

8 Principles for Home Educating

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Proverbs 1:7

1. **Family is a community.** Children are formed through relationships. They are watching and learning from our lives. The decisions we make influence them. Our loves may become their loves. What we neglect they may learn to neglect. Spending time talking to and living alongside our kids may do more to shape them than anything else.
2. **Home Education is more than academics.** Academics are important and will be necessary building blocks in their lives but so are other life skills. Home Education provides a great chance to build both. Learning to help around the house; think creatively about how to be kind to neighbours; look after pets; cook; occupy yourself, are all important too.
3. **Manageable expectations.** Better a little consistently, than wild aspirations that only leave you feeling guilty. Decide how much academic learning is realistic. Maybe a couple of hours a morning or in the afternoon and then just stick to it.
4. **Routine is your friend.** Routines serve the whole family (even the dog). Deciding when and where you are going to do your school means you don't spend precious head space battling that out with the kids each day. You might also decide to alternate subjects or focused attention on different children each day.
5. **Getting them off to a God start.** As Christian parents we have an important job to show our children the wonder of our God and His salvation in Jesus. Reading the Bible together, talking about sticky questions from a Christian viewpoint, or praying with your kids is an important foundation to lay.
6. **Parents are limited.** Even the most extroverted parent craves their own space. Set up some boundaries in your house or in your day that means you find a safe space to recharge and refresh. Build that into your routine.
7. **Use resources.** We do not need to reinvent the wheel. Thanks to the internet and fantastic books you can access resources for every subject. Look for good recommendations of books and websites, find some pre-made resources and get going.
8. **You know your child.** Some kids can't sit still for more than 20 minutes, others are highly motivated by rewards like TV time at the end of the day, some need to be left to it, others need you right there. Work out what works for your child. Multiple break times are ok!