



10 HOMESCHOOLING TIPS FOR WORK-FROM-HOME PARENTS



1 COME UP WITH A ROUTINE

Not only is this a life-saver when it comes to juggling a work schedule, but also a way to establish discipline as children themselves thrive on routine. Creating and sticking to a routine helps put them in the "school" mindset even if they are home, and it also gives them something reliable and constant in a world that currently has too much uncertainty for anyone's liking.



2 DIVIDE THE CURRICULUM

Some schools give the grade level's full curriculum for the year in order to prep parents. Those with flexibility will benefit from dividing the curriculum into quarters. Not only does this make the task less daunting, but it also sets goals with time limits, which is the kind of discipline both teacher and student need.



3 CHILL

Take it one day at a time. Some days are going to be complete failures. That's okay.



4 AIM FOR 2-3 HOURS A DAY

Full school days need not be recreated. Tackling two or three subjects each day is enough to keep the ball rolling.



5 DON'T FORGET LIFE SKILLS

Life isn't about school and neither should school just be about school. How many kids have been sent off to college with no inkling of how a washing machine works? Life skills like laundry, cooking, cleaning, paying bills on time, and maintaining a home are just as important as algebra and history, maybe even more so!



6 GET CREATIVE: PLAY GAMES

Musical chairs with math problems to solve when you sit on them, a scavenger hunt with clues taken from a story read for lit class, or a simple round of scrabble to help perfect spelling are just a few games parents can play with their kids while incorporating the lessons they need to accomplish.



7 GET DIRTY: GO OUTSIDE

Cabin fever can make homeschooling very stressful. When that stress hits, make plans to take lessons outside. Whether the lesson be on gardening, making a sun dial, or driving around so kids can practice reading signs or navigating maps, taking things outside of the house can deflate any tensions that may rise.



8 ENCOURAGE ARTS

When a breather from conventional subjects is needed, encourage art no matter how untalented the child might be. This develops different aspects of their brain, and it allows parents some quiet time to make sure their own work is still rolling.



9 DON'T STAY AWAY FROM COMPUTERS

There are many studies that show the negative effects of excessive screen time on children, but a half hour or two here and there won't kill them. Plus, there are plenty of new educational shows that can supplement what they're learning.



10 RELISH THE TIME

No other time in recent history has asked so many parents to spend this much time with their kids. Whether the "old normal" returns or the "new normal" still evolves in a way that give parents and kids their own separate schedules, parents would be wise to enjoy the gift of time they are currently being given. There is a silver lining in everything, after all, and one need not be a good teacher to be a great parent.