

WHY DO WE HOMESCHOOL OUR CHILDREN?

There are many and varied reasons why parents Homeschool their children. Based on extensive research I've done, and my personal experience as both a private school mom and a homeschool mom, I'd like to share the reasons we Homeschool with you.

REASON # 1

LIFE IS SHORT! LET'S GET THE MOST OUT OF OUR TIME TOGETHER!

The time we are given with our children is short, 20 years flies by. I don't want them sitting away from us at a school for a good portion of this time. Only a small part of this time at school is actually spent learning. The remainder, well who knows? The time we have with the people we love can never be repeated. If it is misused or wasted that's it. There are no second chances.

I want to remind you about a story that I'm sure you heard as a child. The story is about a magic dragon named Puff, who is befriended by a little boy named Jackie Paper. They are best friends and have many adventures together. They take on pirates, Kings and Queens bow to them as they pass by, they are adventurers of the best sort.

But there comes a time as the song says, "dragons live forever, but not so little boys", when Jackie Paper grows up. He moves onto other things, more grown up activities. He no longer visits Puff in his imaginary world. Puff is heartbroken and is never the same again.

What I want to share with you is this precious time before your "Jackie Paper" grows up. To ask you to stop and become aware again of how short our time with our children is. How precious this time is. How it isn't possible to reclaim this time, once it is gone.

In the song, Puff, is no longer brave, he sheds his scales like rain, and sadly retreats to his cave. Don't end up like Puff. You have the chance to cherish your children in a unique way. What better way than to Homeschool them?

REASON # 2

CHILDREN DESERVE TO BE SAFE AND CHERISHED

All children are precious and deserve to be cherished. All children have the right to be safe to not be abused in any shape or form. I know by Homeschooling my kids, they are safe and are not the victims of abuse either by teachers or peers or some psychiatric monstrosity in the playground. My daughter was 7 and bullied horrendously at her school. No matter what I did, I couldn't get the school to do anything about it. I was told she needs to learn to say no. She was coming home with bruises on her for Gods sake!

Now a lot of people get upset when they hear what I'm about to tell you next. The research I've done, has brought to light that the extreme result of bullying is child suicide. It's now referred to as Bullycide. Many children choose this route as they see no chance of a future for themselves. The stats from the UK tell us about 16 children a year kill themselves AS A DIRECT RESULT OF BE BULLIED. In the USA the numbers are much higher.

Now these deaths are not just teenagers, they're children as young as 8 years old!

I don't want my child in this situation! It is my children's right to be protected from this sort of environment. If that means I'm "overprotective" then so be it! My child is safe and allowed to grow up without the unnecessary pressure of being victimised in a supposedly "safe" environment. My kids are safe, they're Homeschooled!

REASON #3

CHOICE OF CURRICULUM

I get the curriculum laid out by the State, BUT, I do not teach my kids everything in it, as there are things that are not age appropriate. My 7 year old, does not need to know the ins and outs of drug abuse just yet. She doesn't need to know the ins and outs of sexual abuse. She doesn't need to know how HIV is transmitted. These things are not age appropriate. There is plenty of time to introduce these topics, in the right circumstances and in the right way.

My kids get all the usual subjects, from Maths to Biology, etc. But they also get an alternative view on some subjects and the latest up to date research as well.

I get to teach our kids our belief system. It may be different to yours, but everyone has the right to their own belief system and religious view. I don't want my moral code and ethical views, made irrelevant by the school system.

Part of what my children are taught is Love, Respect and Care for all, themselves included. They have the right to question, and question they do! They are not afraid to ask a grown up their opinion. 2 examples in the past week come to mind.

1. My son 5 years old asked a dinner guest, "do you believe in God?" The 2 of them had a long discussion about this as they had different views. My son was not dismissed as irrelevant because of his age. And there was no aggression in this discussion.
2. My daughter found in one of my library books, that someone had crossed out a number of words, some in pen, and some in pencil. She rubbed out the pencils ones as best she could. I never said anything about it she did this on her own. When we went to the Library this past Saturday. She asked the Librarian, a middle aged man, "Excuse me. Could you tell me why people draw and scribbled words out in these books?" Again she wasn't dismissed as a small child. He discussed this matter with her and how it saddened him. They both came away richer for the discussion.

We're able to incorporate out of the ordinary activities into our curriculum as well. Things like Craft time. Meeting each child's needs one on one. One may need help with Fine Motor Skills, another with something else. By teaching one on one, we get to tackle each of these challenges.

REASON # 4

DISCIPLINE

Now this is a touchy one. Peoples' views vary here. Our view is that children need to be brought up in a Non-Violent manner. We use the techniques recommended by Dr Marshall Rosenberg. In other words, we talk things out, we do not hit, we don't humiliate, we do not punish.

We talk thing out , often for what feel like hellishly long times, but it's worth it. We go to bed at night, knowing that we have done the right things. We are building our childrens confidence, their self esteem, they trust us. They also know that there is nothing that cannot be solved by taking responsibility for your actions and speaking your differences out. This is done by recognising your needs and the needs of others.

Thank you for downloading this article, I hope it has given you some insight into our choices, and the reasons why we homeschool. **Why do we want to encourage you to Homeschool?** Well it's been our experience that there is not better education system. By Homeschooling, your children are given a well rounded education taking the entire child into account. Not just their academic well being. Only by teaching children, love, non-violence, respect and their right to question will we ever see a change in the society we live in.

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