

More than One is Twice the Fun!

1. Remember that the first priority for Home School is to grow and maintain a Love of Learning.
 - a. Children can be and are responsible to LEARN
 - b. Your job is to FACILITATE the learning
 - c. Avoid getting in the way of their learning process

2. How to prioritize:
 - a. Pray, listen and obey
 - b. Feel what is right and do it
 - c. Let go of the clock and embrace what is happening NOW

3. "It's time for School!"
 - a. It's time when you say it's time
 - b. Prepare for the time by readying the room and supplies
 - c. Take as much time as necessary to help everyone else get ready, i.e. clothes, shoes, notebooks, workbooks, combed hair, breakfast.

4. Deal with group matters in the group, and individual matters with the individual

5. When it's time for chores, use these words:
 - a. Would you rather do...(this or that)?
 - b. Would you be willing to do...?

6. Barter in private for work that needs to be done. Barter with things unique to each one.

7. Do YOUR business, checkbook, drawing, accounting, writing, etc. while they are doing THEIR school work. It helps them to see WHY they are doing it and gives them an example of how to focus and finish. They also like the idea of having YOU busy too!

8. Limit the amount of structured time imposed upon them. Have a good strong 'together' time, with songs, stories, scriptures, discussion and exercise. Then individual time doing lessons. After that, let them find things to learn on their own by providing the atmosphere and environment that is conducive for it.

9. Focus on the basics, READ, WRITE, MATH. The rest will follow as they read and are curious. Find a way to get them tested, but only once in a long while. It gives them an idea of where they are and helps you to know what more you might need to do.

10. Make the library a weekly event and be generous with how many books you allow to be checked out. Even if it means more fines for losing or late books, it's worth it because the library, more than anything, will peak their curiosity and satisfy it as well. Don't be afraid to USE it!

11. Let them work out difficulties occasionally, on their own, with no intervention. If the issue isn't too violent, let them work through some painful issues on their own, with siblings. They often will come to an agreement on their own that they are willing to abide by and it will sometimes be better if THEY thought of it themselves.

12. Allow them to choose their social interactions. Give them options, show them opportunities, and let them decide. You don't have to always be the one 'giving' them social events. You can go to some things that are your idea, but mostly, they will be more likely to have a good, and beneficial experience if it was their idea. Let them join a ball team, or a drama event, or a music or dancing group, or visit a friend, or even to hold their own event to which they invite others.

13. Invite and encourage each one individually and privately, to tell you when they think anything is going on that THEY think is a problem. This fosters accountability among all siblings and family members. They may at first think that it is a detriment, but you will all find that it keeps you all better informed and happier with each other when you know that there are checks and balances within your home. Reward them for telling you things with your confidence, and ABSOLUTELY REFRAIN from any form of punishment when you find out things. This will eliminate the feeling of wanting to RAT on someone and get them punished. This is about accountability and responsibility, safety and love. Teach this to them in quiet moments, so that when something happens and there is no anger or punishment, but simply knowing and solving, then it helps them to see the benefits of that knowledge.

14. Believe your children. Even if you think they may be lying. Believe them. Show confidence. If it comes out later that they lied, and you both know it, then you simply ask them (without anger or blame) to apologize, and promise not to do it again. Then leave it alone. Give them the chance to be different. Forget the past mistakes once they have apologized. Love them enough to believe them, trust them, and give them second chances.

15. Talk to them. Teach them. Train them. BUT...Always with LOVE. If you cannot speak in love, kindness, and respect, then wait until you can. If you have to, go to your room and be silent for a while until you can speak without anger. Children hear what you are feeling at them, more than what you are saying. If your feelings are powerfully negative and angry, it will crush their spirits and they will cower and be silenced. This is death to curiosity, innocence, freedom, accountability, and love; all the things you require in order to have a successful home school!