

Why Homeschool?



- One to one adult-child ratio.
- Homeschooling takes 30 minutes a day for grades k-6, about an hour per day for grades 7-9 and two hours a day for grades 10-12. This is less time than homework assigned in public school.
- The curriculum can be tailored to your child's current interest.
- Children who are interested in what they learn retain much more material.
- Concepts can be covered when your child's brain is ready for them, rather than when the school wants to present them.
- Self-esteem is protected if the child is late-reader or has a learning disability.
- Your child meets friends of all ages, genders, cultures, and ethnic background.
- Efficient use of time provides a balance between play, sports, downtime, activities and bookwork.
- Child has more active times, snacks, breaks, whenever he needs them.
- Offers more choices in how the work gets done.
- Less negative peer pressure.
- More time spent with family and siblings is what children need.
- You know exactly what is in the curriculum and can apply concepts to daily activities in and out of home.
- Most programs teach the child so you only provide help, much like homework.
- Focused time on homeschooling provide attention, so child can busy himself at other times to leave parents free to get their work done.
- Children learn to occupy themselves and not depend on you to entertain them.
- Learning becomes part of life, and loved for it's own sake. Learning is not confined to Monday to Friday, 9-3pm. Homeschooling can be done any time of the day or night.
- Children learn to work cooperatively with siblings, rather than competitively with classmates, a skill more valued in the workforce.
- Children get out in the real world more, and explore with interesting field trips any day or time they want.

- You know your child better than any teacher ever will. And this will continue.
- Child can go at whatever speed he wishes breezing through concepts he understands and taking more time to master concepts he finds difficult.
- Acceptable level of understanding material in schools is deemed 50%. Homeschooling can be 100% acceptable level of understanding.
- It's as exciting as when your child took his first step, as watching when he starts to read or the light bulb goes on as he "finally gets it".
- Technology makes it so easy to acquire any resources available in the world, to enhance learning: videos, internet, unit studies, email, etc.
- No lunches to pack, notices to read, cheques to write, baking to provide, shopping for the teacher, school council meetings to attend, fundraising meetings to attend, fundraising to do, parent-teacher interviews to schedule and attend, newsletters to read, not to mention all the volunteering to do in and out of the class. All the administrative time parents spend involved in their child's school can be funneled into the little time it takes to homeschool.
- No assembling children out the door on cold winter mornings and driving them to school in your housecoat. No coaxing, bribing, or threatening them to get off the playground so you can drive them home from school.
- No rushed evenings. Most lessons and sports can be done in the day so dinner is relaxed and families have time to play together in the evenings.
- You no longer have to pay for swimming, music, and other lessons. You don't have to buy backpacks, lunch containers, lost mitts and hats, second pair of inside shoes, snow pants, or the coolest thingy your child absolutely must have to be cool.
- No "Hurry, hurry, hurry, we are going to be late!"
- You can avoid the weekend and afterschool crowds at malls, parks, theatres, and everywhere by going during the day.
- Your introverted and extraverted child can socialize as much or as little as she wants.
- Your child still can still take part in holiday parties, pageants, photos, graduations, field trips and many other typical "Schooly things" organized by homeschooling organizations.
- And best of all, you know your child will always love her teacher!

@Professionalparenting.ca August 2008

By Judy Arnall

Visit our blog at www.unschoolingtouniversity.com