

Which is it? Home Schooling or Home Education?

by Maxine McLellan of JOY Center of Learning

Home schooling and home education are two terms often used interchangeably. There are actually differences in their approaches to the education of children in the home. **Home schooling** is bringing the classroom, blackboard, books, schedule and all into the home from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The mother, and sometimes the father, will act as “teachers” for each subject and child and fulfil all the functions of “teacher.” Often in home schooling “Bible” is taught as a separate subject, although some curricula do mix scriptural truths and principles throughout all the subjects. At the end of the “school day” the books will be packed away and life will often resume with a different atmosphere. Often the curriculum becomes the slave master and is seen as the primary teaching method. The activities of each day are strictly governed by it.

Home education is continuous learning by the entire family during the entire day, every day. Learning does not shut down at 3:30. Most do use prepared curriculum resources for some of each day to lay strong academic foundations and I strongly recommend this. Children need to learn someone is in control and how to respond scripturally to authority. They also need to learn there is structure and accountability in life and that life does not revolve solely around their personal likes and dislikes. This process will prepare them to work with others. In home education though, curriculum is not the slave master but is a flexible tool. Academic subjects are integrated with Scripture as a cohesive unit, intertwined with character training and development. Activities of the day will often be geared to fortify and strengthen the learning that takes place during the scheduled academic studies. For instance, meal preparation will be an extension of the science, math and home economics lessons, and development of the character quality of responsibility. There is freedom to take time for the children’s personal interests and subjects of study.

Christian home educating families and many home schooling families strongly believe there is no better place than the home to live out the mandate of Deuteronomy 5:5-7: “Love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou rises up.”

For more information on home education and home schooling contact Maxine at 519-925-9721 or mail@joycenter.on.ca

This article originally appeared in the OCHEC Summer 2000 newsletter.

Permission to reprint must be obtained from the author and/or OCHEC office.