letter word to save her life. I panicked and looked up all sorts of tips and research. I talked to teachers, to other moms, to my mom who fits both categories. No matter what I tried we kept ending out frustrated and no where closer to reading. Throughout it all I made sure to keep having storytimes that had nothing to do with her "learning to read" so that books would still be fun for all of us.

And then one morning it happened. Her little sister started to read. Little sister had sat with us for all of the frustrating lessons quietly sucking her thumb and absorbing it. My oldest couldn't stand to be outdone (she is very competitive). She zipped through all of the early readers we had and jumped straight into chapter books, always making sure her books are bigger, longer or more mature than Little sister's.

Now my 3rd is starting to read, though he completely skipped learning the alphabet and my 4th is always at his side pretending to sound the words just like him.

Lindsey from the USA, 3 children:

My son struggled sitting still and staying focused, that is one of the main reasons we pulled ours out of school to homeschool. I remember our first day of homeschooling and I cleared off the round kitchen table and removed the chairs. I put his books and work in the middle and told him that as long as he worked he could stand, walk around the table, or sit. He gave me the funniest look. That day he worked for 1 whole hour on his work and was able to understand all of it. All of the things he struggled with in school, he was doing so well with when I allowed him the chance to learn while moving. I will never forget that first year of homeschooling and all that we gained that year with our son. It was a magical year of learning, growing, and just enjoying him being a boy and being able to learn his way.

Anonymous from the USA, 1 child:

His last teacher told us he was behind. He was not, he tested as a 130 IQ, she just wouldn't let him be him. He doesn't want to do work that he has already mastered and she wouldn't let him advance. The teacher actually was the bully. Everything he did was wrong, even the way he tied his shoes..... which was how the OT taught him so that was fun. I couldn't let his ego take any more hits so we pulled him. We let him fail, ALL THE TIME, but in a safe way. His teacher was way off base and actually was removed from her position not long after we, and others, left the school.

Jessica from the USA, 2 children:

Last year school was bad for both of my boys. One had just started Kindergarten after a not-so-happy stint with preschool. The other child had entered 2nd grade. One night, as the boys were lying in bed and we had finished reading our bedtime book, the oldest said, "You were a teacher. Why can't you just homeschool me?". Before I even had a chance to respond, the youngest looked at me with the widest eyes I had ever seen on that child and he said, "You can go to school at home?!?! When can you sign me out?". From that moment on,

school was even more difficult for my Kindergartener because he knew that there were other options. They are both so happy now that we are learning at home!

Cara from the USA, 2 children:

My husband and I talked and researched about homeschooling before we had decided. We looked back on our own personal experiences in school and realized that we wanted better for them.

Abigail from the USA, 2 children:

My mother's dear friend took me aside one day to tell me that our children have lovely manners and are so bright and sociable. She also let me know that she was an advocate for home education. She gave me a confidence boost when I really needed one.

Kimberly from the USA, 2 children:

The day my son was pulled from PS was the day I slid the last IEP back to the teacher and staff upon them saying he was not a capable peer. As my husband says, "when my wife is silent, watch out". He is now 14 and while he is not a textbook kiddo, he is very much capable! We just began Per-Algebra. He loves genetics. All this from the non-verbal kiddo till he was 6. It took that brick to teach me. I do not teach my kids. Sometimes the path is for you, not the kids.



Jennifer from the USA, 2 children:

My daughter struggles when it comes to reading but excels in math and science. When she attended public school she made it into the gifted and talented class. She will be finishing 3 years of math and 2 years of science in just one school year. We had no clue that she was this advanced and now we know why she was always getting in trouble for playing while the teacher was giving instruction. She was just under stimulated.

Jenny from the USA, 1 child:

We enjoy each other's company. We get off on tangents and we both learn new things. To tell you the truth, I think kids need to be spending more time with functioning adults than their cruel peers. Homeschooling has been the best decision we have made for our son. He is a different kid, he is easy going and he isn't angry any more.

Dare from the USA, 4 children:

My 12 year old daughter volunteered at a food booth during the Wedt Texas State Fair and Rodeo. She worked alongside adults and college students taking orders all day long for food. I was greatly impressed and satisfied that she could add up the cost of the orders in her head while the college students and adults had to use phones and calculators. It was affirming for her as well as for us as her teachers. We weren't completely ruining her education.

Allison from USA , 4 children:

Homeschooling requires great personal sacrifice on behalf of the parent. There are usually some financial costs, though you can definitely homeschool at no cost. A parent also sacrifices time and thought and energy-- all of which many other of the parent's peers are using to pursue careers or socialize or work on

household projects. There are days when I look at that other way of spending my time and think how nice it would be to have the extra income, or a cleaner house, or lunches out with friends. But when one of my kids comes up to me and shows me a project they just finished, or something they just read in a book that they found interesting, or When i overhear siblings working together to solve a problem, those moments I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and validation that I'm choosing to spend my time homeschooling my kids. There is no better way I could be spending my time or talents than strengthening my children socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Great rewards come with great sacrifices and I feel I'm rewarded every day.

Jeanie from the USA, 5 children:

My daughter went to a regular school and couldn't pass math. Her first quarter of homeschool, she had an "A".

Before that my youngest son finished first grade and couldn't read. Now he enjoys reading so much that we restrict him from books instead of video games when he gets grounded. Now we have to restrict him from his tablet because he downloaded the kindle app.

Jacquelyn from the USA, 3 children:

Most recently I was feeling like I wasn't doing enough to teach my kids. I mean, I pray every day that our homeschool is led by God and believe that he is doing some amazing things with my family. But me, myself as a mom....I just felt like I was not doing enough. Well, the other day my 7-year-old daughter wanted to play teacher with me, to which I accepted. I put everything down, turned everything off and told her I was ready to be her student for as long as it took to finish her lesson. She was so super excited so, it made me so super excited as well!! She stands near the dry erase board and low and behold, do you know what comes out of her little mouth???

Let's back track a little. See what you don't know is that this little lady has a very strong personality, and well, needless to say, has made it quite a challenge to do this homeschool thang. Yes, thang! This subject she was about to so eagerly

teach me is something that we have been learning every single day...the same subject she has cried, gotten angry, had to be moved and excused from for at least 50% of the time. This very same subject was one that I thought was nowhere in her amazingly wise brain. But I was wrong! Yay! Yes, yay! As we go through the lesson and I hear the amazing words that are coming out of her mouth, I can't help myself but to start thanking God. This is a miracle! She does hear me! She is paying attention! And most of all, SHE KNOWS ALL OF THIS STUFF BY HEART! GLORY!!!

After two hours of her teaching. Yes two! I finally realized that, it's not about the curriculum you have, or the field trips you go on, or even the things you know (or don't know) they are learning. What matters here is that you are a homeschooling parent. You care! You love! You teach! And you do the best you can with what you have. No more, no less. What happens with the rest of the craziness, you ask? Well, we do our part and have faith that God will fill in the gaps.

Janine from the USA, 4 children:

We lived across the street from a school. One day while we were "doing school" my girls noticed the kids all walking by at 3:00 when school let out. I guess they never paid attention before and we hadn't ever talked about it.

One of my girls said to the others, "Wow, they all must've had a lot of school work to do today." The other one said, "Or They must've all been really bad (meaning not diligent)." You should've seen their shocked faces when I told them that everyone stays at school until 3:00 every day!

Years later, when the baby of the family was in 4th grade, I brought him along to a private school where I was teaching a class. Three times a week, I would teach the one hour class and he would come along. One day as we were walking through the halls he made an astute observation, "If the teachers would sit down and stop talking the kids would get their work done much faster and wouldn't be stuck here until 3:00."

Sheila from the USA, 5 children:

When we made a big move to a new state, we decided to put our kids in public school so that they could make new friends. Our son was going in first grade and hated it. Going all day and dealing with the slow pace of the class really wore on him. He was one of the smartest in the class, but being a boy, he couldn't contain his energy at times and got in trouble a few times for randomly helping slower kids or he would jump up from his desk because he needed to move. Anyway, this happy-go-lucky boy started crying every day and I would have to drag him into class. He had a nice enough teacher, had been picked on a little, but nothing that didn't get dealt with, so no reason for him to not like school. By the last few weeks of school it was nearly impossible to get him to go to class. I volunteered at the school a lot so I saw him through the day, but he would still randomly get sick and have to go home. One day after I picked him up from school, my fun-loving boy was in tears. He stated quite emphatically that he was going to be president when he grew up. I said "Okay?, Why the sudden urge to be president?" What he said next broke my heart and propelled us to homeschool again. Through his tears he said, "I want to be president so I can make a law that kids can stay home and be homeschooled if they want. They won't be forced to go to a school ALL DAY long where no one cares about them or loves them at all!" We may not have perfect days now, but all of my kids are more content. Having recess taken away as a punishment, hearing kids cuss their teachers, seeing that kids who don't do their work don't really get into trouble, experiencing mean or burned out teachers, wore on my knee de hearts and started changing them/hardening them. Plus after volunteering for 2 years in public school, I realized we go on more field trips (in 2 years my youngest 4 went on 1-total) and get a lot more work done than a packed classroom does and in a shorter time frame.

Kara from USA , 6 children:

The best part about homeschooling is that the kids learn to interact with all ages rather than just their own age group. My oldest can sometimes be found holding an impromptu class with the younger ones, teaching them what he has learned!

Jocelyn from the USA, 2 children:

My oldest was so full of anxiety at the public school. He was depressed, and had very little self-esteem. Since we have been homeschooling, I have my silly, creative, wonderful boy back. My younger son was always angry, and frequently in trouble (I swear, the principal had my cell phone on speed-dial). Since we have been able to accelerate his learning to higher grade-level work, he feels more challenged and is more interested in learning. He's still extremely stubborn, but nothing like the Dr Jekyll/Mr Hyde syndrome we were dealing with before.

Karen from the USA, 1 child:

My daughter is just turned 17. At 13 she had a successful Instagram crochet shop @KeileesKreations, at 16 she started her own Princess company, Magical Memories AL, doing birthday parties and events, at 15 she started an educational Instagram/YouTube called Bringing Smart Back which was voted one of the Top 10 Instagram accounts for homeschoolers to follow. She serves on our city's steering committee and is the youngest member. I don't know if any of this would have been possible in traditional school. Homeschooling has given her wings to soar.

Danelle from the USA, 1 child:

My son and I are big Harry Potter fans and have seen the movies many times. To help promote more advanced reading I purchased my son the illustrated HP books (2 available at the time). He loved them staying up at night to read on his own. After book 2 was complete he asked for the third book and we said it wasn't published yet. He looked contemplative and said, "Can I read mommy's



HP books without pictures?" Absolutely! He is on book 4 and still going strong. When they want to learn they will.

Kary from the USA, 1 child:

I think I was the most proud of my daughter when she transitioned from giving others deer in headlight looks when they asked her about school and grades, etc. to boldly saying that she is home schooled and that she is in every grade. Her abilities are so varied and her interests are so mature in some areas, she truly no longer fits into a standard grade. She is finally looking at her education as an experience rather than a competitive level system.

Laney from the USA, 1 child:

My parents have not been fully on board with me homeschooling my daughter. The question whether or not my daughter is learning like their other grandkids and if she gets enough time with kids her age to interact. This past summer my dad kept quizzing all his grandkids to see what they learned. One of his grandchildren could read a standard measurement ruler, one couldn't read numbers above 100's place value and one couldn't tell time on an analog clock. These children are 16, 11 and 14 respectively. My dad was shocked when he discovered these things but was more flabbergasted because when those kids couldn't answer my "know-it-all" 7 year old chimed in and answered for her older cousins.

Deborah from the USA, 3 children:

I began by homeschooling "one year at a time". Mostly I said that because I was unsure of myself and intimidated by the naysayers, so I soft peddled my response to the common question "are you going to homeschool all the way through?!?!?! As my kids have gotten older, I have seen the remarkable differences between them and most institutional schooled kids, not only in academic things but also in the actual socialization they've learned by being around and communicating with people of all ages and generations all the time,

instead of the false social atmosphere of 13 years with only same-aged peers, and now I know there is no way we would ever send them away.

Erin from the USA, 2 children:

We have witnessed our son change from being confused and filled with anxiety to relaxing again. He is happy, has friends, and enjoying learning again. Now that our daughter is homeschooling too, we have trips scheduled overseas. We wouldn't be able to travel as often and share in these life experiences as a family- to this extent- without homeschooling. We want them to learn, find passion, and become well rounded healthy people. Not all kids respond to the traditional setting in a healthy way, so this option has been a wonderful experience. It requires patience, commitment, and a lot of work. Yet it is worth all of it when you witness your child apply themselves and find joy in learning!

Amber from the USA, 2 children:

The best thing is the genuine belly-laughter that comes with deeper family relationships.

Ashley from the USA, 3 children:

Every day is its own memory. The look of sheer glee and pride with each accomplishment can't be beat.

Amanda from USA , 5 children:

When watching a teen television show my 10 year old turned to me and asked, "Do people really make fun of others because of what they wear?"

I had never considered that my child had never been judged, or thought to judge, someone on their appearance alone.

Homeschooling can show us the stupid stuff people get caught up in public school- like clothing.

Elizabeth from the USA, 2 children:

Seeing the joy in my daughters eyes when she first picked up a book and read it to me and her little brother. "Mom, that wasn't a school book. I just read the whole thing to you!"

I also loved when she thanked me for homeschooling her so she didn't have to do, "the same boring things over and over that I already know."

Nicole from the USA, 1 child:

My son has never attended public school but we live across from one of the local ones. He goes over every afternoon to play when the kids let out. One particular day, he met a new friend and told him he was homeschooled and what that meant (sleeping in, wearing pjs, taking breaks as he needed, being done soon after lunch, etc.). The little boy walked by our house on the way home and said, "Hey! Can I homeschool with you tomorrow? I want to wear my pjs and sleep in, too!". Needless to say, he's got a few jealous friends over at the public school!

Jill from the USA, 4 children:

People told us that sending our child to public school would be a waste, that we should save to send her to private school. Educationally speaking, she would be bored in classes. With 3 younger siblings and one income, it is impractical. We tried public school for one semester, then we ended up home schooling and people claimed our kids would be unsocialized and tsked at us. The very same people who claimed she shouldn't be in public school wanted to shame us for giving her a BETTER, more guided education at home. Two years later, they are seeing the results and have nothing but good things to say.



Susana from the USA, 4 children:

One of my friends called me to tell me she needed me to talk to my 8 year old so he would stop telling her son how much he loves being homeschooled because it made her son complain about being sent to school all day when "he could just do all the work assigned in an hour and be done with school for the day and have free time to do whatever he wanted" like Sam said.

Nikky from the USA, 2 children:

Sometimes I feel like I am not really teaching them or maybe they aren't learning, but I see it when we are out and they start to talk to others about something they have learned

Angela from USA , 4 children:

One of my daughter's struggles with anxiety. I can't even imagine how hard her daily life would be if she was pushed to go to school daily. Instead of the rush, we take our time, instead of the pressure of traditional school demands, we enjoy a sweet life full of learning and fun. She is the happiest little gal who is learning to love the person God made her, even on days when it's hard.

Heather from CA, 2 children:

I am unable to think of a story that I can share off-hand; however, I do see a change in both my daughters that I find difficult to explain in words. I am ruled by my heart and it was on my heart to homeschool. There was so much emotion for all us while my daughters were in school. Neither of my girls did well in the classroom setting. We play a lot. I am discovering all kinds of wonderful uniqueness in each of my daughters by being a part of their learning. I am learning too.

LaRae from the USA, 2 children:

A very valuable side perk of homeschooling for us, that was not foreseen when we started, was that as my mother aged, she developed dementia. She moved in with us and the whole family helped in caring for her. She was able to stay in our home until her death, which we made use of the in home hospice program through our hospital so she was able to go in peace with family all around her to her last moment on earth. The many lessons learned in helping care for my mother as the dementia progressed was an education I could have never dreamed of giving. It was not always easy, but each time we came across a new obstacle in her behavior or decreased abilities, we all had to really think how to make it work and still give my mother dignity and respect. We would come up with new ways of keeping her safe, but allowing her to do things for herself or be able to feel productive in our family for as long as was possible. This was very challenging, but also very rewarding for her and for us. Great incite was gained on learning how to adapt, adjust, include, and eventually how to just join into the

world of dementia to go along with her whenever possible to keep the peace and enjoy her vs agitating her. Both of my kids are much more likely to understand a person who has dementia and how to respond to them and their caregivers in a helpful, compassionate, and respectful way now. You just cannot get that from a textbook or a video and if not for homeschooling, they would not have been able to experience it the way that they did.

Charmaine from USA , 3 children:

I never realized how much stress we tolerated as normal surrounding our public school life. Our middle daughter has ASD, anxiety, and ADD. She did well in school until middle school when her quirky personality started to be more obvious to the other kids. They just pecked away at her until she was depressed and had suicidal ideations. The school tried to help, but they couldn't watch her all day. We very reluctantly decided to homeschool her. It was a bit rock at first, but we worked it out and it has been the best thing for her. The hardest thing is to get her to socialize. She is very content to be at home drawing and playing online. I've found the library has great programs for teens and she's been happy participating in several clubs there. I was feeling really confident about homeschooling that when my 4th grade son was having problems at school (he's a talker), we gave him the option to homeschool too. He loves it. He has no interest to return and is doing great. He is very social and active in Boy Scouts, 4H, sports, and our local homeschool group. The stress level in our home is nearly nonexistent! It's not perfect. We have good days and bad days. I wish I had always been a homeschool mom.

Jude from NZ, 4 children:

We have lived in a number of homes in isolated farming areas and like to make the most of our environments , mountains, forests, deer and pig hunting, fishing, beaches, farmwork of course. The shop people are surprised when i ask my 7 year old which is the right water fitting dad needs, or something like that.

Heather from the USA, 2 children:

My son has struggled with reading and he kept saying he couldn't do it and the moment we found a reading curriculum that clicked with him his eyes lit up and now he wants to read everything!

Sharon from South Africa, 3 children:

Homeschoolers tend to stand out as far as manners, responsibility, interactions with others and adults. We are born leaders.

Nicole from the USA, 2 children:

My son was a struggling reader in public school. He hated reading and it was a constant fight. When we decided to homeschooling and got to help select the books he would read as well as not being forced to read out loud and embarrass himself, his skill took off. He has gone from a barely second grade reading level to a 5th grade reading level in less than a year. Now I have to take books away just so he goes to sleep at night!

Sonia from AU, 2 children:

I love being with my kids and allowing them to grow at their own rate. School is so pressurised and the push down on our little people is sad. We like maintaining the innocence of our children by keeping them out of the school pack mentality and having everything shoved down their throat that every other kid knows and sees.

Alina from the United States of America, 4 children:

We spend so much time talking about the benefits to the child-which is well documented-let's talk about the benefits for the parents! You can be a fun

parent because you're not stressed trying to get erroneous out in a rush. Time is spend getting to know your child better and actually having real time with them. I see how slowed down our life has become and how the anxiety levels have dropped. Overall I feel we are more of a mentally healthy family.

Kimberley from UK, 3 children:

My daughter,6 , was not doing well at school, she was below average and the school (who were told she was a later developer and had sensory problems) didn\t worry until she was coming up to end of year one (uk), they wanted to force her into reading and writing in a matter of weeks to their standard. She has been homeschooled 6 months and can now spell and read simple words and she did it from being in a happy environment :)

Shannon from the USA, 3 children:

Homeschooling gives us time and moments we wouldn't have otherwise. While folding laundry with my 6yo, I saw that the new Ruth Bader Ginsburg picture book, I Dissent, had shipped and I got excited. This led to a huge philosophical and political discussion with my curious 1st grader, as I explained respectful disagreement, why it's important, and how the political system works. He was especially interested, with the election coming up. A few days later, he was at my mom's house, and shared some of our conversation, telling her he thought she should speak up about her political views with her sister. She took it to heart and then brought it back to me a few days later. This - loving someone by respectfully disagreeing with them - was a topic I myself had been avoiding with my mom for my own reasons, but now that the ice was broken thanks to my little one, we have been able to talk about a ton of stuff that had been taboo for years and our relationship is stronger than it's been.

Andrea from the USA, 1 child:

My son wakes up every day excited to learn, he loves school and is 1-3 grades ahead of the curve compared to public school curriculum. My family, while

dubious at first, has come to recognize and appreciate the benefits of homeschooling, and even strangers compliment my son.

The decision to homeschool has, however cost me a long-term friendship. Someone with whom I had been close for nearly 20 years has 2 children whom she sends to daycare add has since birth. The stark contrast between our lifestyles proved too much for the friendship. My husband and I have sacrificed a lot for me to stay home with our son, and he's amazing; I wouldn't change a thing. My friend and her husband work two jobs each to afford daycare and luxuries aged her kids are really struggling with academics and behavior. I tried to be supportive but I believe she felt insecure, lashing out at women who choose to raise their children with increasingly cruel comments until ultimately she severed ties completely. But while sad for me, the real victims are her children who aren't getting their parents' attention and guidance ten hours a day while they're at day care.



Chase from USA , 2 children:

My kids are obsessed with history. At the eye doctor they were playing with the frame display and the lady was trying to get them to look at trendy frames. My son was about 6 and he said he wanted frames like Ben Franklin because that was his favorite person. She couldn't believe he even knew who that was.

Kimberly from the USA, 3 children:

My daughter went from reading nonstop to procrastinating terribly when it came to reading. She'd do poorly on AR tests because she'd try to cram a week's worth of reading into one night after procrastinating. We just couldn't understand why she'd stopped enjoying reading.

When we began homeschooling, we found out she has a neurological vision deficiency causing her to see 20/70 in one eye, which cannot be corrected with lenses. Putting her books on a backlit screen that can be magnified, plus expanding her choice of literature, has made ALL the difference. She now reads 15+ chapters a day and often asks if we can read before doing anything else. She's in love with reading again!

Amy from the USA, 3 children:

I love how much how much mixed ages of children learn from each other. The older ones learn patience and kindness when helping the little ones. Little ones learn so much academic knowledge from the older kids.

Yesterday my 4 year old said, "Mommy, there are no asteroids on the road."

"That's right," I said to her. "Where are asteroids?"

"In outer space."

"What are asteroids?" I asked her. Curious to see how much she knew about asteroids. "Umm...They crash into things." I could tell from her response that she had been playing with her older brother.

Lindsay from the USA, 2 children:

My kids made a dinner table game of spelling words that were above their grade levels.... when my son (8) kept succeeding, my daughter (6) decided she would tackle supercalifragilisticexpialadocious. she didn't get it technically right but nailed it phonically, and got the prize for chutzpah.

Allison Fitzgibbon from the USA, 2 children:

My children are military kids and we often move so homeschooling gives them some continuity. This past summer we had just finished a cross-country move only to discover 10 days later that their Dad had cancer. Our house was still in boxes, we hadn't made any friends yet. We were all scared and unsure but in the instant we found out my husband and I decided we would continue to homeschool. Our friends and family kept urging us to send them back to school they don't need to see their Daddy sick but it was quite the opposite. They got to see him on the good days when they might otherwise be at school. They did see the bad days but they also got to slow down and just spend those days together. We didn't want them going back to public school only because Dad was sick. We are so happy we stuck to our decision as our children are processing everything so well. We Are closer because of this and they may have missed a few "days of school" but everyone will be ok, including Daddy.

Natalie from the USA, 4 children:

When I was a homeschooled child, I was really embarrassed as a nine year old when a public schooled friend said "why do you always use such big words?" I didn't mean to, I just had a large vocabulary thanks to lots of reading and being read to. I see my kids using big words normally in conversation, and their homeschooled peers not batting an eye, and I love it!

Andrea from CA, 3 children:

It is very rewarding to see a child go from hating school and learning because she always felt incapable of learning with the styles presented to taking over what she learns about and being excited about it.

Kori from the USA, 2 children:

Homeschooling has allowed my son to have the opportunity to find and follow his passion of teaching. He was always told, in public school, that he was not smart enough (one administrator told me in an email that my son wasn't stupid enough for an IEP and the best she could do for him was a 504, you better believe that got sent straight to the BOE) and he was getting lost in the shuffle. He was a martial arts student for a few years and was then approached by his sensei and asked if he would like to assist for a couple of classes. I am so grateful that this man saw the potential in my son because my son never believed that he was good at anything. It turns out that my son is an incredible teacher and the kids and parents adore him. If you had told him 5 years ago that he would be successful, Happy, and thriving in academics, he would not have believed it, but he is the answer every time I doubt myself if I am doing the right thing in homeschooling the kids.

Wendi from the USA, 3 children:

We have our own business which takes us all over the mid-west, and the kids travel with us. The common stigma that homeschoolers battle against is that they are "unsocialized". I always tell the kids that they are essentially ambassadors for homeschooling wherever they go, and it will affect how others see not only them, but other homeschoolers as well. At a dinner where my husband and I met with a Native American tribal leader, our oldest walked right up to this gentleman and introduced himself. During that same trip, we met with other individuals who commented on how the kids were so different from how they perceived homeschoolers. It was great :)

Elizabeth from the USA, 1 child:

People have insinuated that my daughter would be become too attached to me & have trouble adjusting to situations without me because that she is homeschooled. I loved being able to prove them wrong when she went on her first plane trip vacation without us for an entire week & barely noticed our absence! I believe she is actually more confident than some of her peers because

of all the support & quality time she's been receiving from us as she's been growing up.

Julie from the USA, 1 child:

It's shocking how many mothers will respond "I couldn't stand to have my kid(s) home all day". I always think it's sad that they don't like their kid(s) and don't want to spend time with them. (And that they think homeschoolers are home 24 hours a day instead of out having fun at co-ops or park days or museums etc..) My son and I are close and enjoy each other's company, but at the same time he's very independent. I'm certainly not breathing down his neck all day.

Nicole from USA , 3 children:

My eleven year old son found a competition online (through NASA). He had to create a 3-D object that would be useful on a spaceship heading to Mars. Without any help from myself, he loaded the 3-D program, researched aquaponics, and created an amazing product complete with a paragraph write



*up. He was not only engaged, he was joyfully learning and exploring on his own!
This is what learning is about!*

Shelly from USA , 2 children:

Someone asked my kids about our chickens. They didn't realize they would get a 30 minute response, including the care of chickens, a discussion on egg laying habits, the various predators in our area and how to deter them.

Karin from South Africa, 2 children:

Over the Christmas holidays my son said that he enjoys our "school time" more than holidays now as we get to do and learn so many fun and exciting things together. So worth it.

Stephanie from the USA, 2 children:

My children are so proud to be homeschooled and when they describe what they do all the neighborhood kids beg their moms to homeschool them too.

Mary from the USA, 6 children:

I believe that anyone can teach their child subjects outside of their "expertise." Yes, I went to school to be a teacher but, I am teaching my kids to read and write. That wasn't my degree area. Was it easy at first? No, but my commitment to give my best, drove me to the library to read all I could find on teaching phonics and what programs would be best for our family.

My parents and several other family members tried to convince me that I was going to ruin my child's life and make him hate us for eternity. I faced many months of brutal criticism which, required many boxes of tissues. I cried daily at the loss of my family's favor and the harsh reality that not everyone would look fondly upon our decision.

It has been 7 years since we first started our trek into homeschooling. We still face criticism from family occasionally. I think they may see the benefits but just don't want to admit they were wrong. But, we found allies with other homeschooling families that have similar visions. That gives us the strength to press on toward the higher prize.

If you have been called to homeschool, then do it! It is hard work but, oh, so worth the legacy! Don't believe the lie that you aren't educated enough to do it either. There are things you know that I don't, that makes you more educated than me in that area.

Take a deep breath and dive in!

Kaslynn from the USA, 5 children:

The best thing about homeschooling: My husband works away often. Homeschooling allows us to spend more quality time together when he is home. My three boys love to help him with projects outside and around the house. I love watching the close bond my children have with each other. My boys play outside TOGETHER for hours building forts and using their imaginations. They are so gentle and kind with their baby sisters. Those moments make every hard thing worth while.

Heidi from the USA, 4 children:

My oldest had major issues learning to read. He went through weekly vision therapy sessions for over a year. He is currently in 6th grade and reads at or above grade level and is a voracious reader. If in public school I'm afraid he would have gotten "lost" academically and not given the time to excel in math and science bc of his challenges with reading / phonics.

Amy from the USA, 2 children:

One spring day, I was driving my 4-year-old home from a day at the library and a picnic in the park. The sun was shining in a bright blue sky. A perfect day. It was 1:00 in the afternoon, and as we drove past an elementary school, a moment of

clarity came to me. This is what life was supposed to be like. No rushing in the morning. No time lines and yelling to get dressed so we could make it to the bus on time. No sitting at desks and following someone else's expectations to color in the lines. My daughter was free to be who she was, at her own schedule, and learn what interested her. All the while, we could do it together as a family while enjoying all the beauties that life has to offer us. I was so grateful in that moment that I had discovered this new way of life.

Marian from Northern Ireland, 4 children:

I had taken my 4 year old son to the zoo , one beautiful sunny spring morning as he'd said he'd like to see the Penguins (it was his topic at that time). We arrived, walked round and were sitting at a picnic table having lunch. Then when we were finished, my young child walked over to the animal enclosure and said "Mummy, I'm really sad for them" I nodded for we had previously spoken about why these animals had come to be in the zoo and whether it was really fair or ethical. He then said "it's just like school, all the children go in, in the morning and don't get out again until the day is nearly over and they don't get to play in the sunshine. I feel sorry for the animals in their cages and I feel sorry for the children in their classrooms." I was stunned by the analogy but I feels it sums up home education for us, Education occurs everywhere, as long as a child's curiosity is not stifled, you just need to encourage and facilitate their motivation. I believe in the quote "Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire ," we just need to spark their imagination and stand back and watch it rage.

Sheri Silver from the USA, 2 children:

Because I homeschool, I'm often given credit for my children for my children being so smart. The truth is that they have the freedom to explore their interests in more depth. I believe that creates a stronger, more natural drive to learn.

Leah from AU, 3 children:

We had the freedom to take our 3 children to Europe last year on a 6 week adventure. It was the most amazing, satisfying, and educational experience. In 6 weeks we covered an entire curriculum that would've taken a year or more in a conventional education system. Our learning topics are covered for the next several years, but what they experienced being away, through life lessons, will stay with them for a lifetime.

My 10 year old daughter discovered a love and passion for vlogging and life through a lense. She has started a YouTube channel with her siblings, and loves editing her videos.

My 7 year old son continues to develop his love of building and creativity. Not a day goes by where he isn't creating something from scraps, blocks, and anything he can get his hands on.

My 4 year old has developed a love of books. He loves story-time and storytelling. He loves to colour, experiment with water, build with his brother, and play with his siblings. Without homeschooling, the activities that my children are passionate about would be hobbies that fit into a busy life that is scheduled around futile book work.

Roseanne from NZ, 2 children:

We experienced a major earthquake late last year, our home was damaged and we stayed with husbands boss and wife for the week following, while waiting for Dad to return home from South America. Throughout the earthquake and the evacuation we comforted each other, worked together on ways to make ourselves feel safer and to just cope through the event. we slept in a car for a night then shared a room for the following weeks. We were always together feeling comforted by the fact that none of us were alone. The people we stayed with, she was a teacher and had returned to their school where many stressed out tired children were forced to return to 'to get back to normal routine' She said her classroom was full of traumatized kids who should really have been at home with their families... instead society expects a rush back to 'normal' before the children had a chance to recover. She could definitely see the positives of us

just taking our time as a family unit to deal with the emotional toll, being together and taking the time needed, something no classroom can truly offer.

Kimberly from the USA, 3 children:

Other kids love our school, the idea of homeschooling, and our classroom so much that they tell me they wish they could be homeschooled. They also love pretending to have school when they visit, which is cool to watch because they teach and grade, too. I'm sad I can't teach them all. All kids deserve to love learning and to do it in the way they learn best.

Deborah from USA , 2 children:

My youngest was playing hangman at church with friends from his Bible group. Each child used words like "pillow" or "pizza" as their mystery word. My son, age 10 at the time, put up 4 letters. After the first guesses were wrong, he started giving clues. It didn't help them. Finally, they were "hung" and he filled in the letters...GUAM. The group was confused as they had no idea what a "Guam was." He had to explain that it was a place, how it was important to US, and where in the world it could be found. The leader turned to me, as I was in the room, and said "Only a homeschooler" with a chuckle.

Gretchen from the USA, 2 children:

My 10 year old daughter has tremendous anxiety. Public school had always been an issue for her. She had great little friends and she was blessed with incredibly wonderful teachers but the environment was overwhelming. She worried about everything. I saw her worry...I saw her anxiety...but hoped it would pass. In 2nd grade she was sexually harrassed (yes, 2nd grade...hard to comprehend sexual harassment can happen in 2nd grade) by boys in her class. Her anxiety was such that she was afraid to even go to the bathroom. She would wait until she was home and by then she was hurting. This was the green light for me to homeschool. I knew I wanted to but as a parent I was unsure if the decision was the right one...until those boys entered her life.

We have been homeschooling now since 2015 when we moved to a new state. She loves it. Her anxiety is still an issue and I believe her experience has made it hard for her to want to make friends here BUT she is more relaxed and expresses more the things she finds difficult to understand.....we can then work on these things as long as she needs. She gets the attention she needs and deserves and is helping teach her younger sister who is in kindergarten. It has been a blessing.

Barbara from the USA, 2 children:

I was told by another mom who home schools that you will see more tears from your kids than you ever thought were possible. As someone who taught in both public schools and private schools for 12 years before becoming a mom, I can say that is most definitely a true statement. One day after tears from my oldest after being frustrated with having to completely redo a cursive assignment because mom told him, "Do it nice or do it twice." I was given a hug and told, "I love home school. I get to learn new things and not sit and do nothing because I know how to do something already and I don't have to wait for the other kids to catch up. But mom, you are the hardest and pickiest teacher I have ever had."



Nicole from NZ, 3 children:

I ask my children regularly if they want to 'try school'.

My son was about 6 when I asked him, and he said 'no way mummy'. When I asked him why, he said 'if I went to school 5 days a week, all day long, I wouldn't have anytime to do all the fun things, like going to the beach, playing with my sister, going on long walks'.

I had to agree with him, school hours are just too much for little people.

Sarah from UK, 2 children:

The day we decided to deregister and take the plunge to home educate my daughter looked at me and said "I want to feel special, I never feel special at school"

Nikki from the USA, 1 child:

My daughter was doing poorly in high school due to the fast pace and overwhelming amount of information they throw at you and expect you to learn, pretty much on your own. She is taking one class at a time online and is completing the course for that grade in about six weeks. At this pace she will be able to graduate early and she will already understand the self paced college courses that every college offers now. She really enjoys it and the information they present is thorough and concise. It has been a really good step for her.

Liz from the USA, 2 children:

I like to watch the learning unfold, instead of trying to make it happen myself. I recently have seen the math just happen as my son plays with numbers and tries to make sense of the world-- counting, adding, fractions, the beginning of multiplication.

Caroline from NZ , 2 children:

School didn't work for my daughter, we tried for 2 years. I was THAT parent which every teacher hated to see coming towards them.... I always had some issue.... They always focused on building resilience, my parenting skills and our home life. Turns out my my daughter has epilepsy, ASD and dyslexia. And despite this she is a highly intelligent gifted child. 2 years at school where she was unprotected by the adults around her left her broken bullied and with low self esteem.

Now life is great, my kids are free to learn and free from adults who want them to confirm and follow inane rules. The pain to get here was huge but the end result is awesome. My kids are awesome and surprise me everyday.

Homeschooling is a gift and a privilege that we are lucky enough to be able to do. We are grateful to our country for allowing it so easily. We could do with more public support and off course more gov support would be nice.

Home educators are a great bunch of people, generally they are more tolerant and open to each other as they understand we all have our own bag of stuff we are dealing with. I love the community we find ourself in.

Best decision we ever made as a family!

Lela from the USA, 1 child:

Our teen takes a high school choir class at the local public school. She has come home many times asking why kids her age are so absorbed in their cell phones, makeup/appearance, and dating/flirting, and is also amazed at how cruel they can be to each other. She seems able to communicate with anyone (from infant to elderly) in a kind, understanding way -- even making direct eye contact with another human, rather than shying away from people or keeping her head bent over her phone. We are proud that her priorities involve more than what peer pressure dictates.

Janet from CA, 2 children:

I put my son in nursery school at 2.5, thinking "this will be a break from his baby brother" and "a good chance to socialize". He cried and cried, and people told me he was playing me and I should push through so he gets used to it. It was then I started questioning what the heck I was doing, and started talking with the one friend who didn't think I was too soft by taking him out of the nursery school.

That friend is an unschooler. She introduced me to Books by John Taylor Gatto, John Holt, Gordon Neufeld (Hold on to Your Kids-- life-changing!) And Sandra Dodd.

I'm grateful that I didn't listen and no longer think school makes sense for curious kids (and I used to be a teacher!). Love the focus on family that we have.

Amber from USA , 5 children:

My husband is reading The Hobbit to our children. He knew the Dwarf song would be coming up and so he practiced it privately for several nights. I'll always remember hearing him sing it to them one cold rainy evening and I think the kids will too.

Renee from the USA, 3 children:

My oldest daughter is 11. She was always a sensitive child but as she's gotten older her compassion for people she feels are being mistreated has turned into activism. She's donated her allowance to stop a pipeline from being built, she's sold her unwanted books at a yard sale to donate to ASPCA. Each day when the school bus passes our home she sighs and has a moment of silence for the children on the bus who have to sit in a brick building all day to learn. Her friends who are in public school agree with her and think it's hilarious she's so outspoken on the subject. I suspect she'll go into politics.. or maybe she'll stand outside with a large sign that reads FREE THE MIND! lol

Jennifer from the USA, 6 children:

Seeing them 'get' something they haven't been able to get before. Seeing the sparkle in their eyes is really inspiring.

Anonymous from the USA, 3 children:

We visited the Museum of Science and Industry 's human body exhibit which included a section oal development and birth. My kids were 10, 8 and 5 and very interested in the pregnancy and birth process. We looked at fetal development, did a pretend ultrasound on a pregnant mannequin tummy and squeezed into a little booth to watch a video on the birth of twins. We watched it several times and discussed it in depth as there were few people at the museum that day. When the kids finally finished asking questions I turned to leave the booth and found an entire bus load of elderly people from a local retirement home lined up, desperately trying to hear my "talk". Many raised their hands and followed us around for several minutes asking me questions about fetal development, birth, and the preceding events. It took quite a while to convince them I was not a museum docent.

Jody from CA, 5 children:

When I was sick before Christmas I decided to call a "teacher is sick" day. My kids oldest two, 14 and 15 decided to take the younger kids and make crafts, play games and do science experiments. They kept the little guys busy so I could rest and I got to see them apply some of what they had already learned. Now we are going to have a big kid/little kid buddy day once a month where one older child takes and makes a plan to teach something they love to their younger sibling. The little kids are excited!

Joanna from the USA, 3 children:

My middle son was 12 year old and visiting his schooled cousins when he was asked by their friends why he liked homeschooling. He said, "Because I don't have to change who I am to fit in."

Jessica from CA, 3 children:

Just being able to see my daughter smile again. She was being bullied really bad and would come home crying every single day. That alshe me makes homeschooling 100% worth it!

SJ May from CA, 2 children:

My daughter was in getting tested for Irlen Syndrome. Basically Irlen syndrome is a light processing disorder that can cause many learning and physical symptoms exactly like dyslexia, ADHD, autism, sensory processing disorders, migraines, stomach aches while doing school work., etc. The diagnostician informed us that the questions used verbiage that would be above her comprehension and if she didn't understand to ask for clarification. Half way through the diagnostician stops and says to my daughter you are a very intelligent young lady.. I have to explain a lot of these question to even adults! Not skipping a beat my 9 year old daughter says well I'm home schooled! Like it was the only answer there was! The adults all had a good chuckle.

Michelle from the USA, 2 children:

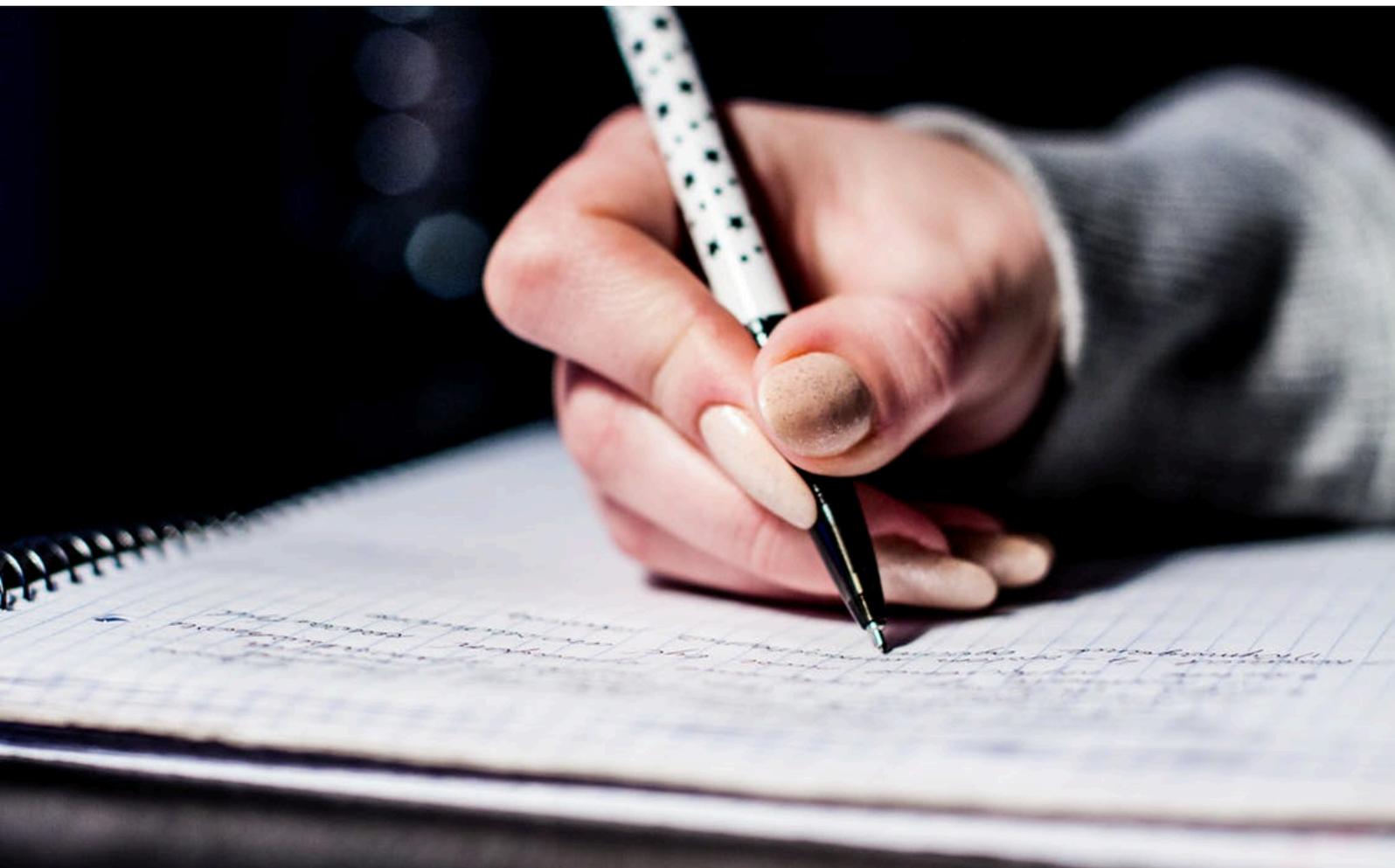
My youngest comes up with his own assignments. It's exciting to see his love of learning develop.

Jamie from the USA, 3 children:

While I was in nursing school, my kids had to go to daycare. My oldest always asked me if I could be his teacher, so I got a part time job at his school. After seeing how things were really done behind the backs of parents, I withdrew my kids the day after I finished nursing school & haven't looked back. I'm now a homeschool mom during the week & a nurse on the weekends. It's the hardest, most rewarding thing I've ever done! Last week, my oldest read me a book! That's something you never get back!

Melissa from CA, 4 children:

I love the simple things our homeschool lifestyle offers. Watching my oldest child offer to read many books to our youngest. Watching their amazing imaginations in play. Learning through baking together. Hearing the excitement over finding a cool bug and needing to 'research' right away!



Shirley from CA, 2 children:

My son started kindergarten with passion & curiosity for learning. He had a wild imagination & such an outgoing personality. In senior kindergarten, they introduced the "play" method classroom. I pleaded with the school to let him progress with his letter & reading worksheets, but I was refused. (I did it on my own at home). In grade 1, my son started to hate school...it was boring, it was hard, and he felt stupid. His self esteem was low. He was having trouble reading and was way below the "average" for grade 1. I asked his teacher for help, and I was told I could work with him from home if I felt it was an issue. (I did, and he finally caught up to just below the "average" by end of the year doing sight words). In grade 2, same thing - trouble with reading & writing. My son was depressed, felt dumb, and it was a fight to get him to go to school every day. The teacher told me he was being lazy. (She told me to "fix it" or he would fall behind... so we did extra work at home to bring him up to acceptable "level" academically). By grade 3, my son was coming home every night upset (sometimes in tears). He told me that his teacher hated him because he was dumb. He felt way behind everyone else in class. He no longer was an outgoing & imaginative kid....it was like the light went out inside of him. Again, I fought with the teacher, the principal and the counsellors - I felt something was not right. Why was my son so behind every year, even with the extra home help i gave? Every night we read stories and did sight words, like the teachers advised and yet still he could not read? He was depressed and crying every day when coming home from school? He hated his teacher? No, something was not right here! However, they all told me "no, you're son is fine...he is just below the average." I was informed that I was being overly concerned. So, finally, my husband said, "You are trying to do all this extra work with him after school, and he is just getting more frustrated ...why don't you just teach him? Homeschool him your way. So I did. Fast forward to a year later.....Through investigation we discovered he has dyslexia. I have tailored my approach to teaching to engage him and in six months he has gone from easy readers level 1 to reading chapter books! He loves school. He is excelled at math. He loves learning about science and doing experiments. He makes up fantastic PowerPoint presentations about what we learn! He enjoys watching documentaries about geography, history, marine sciences, zoology and earth sciences. His imagination is back in full throttle with

art projects and in writing short stories (an amazing accomplishment as 8 months ago he struggled to write a paragraph in his school journal). He started playing/learning drums. My son is no longer depressed and feeling left behind. He is curious again and believes he is intelligent. Most of all - he believes in himself now. Homeschooling was the best decision we ever made.

Susan Overfield from the USA, 2 children:

My youngest boy, age eight, was in charge of a highly intelligent, pushy, young working Border collie stockdog, who had been giving him a hard time over a three-hour span. My sister was visiting and asked him how his day had been. Holden responded by saying, "Joe has been acting like a d^#head." My sister asked him if he couldn't find a better way to express himself. Holden replied, "Joe is behaving like a congenital cretin in the final stages of syphilis." My sister claims he is proof of what a quality education can offer.*

Sharon from the USA, 1 child:

Our son, at 16, mentions off-handedly and often that he is so happy with his life these days. He is a musician and thanks to ferocious work and fierce love is looking forward to a probable career as a classical musician; he is excelling in his community college classes, he has good friends who he cares about and trusts, he reads widely in science, current events, literature, and politics. We're really happy for him.

Jamie from the USA, 3 children:

A lady stopped by our house one afternoon to pick up something from me. We were talking when she noticed our table covered with books. She said, "Oh, did I interrupt school?"

I replied, "Yes, you interrupted science."

She looked around me at my middle child and said, "I bet you're glad I did."

My middle son, who is definitely my most artistic, said, "No! We were having fun!" Gotta love it when it works!

Miranda from the USA, 3 children:

Most mornings, of his own accord, my middle child wakes up really early and behind his school work for the day. He likes that he can get done by lunch and be able to play in the afternoon. One morning I woke up at about 8 am to find him busy working away. Imagine his surprise when I reminded him it was Saturday! He finished the assignment anyway so that he didn't have to do it Monday! I was amused and proud all at the same time.

Becky from the USA, 4 children:

The younger children often pick up on things along with their older sibling without me knowing it. Once, my eldest asked me for the answer to a multiplication problem. Before I could answer, her younger brother who was two years behind by grade level, jumped in with the correct answer.

Hayley from the USA, 4 children:

When we brought our kids home from traditional school they had so much pressure and tension. We had never really noticed it until we pulled them out, and watched the stress of being put into the "educational box" had worn off. Now my kids love learning. They literally feast on the things that interest them. The subjects they don't love are now presented to them in ways that coincide with their personalities and it is no longer a chore! You know you have made the correct decision for your kids when you have tell them to quit watching science videos to go to bed. It isn't right for everyone, but it was certainly right for our family.

Anonymous from the USA, 2 children:

I chose to homeschool because as a credentialed teacher I saw how not all teachers go above and beyond to make sure all kids are excelling in school (fellow teachers at my school), I also had an issue with principals giving fake

*grades, cheating on state tests just to keep their school at the top (I use to teach there before my child was school age) and another principal who told me that during a lockdown kids could s*it and p*ss in their pants as she refused to supply a portable bucket toilet in classrooms of elementary kids. That was the last straw, luckily we had just moved and my child was in that school only for that year and this happened the last few months before vacation and I just pulled her out and began to homeschool.*

D Halbig from CA, 3 children:

Our daughter enjoys the opportunities for technical and creative education, the freedom of unscheduled time and increased access to technology, so much that she will work on her own projects for hours of each day. This would not be possible in a typical classroom setting.



Lisa from the USA, 1 child:

As state-certified teachers, both my husband and I have seen first-hand the destruction that is wrought by public schooling. Although there are always teachers who are better than others, we feel like it is mainly "the system" that is evil and we are so thankful that there are alternative education options out there (Democratic Free Schooling and homeschooling being our favorites).

Karla from the USA, 4 children:

Three of my four students have graduated homeschool and got academic scholarships to their first-choice colleges. Homeschooling works!

Erin from the USA, 3 children:

Several of our kids' friends have said how lucky our kids are to be homeschooled. As that is sweet yet sad (for them) at the same time. My kiddos are amazing in public with other children and adults alike. They are used to be out and about. As a military family for 21 years, we have had the blessing of taking our kids to France, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland, in addition to living in Italy for three years. It has certainly had it's challenges but when my husband and I decided to start a family, we also decided that WE were going to raise our children. How can you do that if they are rushed off to school while it is still dark outside, only to come home exhausted after being gone for 8 hours with homework yet to do. We decided not to give our kiddos our leftovers at the end of the day. Though financially we have a limited one income, retired military budget, it is 100% worth our kids knowing they came before hobbies and careers. My ten year old daughter currently has a thriving bath bomb, sugar scrub and handcrafted soap business that boggles the mind of her adult customers. One woman even stated to my daughter, "I want to be like you when I grow up."

Dianne from the USA, 4 children:

We started homeschooling in 4th grade. My daughter was far advanced--and bored!-- in some areas (spelling at 11th grade level, reading comprehension at 10th), but struggling in others. She was depressed by 90 minutes of busy work assigned as homework every night. The math curriculum at her private school had left some gaps in understanding for her, and math had been a source of frequent tears and negative self-esteem. After a month of being happily challenged in her strengths, no futile busy work, and a math curriculum that fit her learning style, she ran out to our mailbox one afternoon with her fists in the air, shouting, "I AM A MATH GENIUS!!!!" I knew at that moment I'd made the right decision, and I've never looked back.

Dana from the USA, 2 children:

During my 17 year old's homeschooling, grammar was always a part of the learning. Not too long ago, he corrected an adult's grammar. He looked surprised and scared. Then he turned to me and said "Mom, you've turned me into a grammar police person!"

Lin from the USA, 4 children:

My (then) 4 year old daughter would listen in as I read historical fiction stories about American History to her 6 and 7 year old siblings. When we got to Napoleon wanting to sell his North American lands to the US, she piped up. "He must be fighting a war and need money." She had learned from what happened with King George trying to get the colonies to help foot the bill for the French Indian War, war's take money. Already she was putting cause and effect together, seeing the flow of history. This was way more important to me than the kids memorizing dates and names that were otherwise meaningless to them.

Karen from the USA, 2 children:

My son, after being homeschooled for six years, decided to try the local public school for his freshman year of high school. It was one of the best schools in the state, the best in our city. It was pretty much a disaster. His entire year was a review of what we had done in 7th and 8th grade, except geometry. He didn't understand why there was no discussion in the classes, the students just sat in class, took notes, then went to the next class. To him there didn't seem to be any real learning going on, just rote memorization. His mood became sullen and angry. He did make friends, which was the only positive experience of the year. He chose to homeschool for his sophomore year and is doing great again.

Brandy from the USA, 3 children:

My son came down, very abruptly, with a severe case of pink eye this week. He couldn't open his eyes when he'd woken up, so I "cancelled" class without saying anything to him. At dinner, after the medication had started taking effect and he was feeling much better, he started, "MOM! You forgot to do my school today!" My three year old then started speaking out about the injustice of missing his home preschool lessons too. I had to promise them then and there that I would do their lessons first thing in the morning to calm them. What kind of kids ask for more schoolwork when they're so sick? This love of learning is the gift that homeschooling has given our family.

Wendy from the USA, 3 children:

When my second child was only about 1 1/2 years old, his grandmother (my mother) was looking at a picture book of animals with him. Because he paid attention when I homeschooled his older sister, he learned a lot at a very young age. My mom was pointing to the animals and telling him what each one was. Finally, I couldn't stand it any longer, so I said, "Mom, he knows the names of all of those animals. Let HIM tell YOU what each one is." Her reply was, "He does NOT know them! He's only 1 1/2!" So I sat down with my son and the book and

pointed to each animal. In his sweet baby voice, he carefully said the name of each animal as my mom sat there with her mouth hanging open! (Sorry, Mom!)

Julianna from the USA, 3 children:

My son is so excited for school in the morning that he makes me some coffee first thing and then runs into the school room to wait for me (most mornings haha) and he recently finished a school book we had been working through for a long time and we had a big family celebration. He was so proud and it was great to see him excited over his achievement. Seeing how well he reads and the fact that I taught him from the beginning myself is heart-warming and amazing!

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Wisdom Ninja is a publisher dedicated to parents around the world. We cover daily news and stories, written exclusively by parenting bloggers and many more. Our stories inspire parents to live a full, joyful life, embracing the opportunities and challenges of being a parent.

We initiated this research study since many of our readers have posted questions about, follow the subject or are homeschooling their children. We wanted to understand the big picture of homeschooling around the world, in order to have a better understanding about what our readers need to read and thus, improve our quality of content. Also, we are happy to share our findings with our readers and collaborators.

Contact:

Alex Cimpoca - Founder, Chief Editor

alex@wisdom.ninja | +1 (845) 277-0629

About MKOR Consulting

MKOR Consulting is an innovative, agile research agency that combines practical business experience, MBA know-how and top-notch research expertise in order to better understand markets for its clients. We cover all standard business research scenarios and have a high flexibility in understanding and delivering the best insights to our clients. The teams' experience counts over 75+ years and 100+ research projects, in the last 3 years. Every project is a new challenge that we take very seriously. Now, we proudly deliver The Homeschooling Report 2017 for the benefit of Wisdom.Ninja's team and stakeholders.

If you feel we can help you business grow, drop us a line at hello@mkor.ro

Contact:

Luiza Coneac - Project Manager

luiza@mkor.ro | +4 (040) 724-800252

