

Common Myths about Homeschooling

Myth #1: My children won't be socialized well if I homeschool them!

This is probably the single biggest thing I hear as a downfall of homeschooling, and I will tell you this is absolutely *false*. It is so unfortunate that this has been circulating for so many years. While there will always be exceptions and some homeschooled kids won't have great social skills, I think it's fair to say that even some kids in public school don't have great social skills either. So definitely keep that in mind!

Now, the homeschool environment is very different from the public school environment, so your children will have *different* social skills, but they will have social skills, nonetheless. You will have more time to teach them those skills yourself instead of their peers teaching them (which is true of a lot of things, by the way).

Also, there are many, many opportunities for your children to interact with others—church, sporting events, homeschool co-ops, friends, etc. And instead of sitting in a classroom where everyone is the same age, they can learn to interact with people of all ages.

Myth #2: I don't have a teaching degree, so I can't teach my child.

Answer: Wrong! You can most certainly teach your son/daughter regardless of your education. Kansas (and most states I think) doesn't require you to have a teaching degree to homeschool. Plus, one of the great things about homeschooling is that you get to learn alongside your child. I have learned (and re-learned) quite a bit with my kids over the years, and you will likely find the same to be true.

Myth #3: I am so overwhelmed and scared that I will fail my children.

Answer: I get the overwhelm! Don't let that stop you though. If you are consistent, your hard work and theirs will pay off. I have successfully graduated two of my kids from our homeschool, and they have both moved on to college/work and have done great, despite my worry over the years. Besides, if you find, as they get older, that there's a gap in their education, they can still learn it! For instance, say your high school senior needs to write a research paper, but they never learned MLA style. No biggie! It doesn't take long to learn.

Myth #4: I can't teach math (or some other subject), so I can't teach my children.

Answer: I hear you! Math is my weakness too, so what I have done over the years is delegate that subject. There are numerous online/video math curriculums out there to choose from, many which teach the lessons and automatically grade the assignments and tests. It has been a huge relief to offload that subject in our homeschool. I have done the same with chemistry in high school.

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Myth #5: I will have to sit and give formal classroom instruction for 12 years. That's a long time!

Answer: A wonderful benefit to homeschooling is that you don't even need a classroom! Some families have a dedicated schoolroom, but many don't. Often, during our homeschool day, we are on the couch or around the coffee table. And besides, I don't want our homeschool to look a lot like the public school setting anyway.

Also, sometimes instead of taking "snow days" like the school district does, we sometimes take "sun days." We do this especially in the spring when the weather gets nice. That's another benefit to homeschooling—flexibility!

When you are first starting out, especially if your children are young, you will have to actively help them with their lessons and teach them. However, you will find as they get older, they will want to do the lessons themselves.

One of the GREAT benefits to homeschooling is that your children will learn how to teach themselves. Starting around 4th grade is when my older two started doing many of their lessons on their own. I was there to help, offer suggestions, and check their work, but a lot of it they were able to do without me. And having children grow up and be confident that they can learn something new without help is a great life skill.

Myth #6: I am unorganized and can't keep track of grades, so I can't homeschool my kids

Answer: You *will* need to be disciplined enough to have *some* type of organization, especially in high school years, as you will have to keep track of grades for a high school transcript (sounds scary but it's not). But it doesn't have to be anything fancy, and definitely shouldn't keep you from homeschooling your kids.

At the end of the day, just remember WHY you wanted to start homeschooling in the first place! That will help motivate you on the hard days!

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I'd be happy to answer any questions!*