



Things to Remember When You Start Homeschooling

- Family relationships are the most important thing. Good relationships absolutely help fuel your child's education, while poor relationships hinder your child's education (and make everyone miserable!)
- There isn't one perfect curriculum for your family. Do your research, make your choice and work with it. Be careful to not keep switching because it seems there's a 'better' one out there. Yes, sometimes there is a better fit, and you should go for it. But oftentimes, switching can just really mean there's a fear that what you're doing isn't good enough. So, oftentimes it's great to just stick with what you have and do it the best you can. Consistency is better than always getting the best new shiny thing. :)
- Have confidence in your decision to homeschool. Remember your why, and the how will come.
- If you've pulled your kids out of public school to homeschool, allow them time to 'detox'. They have an idea of what education and school 'should' look like, and they need time to let that go and be able and willing to accept a new way of seeing and doing things. Take time to learn how to be together, and to enjoy being around each other. Gradually and patiently help your kids discover that there are other ways to learn. And that it's wonderful!
- Be mindful to ignite curiosity in your kids. Curious kids are engaged kids. And curious and engaged kids love to learn!
- Fan the flames of joyful learning with living books. Mmmm... can't say enough about reading with your kids.
- Make reading aloud to your children a regular thing in your home. Make it a priority. Snuggle together, or let them play on the floor while you read, etc. Model happiness while you're reading and spending time together.
- Mother's are the heart of homeschooling. When mama's happy, everyone's happy. Take time to care for yourself and cultivate a happy heart.
- You don't have to know everything to be a good homeschool mom. In the grand scheme of things, you are just as much a student as your kids are. Allow and enjoy the process of your learning and discoveries right along with your children.
- Remember to take time for yourself. Let yourself rest. Nourish yourself physically and spiritually.
- The baby IS the lesson. :)
- You are the best teacher and facilitator for your kids and their education. No one loves them or knows them like you do!
- Continue learning about the things that interest you. A mom who loves to learn inspires her kids to love to learn.
- Remember that the public school model, with designated times for classes, bells, and grade levels, was created to facilitate an education for the masses. True learning can happen anywhere, anytime. It doesn't have to happen at a certain time of day or at a certain age. While keeping the laws of your state/country, remember to create your homeschool in a way that best serves your unique family.
- God sent these children to you. He is your direct source for inspiration in their education. He trusts you. So that means that you can do it!