

Homeschool Tips

Staci Mayo

There are so many factors to take into consideration during this time, however, here are a few general bullet points.

- Prioritize Kingdom principles (Matt 6:33)
- relationship over academics (Eph 6:4)
- make academic concepts practical (Deut 11:19)
- teach each child as an individual (Psalm 139:14)
- Learning takes times (James 5:7)
- Focus on mastery not completion (James 1:4)

Cherish the time.

Jamelle Akwar

1. Always start your day with God. Keeping Him as your top priority allows you to begin your day with peace. Start with an age appropriate devotional and allow your child to lead the prayer for a productive day.
2. Be flexible. There is no need to replicate the traditional school environment (I.e sitting at a table, starting and ending at strict times, specific break times, schooling for 8 hours/day, working in a confined space, etc.). Expect your homeschool to take much less time to be completed, allow the child to voice their ideas about what subject to start with, and enjoy school outside sometimes (within a safe physical distance of course).
3. Maintain a daily routine. Understand that the structure your child had in traditional school may need to be adjusted. Prioritize your homeschool hours and give your child your full attention during that time. Stay organized by having a daily schedule for cleaning, cooking, personal time, etc. Remind your child that your family is a team and let them pitch in with age appropriate responsibilities.
4. Be conscious of the environment. Allow your child to work in a well lit area that is free of distractions. Some may benefit from soft instrumental music in the background while others may focus better with no sound.

5. Schedule down time every day so that everyone can have an expected break. During this time your child can nap, do independent work, read alone, or draw.
6. Multiple grade levels? Do as many subjects as you can as a group. For example, review sight words or discuss history topics together. Typically, you will need to focus on math and reading individually.
7. Keep things simple, create incentives for their accomplishments (I.e let them pick the movie for family movie night), connect with your child by being spontaneous, make them laugh, remember that when you relax they do too, take brain breaks, allow for interest lead learning, be energetic, and turn math lessons into a game. These are just a few ways to keep your child focused and positive.
8. Having a rough day? It is completely fine to take a break and restart the next day. Remember your child more than likely has never been exposed to this teacher-student ratio, so what you accomplish each day is relatively significant compared to the traditional classroom. Practice patience by appreciating your limits and taking breaks as needed to exercise, go for a walk, change your scenery, and most definitely to pray.
9. Need help? Reach out to your child's teacher for ideas about how you can teach a topic that your child may need reinforced. Utilize these online resources for extra practice: [khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org), [prodigygame.com](https://www.prodigygame.com), and [reflexmath.com](https://www.reflexmath.com).
10. Take advantage of this time to connect with your child, help mold them into Godly men/women, and instill a love of learning. Have daily discussions about their learning experience to assess what changes you may need to make going forward. Prayer, prayer, prayer!!! Do it often and with your child.