

How much time per day and year should I devote to homeschooling?

- ❖ The deschooling of the mind is a fundamental part of this process to avoid the common mistakes of wanting to bring school into the house and carry out education with rigidity, inflexible schedules and castrated structures.
- ❖ We must change the misperception that children are empty drawers to be filled with knowledge. Children are self-taught by nature, but the traditional system insists on fully directing processes and not giving way to creativity and independence in learning. Let your child guide you through this process.
- ❖ It has been proven that in a school setting, during a period of classes, 80% of that time is spent on group control ("shut up, sit down, look for the notebook page, permission to go to the bathroom"), leaving only 20% for teaching the concepts.

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- ❖ Being individualized teaching:
- ❖ Only a fraction of the time (fewer hours) than is required in a traditional classroom is needed because there is no competition factor for the attention given in a school environment (20-30 children).
- ❖ Not all classes need to be offered, every day. You can cover a lot of material in less time because the child goes with him. Example: they can take between 2 and 3 subjects per day. You can even encourage decision-making by letting the child choose which subjects they want to take daily.
- ❖ Many children, when a new topic is explained or given an example, can then continue to work independently.
- ❖ When you have contemporary children (1-2 years apart), you can teach some subjects together; for example: science, Spanish and social studies
- ❖ You can take the time to explain without haste, leave a topic for later because it is not at the level of understanding, play lessons if you already know the material, do 10 exercises instead of 60 because you have mastered the skill, etc.
- ❖ No one said you had to start in August and finish in May. The family rhythm decides. You can start at any time of the year.

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- ❖ Being individualized teaching:
- ❖ You can choose which classes to offer and which not, but if they will return to the regular school system, it is suggested that they take at least 5 basic classes and document them in their portfolio.
- ❖ You can do two degrees in the same year if you have a child with endowed areas. Remember that a student may be academically challenged but not necessarily emotionally prepared for the jump. Homeschooling has no place for haste.
- ❖ You can take all the time in the world if the child does not master some skills that will be needed later and it may be necessary to go back several degrees. For example: does not master multiplication tables.
- ❖ You can be in some subjects working one degree and in other subjects being in another degree, depending on your weaknesses and strengths. There are no rules because it is intended to emphasize the mastery of skills.
- ❖ Don't obsess about calendars, agendas, "planners" because they are a guide and not a straitjacket. If you can't fulfill something, tomorrow is another day.
- ❖ Instead of scheduling everything you do, you can follow the order of selected material and set annual or semester goals; it will be less stressful.

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- ❖ Will vary depending on the number of children and family commitments. It is suggested to separate time with each boy to impart new material, to explain instructions or concepts. While spending time with one of your children, look for activities that do not require direct supervision by others, especially the youngest ones. You can find in the links the activities of Montessori from 2 to 6 years old.
- ❖ Avoid outside interruptions from family and friends during home education hours. Don't let others manage your schedule.
- ❖ Examples of possible school calendars (the school calendar traditional consists of 180 days):
 - ❖ 3 to 5 weeks of study with one week off
 - ❖ 8 weeks of study with two free weeks
 - ❖ Regular school calendar with 4 days of classes and 1 for group activities
 - ❖ Study year-round and take breaks when the family situation warrants it

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- ❖ Examples of suggested and/or approximate daily time
Preschool - 15 to 30 minutes
Kinder - 30 minutes to 1 hour
Grade 1 and 2 - 45 minutes to 1.5 hours
Grade 3 and 4 - 1.5 hours to 3 hours
Grades 5 and 6 - 2.5 hours to 3.5 hours
Grade 7 and 8 - 3 hours to 4.5 hours
Higher School - 3.5 hours to 6 hours
- ❖ This varies among students depending on the level of understanding, attention, whether there is any special need, if there are special jobs or projects he is working on, the number of classes he is taking.