

How to Start Homeschooling Your Gifted Child

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Polls: Who are you?

Your homeschool status

- Just interested
- Thinking about starting soon
- Recently started
- Veteran homeschooler (1+ years)

Your children's ages

- 0-4
- 5-10
- 10-13
- 14-up



Who am I?

- World's Most Reluctant Homeschooler*
- Homeschooled one child K-5
- Other child 6th-present (16 years old)
- Professional writer, teacher
- Amateur singer, cook, gardener...

*former title, now passed on to someone else



What is Homeschooling?

- This is not your grandmother's homeschool!

From...



To...



What is Homeschooling?

- Homeschooling is a flexible alternative education option



What is homeschooling?

- Most schools are more alike than different
- Each homeschool is as unique as each child



What is Homeschooling?

- Homeschooling legalities vary widely from state to state
- Consult your state homeschooling association (note flavor of homeschooling)
- *Possibly* consult state/local department of education



Advantages

- Great for asynchronous learners
- HSing environment tailored to child's needs
- Students follow their passions
- Flexible lifestyle
- Create positive social atmosphere
- Private school education at low(er) cost



Disadvantages

- Steep learning curve for parents
- One spouse may have to quit/cut down work
- Parents may not feel qualified to teach
- Social opportunities have to be sought out
- Disapproval from family, friends, neighbors
- HSing can be done cheaply, but probably costs more than public school



Polls

Are you moving from school to homeschool?

- Yes
- No

Are you afraid you will fail as a homeschooler?

- Yes, quite afraid
- A bit concerned
- Not concerned



How to start: Just start!

- School will always be there
- You can't predict what HSing will be like
- Don't stick too long with a bad situation



How to start: Deschool

- Be aware that you and your child may need some adjustment time
- “Deschooling” is the process of changing from a school-based mindset to a homeschool-based mindset
- You *both* may need to deschool and it may take a while!



How to start: Leaving school

- Include your child in decision-making process
- You don't owe anything to the school
- Best not to burn bridges if possible
- Be open and honest with teachers if possible
- Think of it as a step toward success, not a step away from failure



How to start: The first day

- School is separate from everyday life; homeschool is integrated into everyday life
- "How do homeschoolers get their laundry done?"
- Relax!
- Have fun!*
- Don't buy anything!**



* Research shows that fun learning is the most effective!
** Except a museum membership!

How to start: Typical concerns

- Should I use a homeschooling method?
- What curriculum should I use?
- What should our schedule be?
- How can I make sure that we are "keeping up"?
- What about socialization?



How to start: Socialization

- Be aware that homeschoolers generally laugh when someone asks this question!
- You may have to work at creating a new community that works for your child
- Some children benefit from having *less* socialization, or rather, more *appropriate* socialization
- Your child's social needs will change constantly



Homeschool wisdom

- Focus on child-led learning
- Make lifelong learning your goal

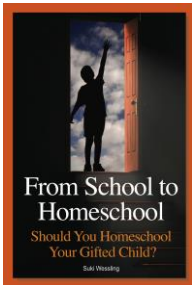


Homeschool wisdom

- You may feel like you are not doing enough—this is OK
- You may wonder whether school would be better—this is OK
- You may take a long time to adjust (deschool)—this is OK
- You will experience joy and wonder at what your child can do—this is wonderful!



More information and support




ATHENA'S
 ONLINE GIFTED EDUCATION
 www.AthenasAcademy.com
 Parent Support Group @ Athena's
 www.AthenasAcademy.com

Favorite resources

Gifted

- *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*
- *Living with Intensity*
- *The Explosive Child*
- Hoagies' Gifted: hoagiesgifted.org
- SENG: sengifted.org
- Gifted support on TAGMAX, Yahoo Groups, Google Groups

Homeschooling

- *Creative Homeschooling*
- A to Z Homeschooling: a2zhomeschooling.com
- Hoagies' Homeschooling: hoagiesgifted.org/home_school.htm
- Sandra Dodd's "Deschooling for Parents": sandraddodd.com/deschooling

My gifted info page: sukiwessling.com/gifted-links/

ENJOY YOUR HOMESCHOOL JOURNEY!