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Should we Homeschool?
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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Should we Homeschool? QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

→ What are your reasons for changing your current situation? What are your goals?

Are you looking to solve problems your child is experiencing at school? Do you or your spouse have a unique work schedule that makes a traditional school schedule challenging? Honestly evaluating your reasons will help you determine what homeschooling approach would work in your home, or whether homeschooling would actually be a good fit. If homeschooling will allow you to be together as a family, or to address a particular child's academic needs, it will likely be a better fit than if your goal is to try to make your homeschool look like your amazing neighbor's. When you have a challenging day (or week), you want to know that you have a compelling reason that will keep you pushing ahead.

→ What are your values or priorities as a family?

Do you value time together? Or seeing your children all reach their individual potential? Establishing top 1-3 priorities for your family will help you narrow down the homeschool groups or resources you may want to access, such as extracurriculars, co-ops, outdoor adventures, specialty classes, etc. This will also help you determine what homeschooling approach might be a best fit for you and your kids. There are a hundred ways to homeschool, so knowing the type of culture you want to cultivate in your home and homeschool is important.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What are your child's strengths and weaknesses? How do they learn best? What would your child enjoy learning or doing that would be easily facilitated by homeschooling?

Consider academics, non-academic pursuits, and character/personality development. Does your child struggle with completing tasks in a timely manner? This will be an issue when you homeschool. Do you have an entrepreneurial kiddo who would benefit from the time and freedom to start their own business? Thoughtfully evaluate each of your kids; how will you deal with their weaknesses? And cater to their strengths?

- What are your strengths and weaknesses as a parent/teacher?

It's easy to spend all of your time planning for your kids' education. However, equally important is planning for yourself as the teacher. Your personality and style will have a huge impact on the methods, activities, and curriculums that are a good fit for you.

- What are the current schedule or household challenges that might affect your ability to homeschool?

This can include pregnancy and younger children, work outside the home, on-going medical issues, etc. These factors need to be weighed heavily in your planning, as they will ultimately have a great deal of impact on the types of activities and methods that will work well for you.

Should we Homeschool? QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How well set up is your space for homeschooling?
You don't by any means have to have the ideal homeschool room, but you do want to have a plan for where you will do schoolwork and where or how you will store books and supplies.

- What kind of support will you have for homeschooling? What kind of extracurricular groups or activities would your family be interested in joining?
If you already know friends who are homeschooling, great! They probably know a lot of the ins and outs of the homeschool groups, activities, and resources in your area. Plus, if they're friends your family enjoys spending time with, you already have the beginning of a network of friends for your kiddos. If not, spend some time online. You will soon find that there are a myriad of resources and groups with all kinds of different focuses. Doing your research, and knowing what you're looking for in a group before you join in will help you be selective and find the best fit.