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The Top Five Reasons You Should Consider Homeschooling

by

Jerome Kendall

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What do you think of homeschooling? Do you envision of a bunch of religious fanatics keeping their kids at home and not teaching them about anything but evangelical Christianity? Do you think of kids that are going out into the world with no abilities to socialize with others because they have been so secluded from the real world? With its start in the 1970's, homeschooling has grown dramatically and increased in popularity over the last thirty-six years. Beyond the myths, millions of Americans are finding homeschooling an excellent alternative to a public education. Is it for you?

#1 - What Public School Teaches Our Children

Many people today strongly object to some of the things public schools are teaching their children. One widely controversial subject is evolution. In many of the home-school science curriculums, evolution is taught as a theory and not a fact, along with the theory of intelligent design. Another subject many parents feel is solely their

responsibility to teach their children is that of sex education.

According to a report released by the Heritage Foundation (Honawar, 2005), programs in public schools “. . . fail to drive home the importance of abstinence and focus instead on encouraging the use of contraception to avoid pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases” (p. 17).

#2 - Better Educations

The myth that home schooled children do nothing all day but run around and play has been proven wrong in many studies. Results from the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (as cited in Wichers, 2001) show that 80% of home schooled children across all age groups achieved individual scores above the national average, compared to 50% of the conventional school population. Home schooled students are also noted as performing as well as traditionally schooled students in higher education (Wichers, 2001). A number of sources agree on the main factors that explain why these students may be doing better academically than children in public schools:

1. More one-on-one attention.
2. Less pressure to be involved in drugs, alcohol, sex, etc.
3. Support systems used by networks of home school families.
4. More challenging curriculums.

#3 - Values, Character, and Religious Beliefs

For many parents, homeschooling is advantageous because the parents are able to instill in their children the values and beliefs that are the foundation of their home. Parents also take school time to work on forming traits in their children that they believe are admirable, instead of trying to undo “copycat” traits picked up at school. In many of the home-school curriculums made available, the Bible is taught as a daily subject. Science is based on the Bible, and history begins with biblical history and works down through the ages. According *Paths of Learning* (Anuszczyk, 2002), “The nurturing of our spiritual lives is the most important work we have here on Earth” (p. 86). Anuszczyk believes, as do many other parents, that, “As parents, our primary role in life is to aid our children in their development of a spiritual practice” (p. 87). Educating at home allows parents to achieve this goal better.

#4 - Family Bonding

Another benefit of homeschooling is the family bonding that takes place. Because parents and children spend most of their time together, parents get to know their children very personally, and the children get to know one another better also. The family is able to work together as a team on overcoming obstacles. Also parents, not strangers, retain the sole responsibility of rearing their children (Ray, 2002).

#5 – Producing Beneficial Citizens

Because of the belief that home-schooled children are sheltered from the rest of the world, they are often labeled as socially unstable. To the contrary, studies have shown that as home schooled children enter adulthood, they are in many ways better adjusted than other children and have much to offer our society as a whole.

According to the author of *Revisiting the Common Myths about Homeschooling* (Romanowski, 2006), “. . . homeschooling produces successful adults who are actively involved in their communities and continue to value education for themselves and their children” (p. 126). The study surveyed more than seventy-three hundred adults

who were home schooled, with more than five thousand of these being home schooled for at least seven years. Their responses and results demonstrate that home schooled students are excellent citizens compared to the general U.S. population”.

Welcome Home

We all know that homeschooling is on the rise. More and more parents are deciding to take the plunge and educate their children themselves. Maybe it's because of the peer pressures at school, the guns and violence, or just simply because they want more time with their kids. Maybe homeschooling is just the answer you've been looking for.

References

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