



Socialization and Side-Benefits of Home-Schooling

Why have many families across the nation decided to keep their children home for some, or even all, of their education? Here are the benefits of home-school and some reasons why I think it is “compulsory” for our family.

First of all, *I can* accomplish so much more in a day. It has been stated that every six hours of institutional school is equal to two hours of home-school; so that gives me more time to involve myself in not only academics but also Bible study, research, writing, voice lessons, piano playing, oil painting, and sports, as well as learning and using home economic skills.

Second, in answer to the question most asked of home-schoolers, “But what do you do for a social life?”: I’ve met my best friends at our home-school support group. There are also church and sports activities where I interact with others - not only my age, but older and younger too. I feel my energies are spared the draining effect of peer pressures that I have experienced in the past in an institutional school. I have channeled that energy into learning different skills that I will be needing when I graduate and am on my way into the real world and life.

Third, we have more opportunities to take educational field trips. Over the past six years, we’ve taken trips to historic Gettysburg, Williamsburg, Jamestown, Boston, and Lexington. We’ve also gone on a five-week camping trip to the Western United States, during which time we not only worked on our studies; but we were able to see our history and geography lessons come alive. Many never get the opportunity to see some of these things. Within our own state our family has visited the Valley Forge National Historical Park and toured Philadelphia, as well as many other fascinating places.

Home-education is an important part of my life. It fills a need for more family-centered, biblical, one-on-one schooling.

A “social life” every day can be bad for children in schools. From my experience at school, I know that there are students who are the “picked-on” ones and are damaged by the social life.

In home-school, not only are children spared unnecessary harassment by peers, but they have the positive advantage of learning to relate to their parents and other adults on a full-time basis. This is good because they will be spending the rest of their lives relating to adults.

I am very grateful to my parents for their sacrifice of time and energy for home-schooling, to our local school district for their assistance, and to the Lord for using them to “train (me) up in the way (I) should go.” -Proverbs 22:6. -Holly Hageman; Copyright March 2001, January 2004.

This article is actually two (abridged) merged into one. They are not only a part of my teenage years (written when I was 16 and 18), but they were written when we were in the process of trying to get our current home-school law passed so we could home-school with more freedom in our state.

At that time I made two separate presentations (using these articles) before Pennsylvania’s Department of Education who were not especially fond of the idea of home-schooling. They were my first encounters with public speaking, which God used mightily in shaping and molding my young life.