

The Decision to Homeschool

Question: Why do some families chose to homeschool?

Answer: The decision to homeschool can be determined due to a number of factors. There is no definitive answer that one can give to tackle this question. A family's motivations to homeschool are in many cases multi factorial and can include one or more of the following reasons: religion and/or educational freedom. There are many other reasons that families may have for homeschooling but at this time I would like to focus on the aforementioned reasons.

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Religion in most cases is an extremely influential factor in the decision to homeschool. {quotes}Religion is more than just a belief for some families; it is a way of life. Many people who are religious want to combine education with religion and this is best done at home due to the many negative influences and conflicting values that may be present inside of public and private school systems.{/quotes} As is well known the debate has risen for quite sometime on whose responsibility it is to instill good moral character and values to children. Although debated most may agree that this is the responsibility of the parents and caregivers. To those whom these issues are of grave importance they will be unwilling to turn this responsibility over to the uncertainties of the public school system.

Private schools that follow the same religious doctrine of the family are a far better choice than the public schools when it comes to tackling these issues. However, even within a particular religious community you will find people varying in their conviction and adherence which is often manifest in the behavior of their children. So with this being the case, there still may exist some danger of the negative influence of a child's classmates upon his or her religious beliefs, values, and/or character. Admittedly, one cannot control each and every environment and/or encounter that their child may experience. Therefore, homeschooling due to this reality is in some cases an attempt to minimize society's harms on their children while equipping them with the necessary tools to make an informed decision based on the beliefs and values taught by their parent or caregiver in a homeschooling setting. Parents have a personal stake in the rearing of their children, religiously and educationally. Thus, if the parent is willing and able then who better to educate the child than the parents?

Educational freedom is among one of the top reasons families chose to homeschool. Advocates of homeschooling feel that the K- 12 Public educational institutions are not challenging enough nor up to par to provide their children the necessities needed in daily living. {quotes} Education has no limits but within the public/private school system time constraints are factored into the daily schedule. Children learn at different levels and may have different learning styles than that of a set school curriculum. {/quotes}Homeschoolers are not bound by these learning constraints, thus providing them with a personalized approach to education. Parents and caregivers are not limited to a specific method of teaching. Homeschoolers are offered a number of different teaching methods with regards to education. From among these

teaching methods the most common are: unschooling, eclectic homeschooling, Charlotte Mason, distance learning, and core curriculum studies. Parents enjoy the freedom to chose what, when, where, and how their children will learn without any outside influences.

In conclusion the decision to homeschool is not one that can be defined by any one reason. Religion, education, culture, morals, etc… all play a role in the mind of a parent who decides to homeschool.

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