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APPENDIX A.....*Choosing Curriculum*

APPENDIX B.....*Understanding Standardized Testing*

APPENDIX C.....*Reproducible Forms*

HOUSEKEEPING

CURRICULUM SCOPE

SCHEDULE WEEK AT A GLANCE

COORDINATING A NUMBER OF CHILDREN

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT SHEET

UNIT STUDY PLANS

PROGRAM OF STUDY

REGISTRY OF GREAT READING

YEARLY GOALS

MONTHLY GOALS

## **THIS IS A WORKING MANUAL!**

THERE ARE MARGINS AND EXTRA PAGES  
THROUGHOUT FOR TAKING NOTES.  
(YOU CAN EVEN ADD YOUR OWN  
GOOD IDEAS.)

MAKE IT YOUR PERSONAL HANDBOOK  
FOR HOMESCHOOL SUCCESS!

**In this section...**

- ***Why ask why?***
- ***The nuts and bolts—  
planning and organizing  
for success***

# *Section One* **Foundations for Excellence**

*"My utmost goal is to teach you to  
teach your children." —Gayle Graham*

**I**f you're like most folks who've decided to homeschool, you face a lot of mixed emotions—from enthusiasm to a slight twinge of apprehension.

Maybe you're a little confused with all the choices in curriculum and instruction. Recordkeeping seems overwhelming. What if you overlook something? Or, maybe you're just not quite sure about how to pull your program together. Well, whether you're a seasoned homeschooler or a novice, this manual is for *you*.

Homeschooling began for the Graham family in 1982. Ever since, I've had a desire to set a foundation for excellence in our home-school and help you do the same in yours. My purpose is not to convince you to homeschool (there are lots of fine books already on that topic), but to give you the nuts and bolts of *how* to homeschool — a practical, working guide for your homeschool. My utmost goal is to teach you to teach your children.

If God has called you to home school, He wants you to excel in what He has called you to do! I hope this book helps you to be an excellent home educator. (And please let me know how it has helped you or any suggestions you have for improvement. My publisher's address is in the front of this book!)

May God bless you and your family as you do exactly what He has called you to do in educating your children at home.

**In this chapter...**

- ***Why ask why?***
- ***Learning Differences***
- ***Homeschool Benefits***

## Section One, Chapter One

# Why Home School?

*“And all your children shall be disciples, taught of the Lord and obedient to His will, and great shall be the peace of your children.”*  
—Isaiah 54:13

“Why are you homeschooling?” If you haven’t been asked that question yet, you soon will. But even if no one else ever asks, it’s absolutely necessary to ask yourself— and wait for a clear answer.

You are probably anxious to dig into teacher’s manuals, start planning your lessons and get going on all the practical elements of homeschooling, but before you do that it is really vital for your survival to consider exactly why you are homeschooling.

Know your reasons. Know if indeed God is asking you to do this for your children. Because if you don’t know for sure that He has led you to homeschool, when things get a little tough it might be hard for you to stick with it! And I can assure you that in February, when it has been raining for 21 days straight (as it did in our state one year) it feels a little tough at times.

There are many valid answers to our question. Let’s look at a few.

### **Builds Godly Character**

Most of you tell me that character training is the most important element of your home school. You want your children to have Godly character traits: attentiveness, flexibility, joyfulness, obedience, responsibility, organizational habits, creativity. The list of Godly character traits that we want to impart to our children is endless. Instead of saying that a trained, knowledgeable mind will conquer bad habits, we say Godly character will place a person in a position where he can be trained to do something positive with the knowledge he acquires!

We all know educated fools. I'm talking about adults who are extremely well educated, but in fact don't know how to properly use their knowledge.

A *Wall Street Journal* interviewer asked businesses the question, "What do you most desire of college graduates?" The answer was that businesses desire men and women who are honest, diligent, and who work hard. These are all character qualities!

Homeschoolers have four advantages in developing character.

*First of all, the best part of the child's day is right at home with the parent.* You have those daily golden opportunities to instill values in your child. If you are with your own children most of the day, you won't miss those quality times.

A myth circulating in our society says we don't need quantity time with our children, we need quality time. But if you think about it, you know as well as I do that no one can plan golden moments. You *can't* plan them. They just happen. If you're not there for that golden opportunity to instill a value in your child, it's gone!

*Homeschooled children develop character in the home through modelling.* As the old adage goes "Values are caught, not taught." The most productive way to teach our children our values is not sitting with them at the end of the evening, reading them a Bible story (although this is a good habit to form.) The best way to help our children develop Godly character is through modelling it ourselves. The more time they spend with us, the more they will see that role model.

I don't have to tell you what peer role models do to our children. We do not want our children to learn their values from other children. We want them to learn character and Godly values from us. The more time they spend with us, the more opportunity they will have to learn our character traits.

*Homeschool youngsters develop character through work involvement.* A few years ago, there was an article entitled **Success Secret** (based on George & Caroline Vaillant's report in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*.) Researchers from Harvard University did a long-term study of how success in adulthood related to what had happened in the same adults' childhood.

They studied 456 men from childhood until age 47. The researchers discovered that those who had worked hardest as children developed into the best paid and most satisfied family men.