

Homeschool INDIANA

a publication of the Indiana Association of Home Educators | Issue 23, Volume 2



— SPECIAL 36-PAGE CONVENTION ISSUE! —

35th
IAHE

Home Educators'
CONVENTION

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Homeschool Indiana Core Values
To be Christ-focused
To be Indiana-focused
To be encouraging
To be a resource

Our HS advisor, Noelle Brennan, is here to help you!
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Welcome

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

No, I'm not talking about Christmas. Which is TRULY the most wonderful... I'm actually referring to IAHE's busy season of January through March.

Our entire volunteer team is buzzing with important work that allows us to serve you well. This time of year is full of deadlines and important planning. In January, over forty of our volunteers came together for a day of training, networking, and planning. What a privilege it is to serve with this amazing group of Indiana families!

Do you wonder what we're up to?

Our biggest tasks this time of year revolve around two key areas: the legislative session and preparing for our convention. This issue of *Homeschool Indiana* showcases both of these pieces of our ministry.

The legislative session is currently only half over. Our team is watching the threats to homeschool freedom, not only in proposed bills, but also in slanted media coverage, bureaucratic agendas, and overreach by school administrators. In this issue, be sure to check out the following articles about how you can help protect your freedom:

- The Pillars of Homeschool Freedom
- 10 Compelling Reasons to Attend the Legislative Panel at the 2020 IAHE Convention

The countdown to the **35th Annual IAHE Home Educators' Convention** is underway! The IAHE Convention is the highlight of our year. This issue is full of convention information and wonderful articles from some of our speakers. When the winter blues start to bring you down, our prayer is that you'll find help and hope between these pages. And, make your plans now to attend the convention on March 27 & 28. Invite your friends! **There is no substitute for being surrounded by families on the same journey. When we come together, we find strength, inspiration, and motivation.**

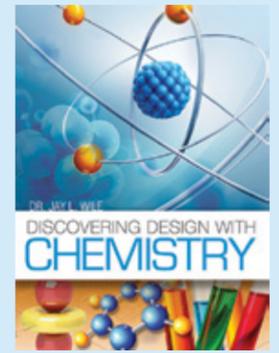
Be encouraged mom and dad! You are making a difference in the lives of your children.

Tara Bentley
Executive Director, IAHE
Managing Editor, Homeschool Indiana

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. — Colossians 3:23-24

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Indiana Association of Home Educators
(IAHE) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

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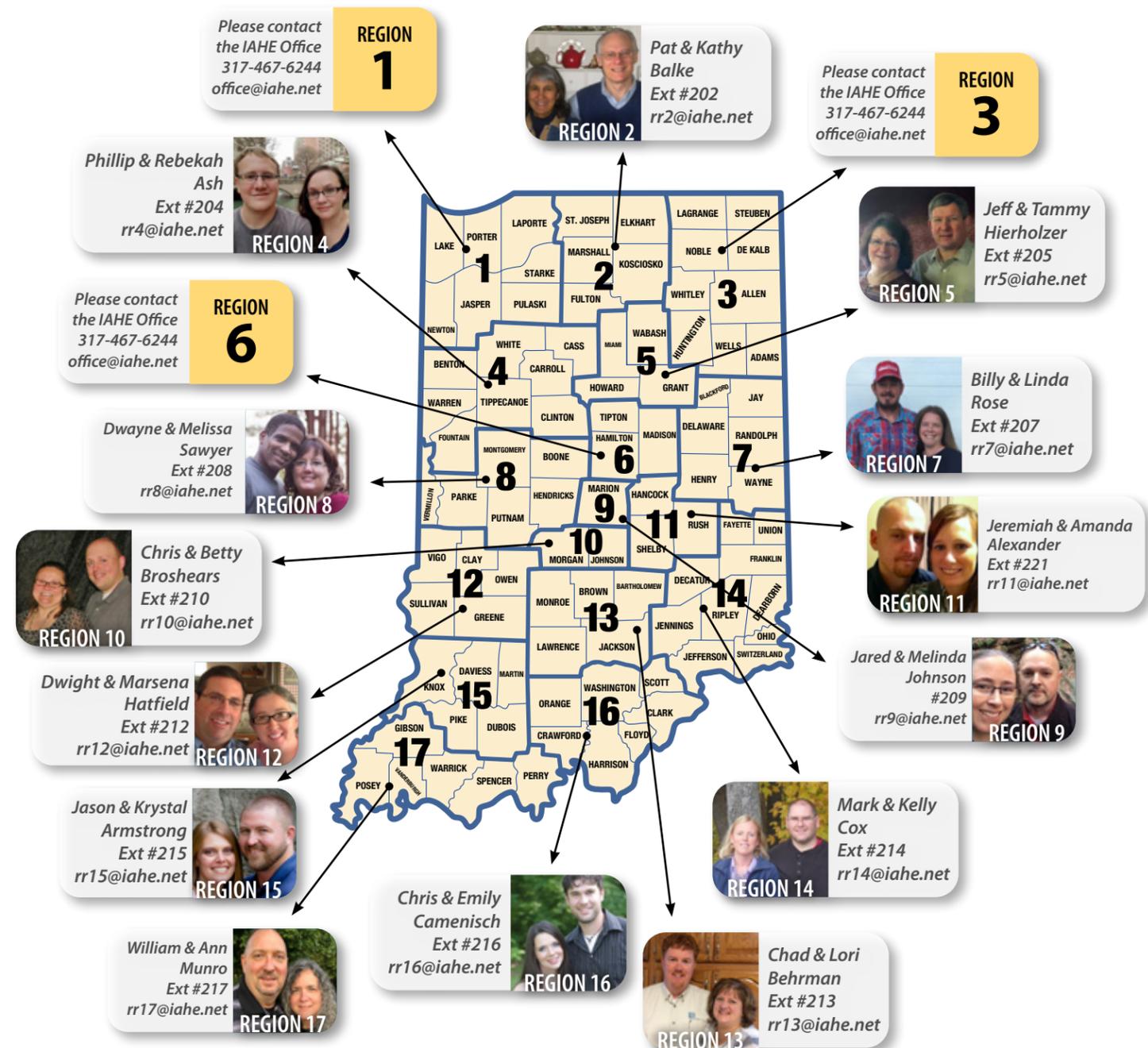


Serving the homeschooling community throughout Indiana.

Have you connected with your IAHE Representative?

Regional Representatives are veteran homeschool parents who are here to support your family on your home education adventure. Whether you are looking for local activities, have questions about curriculum, or want to find a support group in your area, your Regional Representative couple is available to help you!

To contact any of our reps by phone, dial 317-467-6244 and then their extension.





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DAYS TO REMEMBER

The Salvation Army | 1880

The Salvation Army, founded in England by William Booth, is brought to the United States when George Scott Railton and seven other women arrive in New York City. Now active in over 100 countries, the Salvation Army shares God's love, assists disaster survivors, serves the homeless, helps the unemployed find jobs, and much more.

★ *With your child, research your local Salvation Army and see what you can do to help spread God's love to others in your community.*

The Midnight Ride | 1775

On this night in 1775, Paul Revere and William Dawes were sent from Boston to inform the patriots in Concord and Lexington of the impending arrival of the British.

★ *Why does Paul Revere usually get all of the credit for this night ride? With your child, research the events that took place this night and discover who helped make this ride possible.*

March 10th



April 15th



April 18th



May 10th



The Sinking of the Titanic | 1912

The RMS Titanic, a British ocean liner, sinks near Newfoundland, Canada. This ship was deemed unsinkable, but after colliding with an iceberg on April 14, it sank the next morning, killing approximately 1500 of the roughly 2200 passengers and crew.

★ *Watch a documentary or read a book about the Titanic. See why this unsinkable ship sunk and what it looks like today on the ocean floor.*

Colonel Eli Lilly | 1876

Colonel Eli Lilly, a Civil War Veteran and pharmaceutical chemist, opened a lab on Pearl Street in Indianapolis, Indiana. Today Eli Lilly and Company is one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the world.

★ *Eli Lilly did not have an easy road to success. Research his early trials, how he overcame them, and the philanthropic work he did in Indiana.*

Spring Vernal Equinox March 19th, 2020

The word equinox comes from the Latin words for "equal night"—aequus (equal) and nox (night). The length of the day will be almost equal to the length of the night on this date. It also marks the beginning of spring for those of us in the Northern Hemisphere.

★ *What season does this date mark for those in the Southern Hemisphere? Where must you live for the length of the day and night to be exactly equal on this date?*

Frog Jumping Day - May 13th -

The idea for this day goes back to Mark Twain's short story *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County*. Jim Smiley's frog can outjump any frog in the area until a stranger comes along with a trick up his sleeve.

★ *Enjoy Twain's humor and insight into human nature as you read his story together. Then, jump like a frog or jump over a frog; either way, have fun.*



Confessions of a Convention Veteran



I first noticed them sitting in the audience as I presented my English Literature curriculum in all its glory. A young husband and wife with a couple of preschoolers in tow, they sat on the edge of their seats, eyes wide, rapt with attention. I was laying it on thick about how our curriculum solves all of your problems, and how all you need to do is follow our simple instructions. It must have worked, too, because directly after the talk, they made a beeline for my book table.

“Hooked ‘em good,” I thought smugly to myself.

As they approached, however, I was unnerved to notice that the young woman had an all-too-familiar furrow in her brow. Her face did not betray the wide-eyed look of pleasure and gratitude she should have had for the savior of her homeschool, the one who had just shown her the shining way of certain success for only \$89. Instead, she bore the look my wife Missy gives me when she succumbs to doubt, despair, and discouragement at the thought of taking on another burden.

“We are very discouraged,” her husband said to me—as if he needed to. “We can see that your curriculum is just what we need, but we are afraid it will not work for us. You see, we cannot teach English literature in English, because English is not our mother tongue. In fact, it’s our third language. While you have convinced us that your program is essential to success, it’s also clear that we can’t do what you require. You have therefore also convinced us of our inevitable failure.”

This was not exactly the conversation I was expecting. I didn’t mean to threaten you with failure, I thought. I was only trying to encourage you with the prospects for success if you follow my instructions. I opened my mouth to defend myself with words to

Nothing remains for any of you but to be who you really are, to rejoice in what I have given you, and to speak out loud from the gratitude in your heart.

this effect, but something stopped me.

It was a little voice in my head, posing uncomfortable questions: Was encouragement really your only goal? Didn’t you also have selfish reasons for threatening her with failure? Were you completely honest about the absolute necessity of your little curriculum to the success of their homeschool? Who are you really trying to help—them, or yourself?

The true answers to these questions pierced me to the heart. Of course, my convention talks are designed to encourage people to consider our curriculum. But if they also imply that our curriculum is the only way to do it right, I’m generally not too concerned about it. I think English Literature, taught the way we teach it, is the heart and soul of any good homeschool education, and I don’t mind twisting people’s arms into agreeing with me. In an even darker corner of my heart lurks the conviction that anything I imply is fair as long as it results in a sale.

I would like to say that I had already repented of these sinful and mercenary assumptions before the young couple approached me, but the truth is I couldn’t even see them. It was the husband’s question, and the look of discouragement on his wife’s face, that finally gave me a clear view of myself.

I realized I was part of a problem faced by many homeschool moms who struggle with doubt and discouragement, especially during convention season. I was one of the experts who gather each year in the vendor hall to tell them they are doing it wrong. I realized that in hawking my materials, the louder I shout “Better than ever!” the more they hear “Better start over!”

I thanked the man and his wife for being gracious enough to come to my table instead of walking away in disgust. I apologized for contributing to their discouragement and asked for another chance to say what is really true about their situation.

“How many languages did you say you speak?” I asked.

“Four,” the husband said. “And we are teaching them all to our kids.”

“You should not buy any of my materials,” I said. “You don’t need them. In fact, you shouldn’t teach English literature at all unless you just want to. It is clear that the Lord has given your family its own homeschooling identity that centers around something else. Go in peace and be the language family. Our literature family will be praying for your great success.”

I think they went away encouraged because as they left I overheard the husband say, “Did you hear that, honey? It’s OK for us to be the language people!” I also caught a glimpse of his wife’s forehead, smooth with relief and peace.

That little voice in my head spoke up again, but this time it sounded like a reminder from the Lord: I give all of my children exactly what they need. I am their provider as I am your provider. Nothing remains for any of you but to be who you really are, to rejoice in what I have given you, and to speak out loud from the gratitude in your heart.

As this lesson began to sink in, another one followed close on its heels. That young man had taken his wife’s part completely and had treated her concerns as his very own. Even when trying to explain her doubt and discouragement, he identified with her. “We are discouraged,” he had said. “We are the language people.” I found myself wondering whether I treat Missy with the same respect and encouragement. Do I identify with her in my heart when it comes to our homeschool project? Is it really our project, or does Missy feel that she is on her own?

Once again, the answers made me squirm. Despite the time and energy I give to homeschooling in general, when it comes to my own wife and my own kids, I am often disengaged and aloof. She’s a smart lady, I think to myself. She can figure it out. Sometimes I forget that she doesn’t need help figuring it out. What she needs is to know that we are in this together, that it is as important to me as it is to her. For that reminder, I have the young man and his wife to thank – though I never even got their names.

I will attend many conventions this year as a teacher and an expert, but really I will be a learner. The moms and dads I will meet this year have been appointed by the Lord to encourage me and remind me of my dependence on His attention.

I can hardly wait! ■



Adam Andrews is the director of the Center for Literary Education and a homeschooling father of six. Since 2003, he has traveled throughout the United States and Canada presenting an innovative method for teaching the crucial skills of literary analysis. Adam’s dynamic presentations enable students to enjoy great literature as never before, while his fresh insights inspire parents and teachers with a new vision for their task as educators.

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How NOT to Measure Success in Education or in Life



It was “one of those weeks.”

I had finally found a moment to sit on the couch, sip my iced tea, and close my eyes for just a minute. My eyelids barely touched before I woke up to a scream.

“Devin’s hurt!” yelled my older son, Wendell, running through the patio door. Well, six-year-old Devin’s always hurt. I calmly remained in my reclined position.

Have you ever experienced that moment of panic when your mind races between “This is an emergency!” and “Don’t get blood on my sofa”...? That’s what happened when Devin walked through the door. I grabbed a clean towel, snatched my keys, looked outside, and realized we weren’t going anywhere. The evening before was the big football game at the high school next door, and someone had thrown a rock through the rear window of our van, which was now covered with shattered glass. Thankfully, a

friend’s husband chauffeured us to the hospital, and we called my just-home-from-work husband from the ER. He later recounted his part of the story:

As soon as he hung up the phone, he heard screeching from the boys’ bedroom. When he entered, our hamster was sprawled, trembling, in the middle of the floor. He soon realized the kitten had wiggled his head into the tunnel of the hamster’s habit trail and was now flailing about and making horrible noises in an attempt to free himself. My husband later told me seeing the cat with eyes bugging out and ears plastered back, he briefly considered making a video of the scenario for Funniest Home Videos. Instead, he separated the two animals and came to join us.

While tucking Devin into bed later that night, I learned the details leading to our eventful afternoon. Our swing set was sitting on the concrete patio, to give time for a newly-planted lawn to fill in. Devin had tied himself to the top of the set and was attempting to fly. When the rope came loose, he landed on his head on a shovel on the concrete patio. The “play-by-play” made me shiver.

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As a good teacher, I am dedicated to looking for a teaching moment in every situation. While tucking him in and stroking his forehead, I asked my son, “Honey, what did you learn from this experience today?”

He looked sweetly into my eyes and replied so sincerely, “Mommy, I should have tied the rope tighter.”

I collapsed into bed that night convinced I was not fit to teach anyone’s children, let alone my own. In fact, I was not even fit for motherhood. At this moment, I was convinced that I and my family were failing miserably.

But then there was another day. I was running errands alone. Anyone who has children realizes how rare and special these times can be. I indulged in a caramel latte, which I didn’t have to share. At each stop, I found the exact item for which I was looking, in the perfect color, the right size, and on sale.

While driving down the frontage road, a song came on the radio station. The words caught my attention. “Life is precious, Life is sweet...”

“Life is precious,” I thought. “My life is sweet!” My family is wonderful, my kids are turning out great, and my life is peaches and cream! At this moment, I was convinced that we were a tremendous success.

Are you getting the picture? In the two days I have described, my emotions dictated my perceptions of success and failure. See how easily we are swayed by our circumstances? We are emotional creatures, and our emotions swing on the pendulum of life. This is a dangerous way to evaluate our lives, our children, and our students.

I wrote *Evaluating for Excellence* to help you—parents and teachers—take the emotion out of the way you evaluate the progress you and your students are making. When we can separate one tough day from the whole, we are more likely to carry on. When we can keep one delightful day in perspective, we are more inclined to remain consistent.

I am thankful I did not throw in the towel on the marathon day I described first. I am equally as thankful I did not boast to very many people of my family’s infinite perfection on the second day. The same is true for every area of academic and character training. We all have ups and downs. The question is, “Are we continuing to move closer to the goal?”

“What is the goal?” you ask. This resource ought to help you sort that out. In the meantime, give thoughtful consideration to these suggestions. I hope they will help to steady your swing on the emotional pendulum and enable you to truly enjoy this precious time to learn and grow with your students. It is all too fleeting! ■



Dr. Teresa Moon, President/CEO of the Institute for Cultural Communicators, has been equipping home educators for three decades. Her award-winning curriculum and international conferences circulate to 20+ countries annually, empowering next-generation leaders and communicators. Dr. Moon helps ordinary students become extraordinary leaders as an education consultant, author, and leadership coach.

Find Teresa as a featured CREW 4:12 speaker, available only to those registered in IAHE’s Teen Staff Program.

CONVENTION PROGRAM



2020 IAHE Convention Teen Staff Program

WORKSHOPS | ACTIVITIES | SERVICE JOBS

CREW 4:12 participants will engage in a full two-day program convention track that is specifically focused on teens ages 13 to 18. Teens will be challenged to think deeply, serve others, and make new friends through workshops, service, and team-building activities. Be prepared for a high-energy, fun, and challenging convention that meets you where you are.

SPECIAL FOR THIS YEAR!

Our 2020 Crew 4:12 program will be presented by Dr. Teresa Moon and the Institute for Cultural Communicators.



Today’s youth have ideas worth sharing! But many students can’t communicate them. This leads to discouragement, low self-esteem, and destructive behaviors. ICC helps today’s youth own their ideas, their passions, and their potential.

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iahe.net/crew



My wife Debbie and I homeschooled in Indiana from 1998 to 2001, just before I came to work at Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) here in Virginia. Homeschooling in Indiana holds a place close to our hearts.

I finished law school later in life than most. Our fourth child—she’s now twenty-four—came to us just at the end of our time at Regent University. My first job after law school was back in our home state of Oregon, clerking for an appeals court judge. As that job came to an end, and I needed a real job, the prospects seemed unappealing. Insurance defense, prosecutor, or hang out my own shingle. Nothing is wrong with any of those, but we went to law school—specifically Regent University—because we felt the Lord was calling us to something bigger.

I had written Mike Farris, then president of HSLDA, telling him how the Lord wanted me to come work for him. The Lord apparently was not passing that information on to Mike, so we had to keep looking.

In crunch time, a friend put me in touch with Jim Bopp of Terre Haute, Indiana, then general counsel of National Right to Life Committee. He was coming to Portland to appear in one of the early assisted-suicide cases, and he asked me to meet him at a Japanese restaurant. He offered me a job in his campaign-finance and election-law practice. Jim is a nationally recognized legal warrior for free speech, especially for opposing restrictive state and federal laws that would stifle the political speech of groups like state right-to-life committees.

We had picked up a fifth child in Oregon and moved to a rental house in Terre Haute in the summer of 1998. We came into contact with Tammy and Dean May. At the time, they were regional representatives for the Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE), and they lived with a passel of kids in an old fraternity house in the historic part of town. As Dean put it, “It didn’t cost us much to begin with, but we’ve been paying for it ever since.”

They helped us integrate into the Terre Haute homeschooling family and took all of us into their actual family as well. Tammy and Debbie hit it off immediately and they have been great friends ever since. Tammy introduced us to the midwife who delivered our sixth child, and Tammy was present for his birth. Homeschooling has been like that wherever we have gone. There is always a welcoming homeschool mom like Tammy May, always a vibrant local community, and always a state organization like IAHE. The strength of the homeschooling movement is in the people and the voluntary associations in which we come together.

Finally, Mike Farris got the word, or we might still be in Indiana. Now all these years later, we have come to know homeschool leaders from all around the country. The backbone of our movement and the main preservers of our liberty are the leaders who run groups like IAHE, and the homeschoolers who support them.

It is therefore my distinct pleasure to be invited to this year’s IAHE Convention.

Homeschooling is an organic, grassroots movement. To stay strong, we each need to do our part. Homeschoolers need to stand together because homeschool freedom has not always been the rule and there is no guarantee that it will continue to be. At HSLDA, we value and support the work of IAHE and groups like it.

I urge you to do likewise. ■



Jim Mason is a homeschool dad who serves as HSLDA’s Vice President of Litigation and President of ParentalRights.org. For almost twenty years, he has represented homeschooling families and has set precedents that have expanded freedom for the homeschool community. In his spare time, Jim is an avid birdwatcher and waffle connoisseur.

CONVENTION BOOTH



New for 2020! Bees are competitions that are designed for individual competitors while bowls are made up of teams. In both cases, individuals are challenged to take the knowledge they already have learned through their curriculum studies and expand upon these in independent and group studies. These competitions are also designed to challenge your student’s sportsmanship through their conduct by being respectful and encouraging to all participants. By competing at different levels, your student is given the opportunity to connect with other students from all over the state, nation, and world as well as visiting exciting locations.

All rules, regulations, and procedures will be provided by the Bee and Bowl organization in which your student chooses to compete.

What is a Bee or Bowl Like? Join us at the Bee Zone booth at the convention for some mock bees and bowls. Let the games begin!

Find out more >>>

iahe.net/bee-zone



Unhurried Homeschooling Why We Need to Slow Down

We have been homeschooling for over twenty-four years. We have eight children we have homeschooled from the start. We've graduated six from high school and one from college. When I started this journey with our kids, the internet was not in existence. We did not have cell phones, and homeschool curriculum availability was limited. As the years have passed, I have watched the internet, cell phones, and curriculum companies give us access to unlimited amounts of information. Although this can be helpful, I am also realizing how detrimental this can be, especially for those who are just beginning their homeschool journeys.

For hundreds of years, children have been allowed plenty of playtime, spending hours building forts, making bows and arrows,

collecting bruises and bloody knees, and loving every minute of it! They were engrossed in childhood. Our world has changed, but our children have not! There are many stages of development that they must walk through before becoming healthy, well-adjusted adults. Our job as parents is to provide an environment that allows them to do that well. Their health and well-being are dependent on it.

The trouble is, as homeschooling parents, we are terrified that our children are going to fall behind academically. I am here to tell you that that is the least of your problems. We are trying to do what is best for our children and are bombarded with information on parenting and homeschooling. We are running around stressed-out and constantly second-guessing ourselves. In the meantime, our kids are feeling the pressure and it is eroding their mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health.

The results are that our kids are having to cope with the

complexities of adulthood too soon and are losing their one chance to be a kid. In an effort to do what we think will ultimately benefit our children, we are, in fact, robbing them of the very thing they need to engage in higher learning and become well-adjusted adults.

So what do our children really need? What if I told you that the answer was not only incredibly uncomplicated, but it will make your days much less stressful?

SIMPLIFY. SIMPLIFY. SIMPLIFY.

Children react to too much busyness and stress with a similar "crisis mode" response that a child in a war zone would. Their coping mechanisms kick in because they simply do not have the ability to process adult-type stresses. In other words, we need to keep their lives very simple by allowing them plenty of time to play, explore, reflect and release tension. They need to be allowed the gift of boredom which encourages creativity and self-directed learning.

What this means for us as parents is that we are going to have to trust our instincts to know when our kids are and are not ready for more. We need to filter unnecessary busyness. We are going to have to be the ones to protect our children's childhood both by saying no to things that will chip away at their playtime and by not loading them down with too much bookwork too soon.

Childhood is not something to "get through." It serves a real and lasting purpose. It is the foundation for higher learning. Each stage of development brings them closer to adulthood. We want that to be a natural, whole process, and that requires letting them be who God made them to be. We let them be kids so they can be healthy adults.

As homeschooling parents, we need to let go and trust our children's natural ability to learn. "To believe these precious little ones are ready for our adult version of education is one of the biggest mistakes we could make. A slower, gentler approach lends itself to growing with children so by the time they reach the age of logic (12-15 yrs), they are excited about all they can learn. Suddenly their learning takes off at warp speed and more than makes up for the slower start.

I have spent over twenty-four years as a student of our kids, watching them absolutely thrive in this unhurried approach to homeschooling. It has made homeschooling not only doable but enjoyable. The hardest part was not letting others determine how we would approach our days. I can tell you it was well worth the effort as I watch our kids launch into the world, not perfect, but definitely whole and healthy. They have fond memories of their childhoods and I would not go back and change anything about the way we approached learning. Our kids have turned out to be life-long learners, but more importantly, close friends and well-adjusted adults. ■



Durenda Wilson and her husband Darryl have been homeschooling their eight children for over twenty-four years. Homeschooling is a blessing if we aren't held hostage by notions of what it "should" look like. Durenda encourages families to think outside the box and keep things unhurried. She has written *The Unhurried Homeschooler* and *Unhurried Grace for a Mom's Heart*.



Join Us for an Evening of Laughter!

Laugh & Learn with **Brad Stine** ("God's Comic") and **Rick Green** (WallBuilders speaker & radio host, founder of Patriot Academy) as they use hilarious history and inspirational performances to bring America's story and values to life. This one of a kind EDUTAINMENT will educate, entertain, equip, and inspire your family to accept, protect, and purposefully pass on the Torch of Freedom!

TICKETS

One ticket required for each person ages 10 and up. Younger children attending with their parents are free.

Pre-purchase online: \$10

At the door: \$12

**IAHE Convention attendees
save \$5 per person!**

Not attending the convention? Pick up your pre-purchased tickets at the IAHE convention desk inside Elements Blue Ribbon Financial Pavilion starting at 5:30. You will also have access to shop inside the IAHE Convention's Exhibit Hall until it closes at 6:30. Buy your dinner onsite to avoid re-entry parking fees.

Find out more >>>

**iahe.net/
comedy-the-constitution**



Home Educators' CONVENTION

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth."
— 3 John 4 (ESV)

35th Annual IAHE Home Educators' Convention

March 27 & 28, 2020

Indiana State Fairgrounds
Elements Financial Blue Ribbon Pavilion
& Champions Pavilion

Two jam-packed days of encouragement & refreshment!

The IAHE Home Educators' Convention is a time for encouragement, ideas, advice, workshops and curriculum shopping. The keynote speakers provide encouragement and inspiration. You have your choice of a multitude of workshops ranging from preschool to high school and everything in between. Want to know how to teach math? Have a special learner? Check the workshop schedule. Speaking with veteran homeschoolers and shopping at the many different exhibitors can build confidence in your decisions.

iahe.net

REGISTRATION PRICES

Convention Pre-Registration
Available Online Through March 15
\$50 Individual / \$75 Family

At-the-Door Pricing
March 27 & 28

- One-Day Convention Registration •
\$40 Individual / \$65 Family
- Two-Day Convention Registration •
\$55 Individual / \$85 Family
- One-Day Exhibit Hall Only Pass •
\$35 Individual / \$55 Family

IAHE Members save \$5 off
Family Registration through March 15!



Parking

ISF Gate 6 off of Fall Creek Parkway

\$8 per vehicle

OUR FEATURED 2020 SPEAKERS!



Zan Tyler

is a popular author and speaker whose passion is to encourage parents to raise children who love the Lord, understand their callings in life, and become active citizens who understand the principles of freedom that undergird our American heritage. She currently represents BJU Press Homeschool/HomeWorks by Precept.

- **Homeschooling — An Educational, Spiritual, & Family Revival That Is Sweeping America**
- Creative High School Credits
- Life in the Fiery Furnace: How to Heal and Prevent Homeschool Burnout
- The Inspiring Task of Raising Servant Leaders
- Motivated Kids Move Mountains
- The Leadership Legacy (with Joe Tyler)

Adam Andrews



is the director of the Center for Literary Education and a homeschooling father of six. Since 2003, he has been presenting an innovative method for teaching literary analysis. His fresh insights inspire parents with new vision. Adam earned his B.A. from Hillsdale College and is currently a candidate for the Ph.D.

- **Homeschooling's Highest Goal: Lessons from the Story of Job**
- Teaching the Classics from Seuss to Socrates: Literary Analysis for Everyone
- Raising a Worldview Detective: Three Steps to Thinking Critically About Books, Movies and More
- Education in an Hour – Teaching Life's Most Crucial Lesson in One Sitting
- "It's Onomatopoeia, Mom!" – Using Children's Stories to Teach Literary Devices



Connie Albers

has been teaching people of all ages for over 30 years how to discover and use their natural strengths and gifts. Her insight, humor, and practical strategies encourage families to focus on building relationships as they navigate the seasons of parenting. With a goal for bringing out the best in others, Connie shares hope and life with countless families across the nation.

- **Parenting & Homeschooling beyond the Rules**
- HELP Me, I'm Drowning
- The SAT and ACT Tests are Changing. Are You Ready?
- Defining Your Journey = Hitting Your Target
- The Internet, Facebook, Twitter, and All Those Apps: What's a Family to Do?
- But, I'm not Organized!

Convention Schedule

March 27th & 28th

Doors Open at 8:00am

FRIDAY

- 8:00am Exhibit Hall Open for CONVENTION Attendees
- 8:45-10:00am **Homeschooling – An Educational, Spiritual, & Family Revival** with Zan Tyler
- 10:30-11:30am Workshop #1
- 12:00-1:00pm Workshop #2
- 1:30-2:30pm Workshop #3
- 3:00-4:00pm Workshop #4
- 4:30-5:30pm Workshop #5
- 6:30pm Exhibit Hall Closes
- 7:00pm Comedy & the Constitution with Brad Stine & Rick Green (TICKETS REQUIRED, SEE PAGE 29)

SATURDAY

- 8:00am Exhibit Hall Open for CONVENTION Attendees
- 8:45-10:00am **Homeschooling's Highest Goal: Lessons from the Story of Job** with Adam Andrews
- 10:30-11:30am Workshop #6
- 12:00-1:00pm Workshop #7
- 1:30-2:30pm Workshop #8
- 3:00-4:15pm **Parenting & Homeschooling Beyond the Rules** with Connie Albers
- 4:30-5:30 Workshop #9
- 6:00pm Exhibit Hall Closes

Exhibit Hall Hours

Convention attendees have access all day long!

Do you just want to shop?

One day Exhibit Hall Only Shopping Passes are available starting at 10 am.

Find out more >>>

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FREE Pre-Convention Event!

Yes! You CAN Homeschool!

Thursday, March 26th
6:30 to 9:00pm

Elements Financial
Blue Ribbon Pavilion

Are you or someone you know considering the possibility of homeschooling? This free event is geared to help parents get answers to the many questions they have. Veteran homeschooling parents will be on hand to give an overview of home education in Indiana followed by a Q&A session. This event is **FREE**, but pre-registration is requested. iahe.net/yes-you-can

Something for everyone!

Learning Express - Open to all attendees, Learning Express has sessions and activities designed for children ages 5-12 years old.

Special Learners - Bringing a child to the convention who needs a little extra sensory input? The IAHE has a limited number of sensory bags available. Visit the IAHE Booth for more information.

Crew 4:12 - Teens ages 13 to 18 will engage in a three-pronged convention program consisting of workshops, service, and fun activities. Registration ends March 8.

Grandparents - Nonhomeschooling grandparents are free with your family registration. Bring them along and let them catch the vision!



Meet Our 2020 Speakers!



Rachel Anderson and her husband Steve homeschool their four children. When she started homeschooling, she realized that two of her children have learning struggles, one with moderate/severe dyslexia, ADHD, and memory deficiency. As a result, she has done considerable research and loves to pass on her knowledge and experience to other parents.

- Building a Solid Math Foundation
- Math Myths, Math Anxiety, and Math Learning Challenges



Missy Andrews was challenged by a friend in 2003 to show her how to teach literature without a college degree. She devised Teaching the Classics, a seminar that equips parents to teach the art of reading. Missy earned a B.A. in English from Hillsdale College and an M.A. in Imaginative Literature from Harrison Middleton University. She and her husband Adam have six children, whom she homeschooled K-12.

- My Divine Comedy: A Mother's Homeschool Journey
- I'm Not Really Sorry: An Apology for Poetry



Rebekah Ash is a second-generation homeschooler. She is a mother of five and has been homeschooling since 2010. She and her husband both volunteer for the IAHE as region 4 representatives. She enjoys talking about homeschooling with anyone she meets and shares about her homeschool journey on her blog.

- Teaching Multiple Age Ranges
- Homeschool on a Budget



Kathy Balke and her husband, Pat, began homeschooling in 1986. Initially taking one year at a time, they loved it and kept it up for twenty-eight years, graduating all six children. They have served as IAHE Regional Representatives for fifteen years, helping others get started on this adventure called homeschooling.

- Traps that Hinder Homeschooling



Cheryl Bastian's home education journey spans twenty-six years with eight children ages four to thirty. Her vast experiences allow her to journey alongside families at many stages of development and learning. An author, blogger, and speaker, Cheryl shares trials

and triumphs, encouraging parents to be intentional, real, and relational as they raise life-long learners. Her resources are available at Cherylbastian.com.

- Let's Move: Fostering Critical Motor Development in Little Learners
- Math Never Tasted so Good!
- How to Build a Unit Study Your Children Will Love
- Keeping High School Alive...with Living Books
- The Power of a Picture Book Study



Tara Bentley is a veteran homeschool mom of two daughters. During 13 years of homeschooling, she and her husband Mark served in leadership for 12. They currently serve together on the Board of Directors for Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE), where Tara also serves as the Executive Director.

- Government Affairs Panel Moderator



Alec Bianco was classically homeschooled through 12th grade and graduated from St. John College in Annapolis, MD. He is currently the Director of Marketing at the Classic Learning Test.

- The Classic Learning Test: A New Vision for Education



Becky Bowyer is driven by five critical homeschool C's: calling, commitment, community, communication, and character. She is a founding board member of The Harbor co-op, speech director of RHETORIC speech/debate club, and serves with Christian Communicators of America. She has homeschooled seventeen years and has two graduates and two in process.

- Anger and the Homeschool Mom
- When Average is Okay



Ron & Vicky Broadfield are co-founders of JoyQuest, Inc. While ministering to their younger daughter with learning challenges and special needs, the Broadfields desired to minister to other families by sharing encouragement, hope, and practical advice on how to help a child reach their God-given potential.

- Homeschooling Special Need Children in Indiana



Emily Camenisch is delighted to homeschool her five children ranging from kindergarten to high school. She has served as a homeschool group leader in southern Indiana for nearly a decade and is honored to serve with her husband Chris Camenisch as Region 16 representatives.

- Homeschool 101



Dana Fafard is a homeschool graduate and mother of two. She enjoys guiding her young children in nature study, hands-on learning, and following their interests. She and her husband, Joshua, work for Nature's Workshop Plus and travel extensively representing the company. She is a violinist in her spare time, and the daughter of speaker Diana Ruark.

- Exploring Science in the Elementary Years (with Diana Ruark)



Rick Green is a former Texas State Representative, national speaker, author, and radio host. He and his wife, Kara, homeschool their children and travel the nation speaking on America's forgotten history and heroes, emphasizing our religious and constitutional heritage. Together they founded Patriot Academy, a leadership training program specializing in applied civics with a Biblical, historical, & Constitutional Foundation.

- Restoring American Exceptionalism One Family at a Time
- Teaching Civics in a Fun & Purposeful Way (Yes, You Can Do Both!)
- YOU Can Be Your Community's Constitution Coach



Joann Burnside Hoyt lives in NW Indiana. Her real-world experiences as a Christian wife, mother, widow, 26-year home educator, grandmother, small business owner, and now wife once more, all combine to "work together for good" as she draws from her life to bring humor and hope to her audience.

- Old School Homeschool
- Who Holds Your Child's Heart?



Jim Mason is a homeschool dad who serves as HSLDA's Vice President of Litigation and President of ParentalRights.org. For almost twenty years, he has represented homeschooling families and has set precedents that have expanded freedom for the homeschool community.

What should YOU bring to the 2020 IAHE Convention?

For the workshops:

- Pens, pencils & highlighters
- Paper or notebook
- A heart ready to be inspired
- Caffeine for focus (just enough, but not too much)

For the exhibit hall:

- Shopping money!
- Backpack or rolling case
- Comfy shoes
- List of curriculum and supplies to check out
- Questions for vendors

For lunch:

- Money for the Concession stand
- Or, bring something from home

For Comedy and the Constitution Friday night: (Who needs a restful evening?)

- Dinner: Concession stand or bring your own
- Extra snacks
- Your patriotic spirit
- Be ready to laugh, laugh, laugh (not kidding)

Did You Know...?

You may find that you have some workshops that you want to hear, but they occur at the same time in different locations. Never fear! Audio recordings will be available at the convention and on our website!



- Why We Need a Parental Rights Amendment
- Note to Self—The Vital Role of Homeschool Dads
- The Prodigal Son, the Forgiving Father, and the Power of Beholding



Dr. Teresa Moon, President/CEO of the Institute for Cultural Communicators, has been equipping home educators for three decades. Her award-winning curriculum and international conferences circulate to 20+ countries annually, empowering next-generation leaders and communicators. Dr. Moon helps ordinary students become extraordinary leaders as an education consultant, author, and leadership coach.

- Evaluating for Excellence
- Public Speaking: the Most Feared Activity
- Mentoring for Maturity



Staci B. Morgan MSN, RN holds a pediatric-focused master's degree in Nursing but admits her real education has come from being a mother to and homeschooling her four children that vary in special giftings ranging from learning disorders to academic giftedness to mental and physical conditions.

- When the Labels Don't Seem to Fit
- Helping Your Anxious Child Succeed with Tests



Jill Pike is a veteran homeschooling mother of eight. As an IEW® Accomplished Instructor, Jill has authored lesson plans offered by Institute for Excellence in Writing, including a reading and writing program, Primary Arts of Language. She enjoys finding solutions to everyday home school conundrums. Jill and her husband, Greg, homeschool their youngest child in Indiana.

- Teaching Your Child to Read
- Grading Compositions



Diana Ruark has been a home educating mom for nearly 35 years. She and her husband, Donald, are the parents of 7 children and grandparents of 8. They are the owners of Nature's Workshop Plus. Diana's favorite activity, outside of creative homemaking, is playing principal bassoon with a community orchestra.

- Exploring Science in the Elementary Years (with Dana Fafard)



Alison Slatter received her bachelor's degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences from Indiana University before beginning a nearly decade-long career in Washington, D.C.

on Capitol Hill. She left the Hill to educate her children, including two dyslexics. Mrs. Slatter has served on IAHE's Government Affairs team since 2013 and is trained in Orton-Gillingham reading intervention.

- Before, During, and After Phonics: Teach Phonological Awareness for Reading Success
- Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia (with Dr. Bridgette Whitlow-Spurlock)



Brook Wayne is a homeschool graduate and homeschooling mother of ten. She is a co-author of *Pitchin' a Fit! Overcoming Stressed out and Angry Parenting*. Brook

encourages moms to connect deeply with their children, even in the midst of busy family life. She is a co-founder of Family Renewal Ministries, inspiring families to become "a people prepared for the Lord."

- School at Home or Home Discipleship?
- Running Your Very Own Three-Ring Circus
- Choosing Your Homeschool Style



Dr. Bridgette Whitlow-Spurlock is a home education researcher, homeschooling advocate, dyslexia advocate, and educational therapist. She and her husband, Matthew,

homeschool their three children. She holds a Doctorate of Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Liberty University and has developed a new theory of home education that identifies four educational processes in home education.

- Homeschool Research Results
- How to Personalize Your Child's Education
- Tears of Homeschooling Gifted and 2E Children: The Joys and the Struggles
- Full Body Education for Kids
- Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia (with Alison Slatter)



Durenda Wilson and her husband Darryl have been homeschooling their eight children for over twenty-four years. Homeschooling is a blessing if we aren't held hostage by notions of what it "should" look like. Durenda encourages families to think outside the box and keep things unhurried. She has written *The Unhurried Homeschooler* and *Unhurried Grace for a Mom's Heart*.

- Unhurried Homeschooling: Why We Need to Slow Down
- Nurturing Sibling Relationships
- Unhurried Homeschooling: K-2nd Grade
- Homeschooling Boys: What Do They Really Need?
- Creating a Family Schedule

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Check out our **full** Exhibitor List on our website!

iahe.net/exhibit-hall

Don't forget!

The IAHE has arranged room blocks with local hotels at special prices. Check the Fall 2019 Issue of *Homeschool Indiana* for a full list. Or, visit us on the website for details.

iahe.net/hotels

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★ Elements Financial Blue Ribbon Pavilion & Champions Pavilion

The Reading Corner

As homeschool moms, we focus on shopping lists of curriculum, school supplies, and great reading material for our children. But, what about mom? What books are you reading this season? Check out these recommendations from our team.

Have you ever read a book that changed your life, and you wanted to thank the author? This could be your chance! The authors of these books are speaking at the 2020 IAHE Home Educators' Convention. Choose a book, or two, or three to read, and then come talk to the authors in person at the convention. Hope to see you there!



7 Tools for Cultivating Your Child's Potential by Zan Tyler | Reviewed by Amy Sager

Practical help for raising your kids jumps off every page of this well-written book. Zan Tyler uses biblical wisdom, research, and personal stories to show us how to cultivate our children into the people God created them to be. Building character in your children through discipleship, providing exceptional academics through personalized instruction, and helping your children build their leadership and communication skills are just a few of the tools you will be given. Whether you have toddlers or teens, this book will encourage and equip you.



Parenting Beyond the Rules-Raising Teens with Confidence and Joy by Connie Albers | Reviewed by Jasmine Dempsey

In this insightful book, Connie Albers helps readers learn how to view their teenagers in a way that will help them to work through life with their teens while also allowing them to grow into the people that God created them to be. This has completely changed the way that I interact with my teenagers, and in just a short period of time, our relationships have been greatly impacted. Every parent should read this book; it was encouraging, comforting, and challenging all at the same time.



Legends of Liberty edited, compiled, and formulated by Rick Green
Reviewed by Amy Sager

Are you wondering what your next family read-aloud should be? Do you need something inspiring for one of your kids or yourself to read? Look no further. On these pages, you will find true stories of heroic men and women who have sacrificed their time, money, comforts, and in some cases their lives for the freedoms we enjoy. Each champion's story is written by a different author who keeps you on the edge of your seat. You won't be disappointed.



The Unhurried Homeschooler: A Simple, Mercifully Short Book by Durenda Wilson | Reviewed by Lacey Hooie

This is an uplifting book for any home educator, no matter where you are in the journey. Durenda Wilson gives encouraging and practical advice. Sharing over two decades worth of experience, she tells what has worked for her family and has her reader think about what might work best for them. It is refreshing to read a book that focuses on the freedom instead of the restrictions, the joy instead of the stress, and how important it is to follow your parental instincts instead of society. Wilson manages to do all of these things in a reassuring and friendly way.



Pitchin' A Fit! Overcoming Angry and Stressed-Out Parenting co-authored by Brooke Israel
Reviewed by Melissa Sawyer

Israel and Brook Wayne are full of humility as they encourage us to look at the root of anger in our lives. Written in an engaging style with examples that any parent can relate to, they share personal experiences, biblical wisdom, and practical advice for how to recognize and remove the angry outbursts from our parenting. What is the real source of our anger towards our children? How can we overcome this destructive habit? Will my children take me seriously if I don't show anger sometimes? On these pages, you will find answers to these questions and inspiration to make lasting changes. ■



RUNNING YOUR VERY OWN
THREE RING
CIRCUS

**“WHERE THERE ARE NO OXEN, THE MANGER IS CLEAN,
BUT ABUNDANT CROPS COME BY THE STRENGTH OF THE OX.”**

– Proverbs 14:4 –

There are days when homeschooling feels like a race. Sometimes I am a little lost knowing exactly what we are racing against, but we are moving, going, trying, failing, succeeding, attempting, and cycling back to try it all over again. But then it isn't just an ordinary one-room schoolhouse I have going at my house. Perhaps you could say it is something more akin to the surround-sound, unabridged, dramatized, 24/7/365 version of the one-room schoolhouse.

The fact is, when we open our homes to children, the home becomes so much more than a place to crash for the night. It becomes a place of learning and growing, with stations for academic pursuits, craft and hand skills, projects, and developing creative play. The “dinner” table accommodates all three meals, snacks, and mathematics. The living room doubles as a cozy place to read a book and a center for hospitality. Homeschooling homes have a lot going on! And with all that learning, growing, creating, and doing comes . . . mess. I know it because I live it. And I know it because I have found out that most children do not come preprogrammed to know what to do with stuff.

Engaging Children in Household Chores

Fulfilling daily routine chores in the home has a profound effect on our children's ability to succeed later in life. The very act of doing the same chore, again and again, develops qualities in our youngsters, such as paying attention, being diligent, learning speed and thoroughness, all while acquiring skill in the chore itself. (If this is not your experience, keep reading!) These chores benefit a young person by giving them a sense of accomplishment, satisfaction in knowing how to do a task, and possibly curiosity to pursue ministry or a career that goes far beyond just helping in the home. Our children need the sense of belonging these daily little chores provide.

But despite our lofty goals and ideals as mothers, many of our children will express resistance to the necessity of chores. I find it laughable when they have so many good things handed to them, and the trouble of washing a few dishes or taking out the trash is considered a trial. So, here are some things that have helped me and continue to be needed reminders as I shepherd my crew.

DON'T EXPECT: INSPECT! Emilie Barnes of *homemaking organized.com* uses this phrase when it comes to our children's chores. There is so much accountability in inspecting!

WORK ALONGSIDE your children and/or check on them frequently. When your children are with you, they can learn so much about not just how to perform certain jobs but what their attitude should be.

BE SPECIFIC about what jobs you require and when they must be done. I write these out for my children, so there is no “I didn't hear you” excuse.

SIMPLIFY. I have been on a several-year journey to simplify our home. We save time by having less to move around, walk around, and pick up.

ACTIVELY TRAIN your children in how to perform the jobs you require.

MANAGE MORE AND DO LESS. My children can grow into responsibility in a safe and loving environment before they bear that weight as adults. As I teach them to handle more of the household chores, my time is maximized to better serve them in the role of mother and less as housekeeper.

Mess in Relationships

Yet sometimes it is not the visible home that is a mess; it is the heart attitudes. We work with our children, seeking to pass on knowledge, wisdom, and Biblical perspective. As we delve into the mysteries of math, language, science, history, and so forth, we're likely, at some point, to meet some mess relationally. As mothers we have to deal with the physical mess and the relational mess. You might be inclined to throw up your hands and say, “I quit!” or “I'm just not cut out for this kind of chaos!” But I want to challenge you to something. As a mother and a home educator, I want you to use that mess and stay in the battle.

Somehow, in the ease of our current climate filled with convenience, we have bought into a lie that progress is not being made when the going gets tough. The relational mess you are dealing with is actually an indicator of why you should keep pressing on in home educating. It is a mercy of God that those messes and struggles are coming up and out in the open, so that you, strengthened by the Lord, can apply the Gospel. Do not think that the world's schooling system will do that for them or that a few hours of youth group and Sunday school at your church will combat hours of negative teaching. You have been placed in a most valuable position in your children's life. When you find “mess” in your children's hearts, and it bubbles over on your kitchen counter, praise God that you are there and ask for His wisdom (that He freely gives! James 1:5) to know how to handle the situation.

Heart work is not as easy to measure as a completed checklist or a clean home. But taking the heart-time with our children is of utmost importance. Just as you cannot clean your home once and then let it be for the rest of your life, investing in our children and nurturing them is a way of life that requires coming back again and again. “Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9) ■



Brook Wayne is a homeschool graduate and homeschooling mother of ten. She is a co-author of *Pitchin' a Fit!*: Overcoming Stressed out and Angry Parenting. Brook encourages moms to connect deeply with their children, even in the midst of busy family life. She is a co-founder of *Family Renewal Ministries*, inspiring families to become “a people prepared for the Lord.”

All scripture in this article are taken from the English Standard Version.

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Can Your Children Explain Why You Homeschool Them?

Ten Questions Every Homeschooled Student Should Be Able to Answer



From their early years, my children grew up with television cameras in the living room and our schoolroom. We began homeschooling in 1984, and it was a controversial decision, to say the least. As we marched through the process as a family lobbying for homeschooling legislation and working for a better climate in general for homeschoolers, my children were asked at least a thousand questions. We learned that we needed to prepare our children to answer all of these questions effortlessly.

Why Not Spontaneity?

I will never forget the first time the camera crew came to our home. The boys were seven and five. They were well-prepared to meet the crew socially. They interacted well and were not intimidated, even at such a young age. And then the official interview began. I had not prepped them for it because I wanted their answers to be sincere, spontaneous, and genuine. The reporter asked my totally endearing five-year-old, “So, tell me, son, why do you like homeschooling?” He looked the reporter straight in the eye and said, “Because I can get a snack and go to the bathroom anytime I want to.”

I cringed. From my son’s perspective, his answer was absolutely true and important to him. He had been in preschool before we started homeschooling where he could not do those things whenever he wanted to. But that is not what I wanted being discussed on the nightly news.

It was my fault. I failed to realize that lawyers prepare their witnesses to be interrogated for a reason. It does not mean their answers are not sincere and genuine, but they are thought-through as opposed to spontaneous. Sometimes spontaneity is not all it is cracked up to be!

Adults prepare for job interviews, so they are able to put their best foot forward for the potential employer. If adults need to prepare for interviews and interrogations in the real world, how much more does a child need to prepare and rehearse? I set to work, and from that point on my children gave well-thought-out answers to the litany of questions I thought they would encounter as homeschooled kids. Remember, no age is too young for preparation!

All of Life is an Interview

Every child is asked a myriad of questions in his growing-up years. If that child happens to be homeschooled, the tally rises to a million fairly quickly! You know how it is. You can’t go through

the checkout line in the grocery store without you and your children being riddled with questions. Homeschooled children are questioned by friends, by relatives, by people at church, by strangers, and occasionally by a TV reporter or a legislator. And sometimes well-meaning friends and relatives can’t wait to get your children alone, so they can find out what they really think and feel.

I was shocked when, one day, my teenage sons started sharing with me just how many times our friends and family members had interrogated them about homeschooling when Joe and I were not there. The questions ranged from “Do you really like homeschooling?” to “Do you feel gypped by not being in real school?” to “What have you learned this week?”

You will be doing your children and yourself a great service if you teach them how to handle questions in a graceful, confident, and knowledgeable way. And remember, many—if not most—of the questions will occur when you aren’t with them. Set aside time to prepare your children to answer the questions they will be relentlessly asked.

Brainstorming

I begin each discussion (this can be at home or in a co-op) by drawing a line down the middle of a large whiteboard. The left side of the board, I label “Private Reasons”; the right side, “Public Reasons.” Then I ask them questions about homeschooling, like these:

- What about socialization?
- Do you like homeschooling?
- Do you have any friends?
- Do you feel like you are missing anything?
- Why does your family homeschool?
- Can you play sports?
- Will you ever be able to go to prom?
- Where do you want to go to college? Do you think you will be able to get in?
- Are you really learning anything?
- What did you learn this week?

As children respond to the various questions, I write the answer down on the right side of the board if they are suitable for public discussions. But if a child answers she likes homeschooling because she can stay in her pajamas all day, I write the answer on the left side under “Private Reasons.” I take the time to explain that while certain answers—like wearing pajamas all day—may be true and meaningful to them, these are not the answers we want to discuss in public.

Tweaking and Polishing

At the end of that brainstorming exercise, we look at the answers on the right side of the board and begin to tweak and polish them a bit. I want to make sure every child can tell me five reasons why their parents homeschool them and/or five reasons why they enjoy being

homeschooled. Then we switch roles, and they ask the questions and I answer. It gives them a chance to hear my responses. We continue until they are too tired to be productive, or we have an answer relatively down pat.

Practicing

Next, we practice—sometimes formally, sometimes informally. With my own children, if we were in the car, I would throw out one question and have them answer it. If a new question arose, we would go through the process of brainstorming, tweaking, and polishing.

The point is this: begin the discussion. Prepare your children well to answer the questions that will arise almost daily in their lives concerning homeschooling. As your children get older, help them understand why people ask them so many questions about homeschooling and why their answers matter. They are truly some of the greatest ambassadors homeschooling has.

You Can Transfer This Process to Other Areas

Your children will be questioned about their Christianity as they grow up seeking the Lord. Use this same process to teach them how to answer questions about their faith. As they prepare for job and/or college interviews, they will benefit greatly from these same interview skills you have instilled in them as children. And through this process of questioning and answering, you are helping them develop powerful critical thinking skills. ■



Zan Tyler’s passion is to encourage parents to raise children who love the Lord, understand their callings in life, and become active citizens who understand the principles of freedom that undergird our American heritage. She currently represents BJU Press Homeschool/HomeWorks by Precept. For sixteen years, Zan worked with Christian publishers to develop homeschool curriculum and resources. She considers the twenty-one-years she and her husband, Joe, spent homeschooling their own three children from kindergarten through high school to be one of the greatest privileges of her life.



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Creativity, Imagination, Curiosity & Innovation

Jeannie was four years old

when I noticed her artistic tendencies. While I prepared dinner one evening, she created her “first” masterpiece. Hearing her call out to me, I walked to her room to see her artwork. That is when I discovered that she used her new box of crayons to color on her bedroom walls. “Mommy, do you like it?” She was so proud of her creation. I was less excited because her masterpiece ruined my beautiful walls.

If she was going to create masterpieces in the future, I had to choose my response carefully. Her willingness to continue being creative was on the line. I calmly asked her to tell me the story behind her masterpiece, which she happily did. After a few minutes of listening, I praised her work and told her it was time for dinner. Now was not the time for a teaching moment about coloring on walls.

After the children were in bed, I spent time thinking about how to handle the situation. That is when I remembered a quote from Pablo Picasso. “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.” Picasso’s quote resonated with me. I decided to replace the word “artist” with creative. When most people think of artists, they picture painters, sculptors, and musicians. But being an artist is more than that. Artists are creative people at their core, and art is but one manifestation of being creative. Knowing every child is creative, I wanted to inspire the creative genius within our child.

The next day I bought rolls of white craft paper, taped long sections to her walls, and told her she was welcome to color or draw to her heart’s content. That paper covered wall was the catalyst she needed to keep creating. She is now a published photographer and artist. She travels the world capturing beautiful images with her camera. Her work appears on magazine covers and in art galleries, restaurants, and medical offices.

Everyone is born with four core human traits. Creativity, imagination, curiosity, and innovation are gifts from God. The four core human traits are something we are all born with. Like any gift, we must develop it if we want it to reach its full potential. When given the right environment to flourish, these gifts allow children to solve problems. Interestingly enough, they cannot be replaced by technology.

Putting a healthy priority on cultivating these four core traits within our homes simply means putting it on the schedule. With the rigors of academic requirements and running a home, you might be thinking you do not have time. It might seem impossible, but you do have time. Knowing when and how to fit it in is the key.

When the children were little, we did a variety of craft projects and designed many Lego sets—nothing too long or time intensive. Once we started to officially homeschool, the discovery process continued. I found I could block fifteen to thirty minutes three to four times a week to allow the children to dream, explore, and try new ideas.

Every day we were on an exploration to discover their creative genius. Each child was so different, which meant we changed things

up a lot. Besides sharing the same last name, they had little else in common. Personalities, temperaments, interests, skills, and smarts were all unique to them. One child preferred to play alone, while another wanted a sibling to share the experience. My engineering child wanted to create electronic boards and Lego designs from scratch. Using the step-by-step guide would not do for him. My movie maker wanted to write scripts and film mini-documentaries. My chef wanted time in the kitchen to try new recipes. With five children, we always had some creative project underway.

If you do not know where to start with your child, that is fine. Start by paying attention to what they like to do with their free time. Once you identify what your child enjoys doing, you can help them hone their skills a little bit every day.

Tips to help develop your child’s creativity, imagination, curiosity, and innovation in your homeschool:

- 1. Think outside the box.** *Don’t be afraid to switch things up until you discover what works with your child. Many subjects can be taught while pursuing an interest. For example, math concepts are learned when we cook, build, and sew. English is learned by reading recipes, following building instructions, and doing online research.*
- 2. Protect imagination.** *Most children love to dream about the world of “what-ifs” and “what happens next.” Try to avoid squelching the creative imagination of a young mind. It will be important to teach what is appropriate thinking and when it is okay to express their thoughts.*
- 3. Use creative teaching methods and strategies.** *The beauty of homeschooling is that you can customize your child’s education. Do not be afraid to experiment with new methods and strategies that your child would like to try. Enjoy the freedom you have as a homeschool parent. They will appreciate the variety.*
- 4. Provide positive feedback.** *Intentionally search for something positive to say about every project. The affirmation you provide will boost confidence to try again. A little affirmation goes a long way.*
- 5. Listen to your child’s ideas.** *Being fully present when a child opens up will not only encourage engagement but show worth and value to your child. Be sure to make eye contact while your child is talking.*
- 6. Experiment with different creative activities.** *If an activity does not work out as expected, re-evaluate what did not work and tweak it. It is perfectly fine to ask for suggestions from the children. The goal is to inspire creativity.*
- 7. Foster resilience.** *Creative children can get discouraged when their design or project fails. Learning to try again is a much-needed life skill.*

Cultivate your creativity too. As a busy homeschool mom, it can be a challenge to carve out time to be creative with the daily grind of school, laundry, and cooking. But I learned that my children were watching me. If you love painting or sewing or DIY projects, set time aside to pursue those things. It does not have to be long periods. Start with thirty minutes twice a week. Parents who model creative ways of thinking, express new ideas, draw, play music, volunteer in a cause they care about, and campaign for a political candidate or participate in the local theater will beget creative children. They might not choose what you are passionate about, but they will figure it out as the years unfold.

Looking back, the impact of my decision to inspire creativity within our homeschool day gave each child the confidence to try new things and solve problems without the fear of failing. Paul learned to think about the structure and stability of a design that helps him in the engineering field. Jeannie learned to try new photography techniques and experiment with various paints and brushes, which has led to being a published photographer and commissioned artist. Tyler learned how to script stories and create storyboards, which led to owning a videography and editing company. Jaclyn learned to explore the world of cooking.

In what ways can you inspire creativity within your home? It is a question worth careful consideration. Your children will benefit significantly by your sincere effort to inspire creativity while they are growing up.

Creativity is not a waste of time or a distraction from school; it is an investment in your child’s future. Your children are a masterpiece in the making. Help each child explore the “what ifs” and “what happens next” by painting pictures of possibilities. Artists are not merely writers, painters, sculptors, actors, or musicians. Creators are problem solvers and deep thinkers across many disciplines from engineers to biologists to entrepreneurs.

Homeschooling provides the perfect environment for children to cultivate and nurture their creativity, curiosity, imagination, and innovative spirit. Home is a safe place to think, express, explore, and engage the mind. As technology advances, creative children will be ready for the future. They will confidently step into adult life able to solve problems, create new systems, write riveting stories, and paint pictures that inspire others. ■



Connie Albers is a mother of five homeschool graduates. She is a speaker and author of *Parenting Beyond the Rules*. She has been helping parents build closer relationships with their children for over thirty years. She is a frequent guest on podcasts and other media outlets. Her expertise of homeschooling, social media, and building online communities lead her to accept a post for a leading social media marketing company. More recently, Connie is fulfilling her calling as a Titus 2 woman through her *Equipped to Be* ministry. Join her at conniealbers.com

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10 Compelling Reasons to Attend the Legislative Panel at the 2020 IAHE Convention

Friday, March 27th | 1:30pm

Grace K. is a 16-year-old homeschooler from Northwest Indiana. After attending her first Teen-Pact class in 2015, she discovered a passion for public speaking and the legislative process. She also enjoys piano, photography, small business endeavors, and learning Spanish. Grace hopes to pursue Spanish missions in her future.



“We need you!” proclaimed the pro-homeschooling members of the Indiana General Assembly (IGA) and Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) Government Affairs Team at the 2019 Legislative Panel.

10 Reasons

1 **We are, “We, The People.”** Oftentimes, we, as Americans, can too quickly forget that our United States and Indiana constitutions boldly declare from the outset that the responsibility and great privilege of governing our state and country rests on “We, the People,” not “Them, the Elected!” As residents of Indiana, there is a duty that every one of us should bear while partaking in the freedom we possess in this state. “The penalty good men pay for the indifference to public affairs, is to be ruled by evil men,” Plato, the philosopher, wisely declared.

2 **Homeschooling in Indiana is relatively secure now, but new threats are always on the horizon.** Unbeknownst to many, detailed legislation is presented in the IGA every legislative season that may indirectly diminish homeschool freedom.

A bill wholly irrelevant to homeschooling can develop into an alarming concern when it targets one or both of the constitutional pillars that homeschooling rests upon: religious liberty and parental rights. Former IAHE Government Affairs Team member, Rob Beiswenger, perceptively noted, “Most laws aren’t written with homeschoolers in mind. . . . But really it will affect us in some way that is not anticipated.”

3 **The law can change.** Indiana is considered one of the freest homeschooling states in the nation. However, the law can change in any given year. Panelist Representative Timothy Wesco boldly shared that influential organizations, including the Association of State Superintendents and the Indiana School Boards Association, annually push for homeschool regulations. Across the nation, proponents of homeschool regulation have been tremendously effective in other states. Protecting our rights must be done now, while we still have them, not after they are taken away.

4 **Homeschool freedom must be re-won in every generation.** “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free,” Ronald Reagan admonishes. The Second Law of Thermodynamics is applicable here and implies that a system (in this case, our hard-earned homeschool freedom) will deteriorate over the course of time unless an outside force is applied for the purpose of regaining order.

5 **The Legislative Panel empowers you.** How do you become civically active? The panelists, primarily veteran homeschoolers themselves, will help you recognize current legislation that would significantly affect the homeschool community and show you how to educate your elected officials about the consequences. Representative Wesco encourages, “Try to develop positive relationships with your legislators, so that when they think of homeschooling, it brings happy endorphins to their mind and not negative ones.”

6 **The Legislative Panel is the ultimate civics in action lesson.** Placed at a prime time during Indiana’s legislative season, the golden opportunity of the Legislative Panel presents itself only once a year. Your family can ask questions and receive thought-provoking and insightful responses from multiple legislators who play a key role at the Indiana Capitol defending the rights of homeschoolers.

7 **IAHE Action needs your support.** IAHE Action, a sister organization of IAHE, works year-round to track closely the action at the Indiana State Capitol. Carefully, they examine legislation, hunting for any language that could infringe on the rights of homeschoolers. Undoubtedly, they need your support! When there is legislation imperiling homeschool freedom, it is of the essence that legislators hear loud and clear the voice of the Indiana homeschool community through your calls, emails, and visits, especially when action alerts are released.

8 **Legislators are people too and need our help.** Panelist Representative Jeff Thompson pointed out the often overlooked fact that elected officials are finite people with limited resources and time just like us. He shared a powerful example of this when he described how full a legislator’s day can be with committee meetings. Amendments and bills can pass in the blink of an eye. Panelist Senator Jeff Raatz, head of the Senate Education Committee, stressed the importance of our active involvement by explaining, “It’s going to take more eyes than just mine to help make sure that we prevent the homeschooling space from being invaded.” It is our great privilege and responsibility to educate the elected on issues concerning the homeschooling community. They simply cannot fully research every topic pertaining to legislation they must vote.

9 **The legislators are willing to stay afterward and meet one on one.** I distinctly remember the day over five years ago when I attended my first Legislative Panel. At age eleven, I realized that I could meaningfully interact with my legislators. This summer, I had the privilege to meet with Panelist Senator Dennis Kruse, former head of the Indiana Senate Education Committee and steadfast advocate of the homeschool cause at the Indiana State Capitol for over 30 years. Upon discussing my vision and enthusiasm for the Legislative Panel, he promptly replied, “I would be willing to stay another hour with the other legislators to meet one on one with constituents for questions and answers.” Senator Kruse’s willingness to give of his valuable time demonstrates his belief that the cause of defending homeschool freedom is of the utmost importance.

10 **The experience changed me as an Indiana citizen.** Lastly, my life has been significantly impacted by my involvement in the Legislative Panel. I have become a volunteer for ParentalRights.org. Throughout this job, I have had the privilege of meeting with and educating numerous elected officials of the IGA, interacting with their legislative assistants on a first name basis, resulting in actual legislation being introduced! Because of the influence of the Legislative Panel on my life, I have achieved more through my civic involvement than I ever could have imagined. Hopefully, I will see you at the 2020 Legislative Panel. ■

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The Pillars of Homeschool Freedom

Parental Rights & Religious Liberty

— Indiana Association of Home Educators

While the words education and parental rights do not exist in the Constitution we do have homeschool rights and protections in America based on our parental rights and religious liberty. Parental rights are implied rights in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution; whereas, religious liberty is an explicit right granted to every American citizen as outlined in the 1st Amendment of the Constitution. For homeschoolers, faith, family, school, education, and home are inextricably linked.

In today's society, these pillars are constantly under attack. When parental rights are undermined, or we lose religious liberty, we lose the very foundation that our homeschool freedom stands on.

Here are the key court cases that are the bedrock to each of these pillars.

Pierce v. Society of Sisters 1922

In Oregon, parental control in education did not begin to erode until the first compulsory attendance law passed in 1922. It mandated all children between the ages of 8 and 16 attend a state school. This was eventually overturned by the Supreme Court in the landmark case of Pierce v. Society of Sisters which forever settled the question of private schools being allowed to educate children in America.

John Tuma, attorney, former member of the Minnesota Association of Christian Home Educators (MACHE) board, and former elected State Representative says:

“On the heels of World War I, the KKK was wielding great power in places like Oregon and in conjunction with other forces was able to place on that state's 1922 ballot an initiative requiring all students to attend public schools only. The movement was to ensure that all children were appropriately Americanized to protect our country from communism and the negative influences of Catholicism. The campaign was an overt attempt to take students away from

education by the Catholic Church and Jewish synagogues.

It was through the decision in Pierce v. Society of Sisters, finally decided in 1925, and the 1923 case overturning a Nebraska law requiring only English to be taught in schools known as Meyer v. Nebraska that the courts clearly started to develop individual civil rights protected under the Constitution through the 14th amendment.”

The Pierce case determined private schools are a legal alternative to state schools, thus, granting families the right to send their children to a private school.

Wisconsin v. Yoder 1972

A parent's right to direct a child's education was further strengthened in Wisconsin v. Yoder. Compulsory attendance laws in Wisconsin required children to attend school until age sixteen. However, in the Amish community, formal schooling ends at 8th grade. The case concluded that compulsory attendance laws could not apply to Amish children because the parent's right to religious liberty superseded the state's interest in education so long as the education received resulted in “literate” and “self-sufficient” citizens.

Chief Justice Warren Berger, confronting the state's main argument that the students would be left in ignorance without the state-certified education, stated: “. . . this argument of the state

appears to rest primarily on state's mistaken assumption . . . that the Amish do not provide any education for their children beyond the eighth grade, but allow them to grow in “ignorance.” To the contrary, not only do the Amish accept the necessity for formal schooling through the eighth grade, but continue to provide what has been characterized by the undisputed testimony of expert educators as an “ideal” vocational education for their children in the adolescent years.”

John Tuma further explains how this relates to Christian homeschoolers: “The education establishment tried to give the Yoder case a very narrow interpretation as just an Amish exception to the compulsory attendance law. Nonetheless, after years of diligent effort by Christian homeschooling pioneers, the principles laid out in Yoder and a previous decision in Pierce v. Society of Sisters established that the right to home educate did emanate from the Constitution's 1st, 4th, and 14th amendments.”

State v. Peterman 1904

The State v. Peterman established the right to home education in Indiana. The Indiana Appellate Court held that the Indiana compulsory attendance law must treat homeschool programs the same as a private school. They ruled that the definition of a school in Indiana is “a place where instruction is imparted to the young... We do not think that the number of persons, whether one or many, make a place where instruction is imparted any less or any more a school.” Notice that instruction must be imparted, but that the place is not specified.

Manzanec v. N. Judson-San Pierre School Corporation 1985

In Manzanec v. North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation (1985), the Seventh Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals affirmed the legality of homeschooling and ended the local school districts' jurisdiction over homeschooling. It ruled that parents had the right to homeschool their children.

Indiana Today

In Indiana, homeschools are considered non-accredited, nonpublic schools. The rulings in the Pierce and Yoder cases provide, first of all, a hook for the state to hang homeschooling on—homeschools are private schools—and second, the recognition by the state that our religious liberty comes first, above the state's interest in our child's education. The two Indiana cases, Peterman and Manzanec, place homeschools in the same category as private schools and establish the legality of homeschooling in our state, so we do not need a specific homeschool statute regarding home education. We are so thankful to those early pioneer homeschoolers who braved the tumultuous waters of unclear education laws in order that we may now stand firm in Homeschool Freedom based on our two pillars of Parental Rights and Religious Liberty.

Help reinforce these pillars and keep homeschooling in Indiana strong! ■

Find out more >>>

iahe.net/pillars

IAHE Membership

When you join the IAHE, you help keep homeschooling strong in our state.

We believe raising children is a family's God-given right and calling;

We believe in empowering parents to raise and educate the next generation of leaders;

We believe a loving family home is the best environment for children;

We believe homeschooling is one of the best models for educating children;

We believe home education changes lives;

We believe in keeping Indiana families free.

Your IAHE membership, IAHE event attendance, and donations support the work of a non-profit organization run by a volunteer board of directors and team. Since 1983, the IAHE has worked to Encourage, Protect, and Serve Indiana homeschool families.

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Let Them Move!

so, I was able to retrain my thinking to dwell on what was good, not just on how he was exhausting me by jumping off the couch and climbing doorways. Amazingly, over time my attitude changed. I frequently noticed my son's strengths. Consequently, his countenance returned. Fast forward twenty years, and my son's persistence and his love for people work together as he helps clients regain or improve their movement through his care for them. He is impacting lives, just as God had me envision.

Movement keeps wonder alive. When our children move, they gain essential developmental skills and vital information from their surroundings. It happens naturally through playing at the park, skipping across the driveway, climbing a tree, shoveling sand into a bucket, or playing hopscotch. These advances work together to build their cognitive and physical abilities while also cultivating curiosity. Movement matters.

As parents, we do not have to do much to foster movement except to provide margin in our often over-full schedules. By offering time, the valuable activities in which they will engage will fuel their love of learning (climbing a tree they may discover a bird's nest), foster a sense of wonder (witnessing peeping baby birds), and open a world of possibilities (learning the calls of backyard birds). In the process, they learn about their Creator through the wonders of His creation. Our children's movements influence every part of their physical, cognitive, emotional, and spiritual development.

Boys, especially, tend to need lots and lots of large motor activity. For some, that may mean one hour outside, mid-day. For others, especially those between ages four and eight, it may mean three hours outside. When our boys were elementary age, they spent many afternoons digging holes in our backyard. We eventually gave them a specific place to dig because they were determined to keep digging until they could stand inside their accomplishment. They achieved their goal!

A few months ago one of my adult sons surprised me with this comment, "Mom, do you remember how you let us play in the rain? And, what about the time you played in the rain with us?" I cannot tell you how my heart felt hearing those recollections. What we did those days—playing in the rain, experimenting with the umbrella, singing, measuring the puddle depth and then splashing until we were soaked—mattered. I am not too sure I was overly excited about playing in the rain. However, twenty years later seeing the smile on my son's face as he talked and shared his memories of us being together—playing and learning—I knew I made the right choice.

Recently, I purchased a cheap squirt bottle intent on using it to make a batch of natural cleaner. The moment we arrived home, my six-year-old's hands shuffled through the items in the bag, pulled out the bottle, and raised her hands high above her head as if she was holding a touchdown pass. I realized I had lost possession of my squirt bottle which she promptly filled with water to water flowers. The next day, she took the squirt bottle into the shower. Hearing the water running longer than usual, I investigated.

"How's it going?" I questioned.

"Great! I am cleaning the shower with water."

At that moment, the practical mom in me wanted to offer a lecture on wasting water. I paused, counted to five, and watched what she was doing. She would empty the bottle and refill it, then continue squirting the walls—every nook and cranny she could see. She was engaged, thoroughly enjoying the fine motor muscle strength she was building. I gave her a few more minutes, explained why we needed to turn off the shower, and then brainstormed with her other ways she could use her newly found treasure.

Movement is not just physical activity. It influences the child's whole body development from physical to social-emotional, from relational to spiritual. It is a gateway to courage, empathy, ingeniousness, stick-to-itiveness, adaptability, and grit. These traits work together to build emotional intelligence and growth mindset—little-by-little, one step at a time—from childhood to adulthood. As parents, we encourage this development when we give our children opportunities to move and explore.

Perhaps you are wrestling with movement quandaries. Maybe you are frustrated by the squirming and turning in the chair. Or, perhaps the continuous indoor jumping or climbing have you discouraged. You are not alone! The answers to your children's needs are a prayer or two away. God knows your children, as He does mine. He also knows their futures and how He will use them to grow the kingdom. God will be faithful in helping you (and I) find solutions, helping us to put our children's movement to the best use, all the while spurring us on in our own personal and spiritual growth.

I remember the moment my son walked across the platform to receive his Doctorate in Physical Therapy. In those short seconds, specific memories flooded my mind: forgotten math facts, muddy floors, doubt, bouncy mini tramps, and fast-moving bicycle pedals. I also remembered my son mentoring younger scouts, caring for his turtle, and loving his grandmother and his teammates. I smiled. A tear rolled down my cheek, a tear of gratitude for God answering my prayer:

Let him move. His life will impact others.

Indeed, he has. ■



Cheryl Bastian's home education journey spans twenty-six years with eight children ages thirty to four. Her vast experiences allow her to journey alongside families at many stages of development and learning. An author, blogger, and speaker, Cheryl shares trials and triumphs, encouraging parents to be intentional, real, and relational as they raise life-long learners. Her resources are available at Cherylbastian.com.



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My five-year-old twisted and turned in her chair as she and I counted pennies into piles of ten. Fully engaged in sliding coins across the table to put into groups, she moved continually. In fact, I saw the tops of her feet more than the fingers on her hands. Eventually, pennies toppled to the floor. Five minutes of counting seemed like an eternity, and I battled impatience. Somewhere in the midst of counting and frustration, I reminded myself:

You have adult children! You know how quickly these moments pass and how much they matter. Remember, she—like her brother years ago—needs her energy and movement to learn. One day, she will impact the lives of others.

I reflected back sixteen years to my son's growing up years. He, too, moved constantly. However, as a younger mom, I did not realize how my attitude toward my son's movement mattered to his emotional development. I told him I loved him, provided for his needs, and made sure he felt safe. I bought a mini trampoline for the living room and made sure there was time in our routine for outside play. However, my body language—the raised eyebrows, hands placed on the hips, and crinkled up forehead—contradicted my verbal messages. He was hearing love and affirmation but seeing frustration.

I began praying for God to help me see the positive characteristics about my son—his persistent joy, his innate compassion toward people, and his gift of hospitality. In doing



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