

# WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?

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As a kid my mother always told me, “time flies when you are having fun”; but as you age; you realize that in reality, time just flies. Time continues to go; minutes turn to hours and hours into days.

Last week marks the anniversary of my youngest daughter’s death. As death normally does, it got me thinking. I felt like the last year just flew by. I began reflecting on what I still needed to change to get the most from life. This was when I realized I was still missing out on my eldest daughter. It was this time last year when I first had the idea to homeschool. My daughter had been struggling in the public school system. I felt I was spending my life either dealing with her or defending her. Many people blamed it all on the loss of her baby sister. For me though, there were many reasons I was considering homeschooling. The education system is nothing like when I was young. They have added unneeded topics and taken out subjects that you thought were mandatory. The government has cut funding for the art programs which includes music. It seemed like everywhere I looked I was being pushed in the direction of homeschooling. The system was failing my daughter. She was falling behind because the material was not being taught. However, my husband and our parents thought after a break for summer vacation, she would go back for another year and another try. I knew it my heart it was not going to work, but I felt outnumbered.



So one year later, where did the time go? It was wasted, on the phone with teachers and principals telling me how my daughter needs medication. It was wasted sitting through doctor appointment after doctor appointment to find out my daughter is only active because she is eight. It was wasted on hours of homework never covered in her classroom. It was wasted on being awake for a 7:15am bus. It was wasted watching the system break down my daughter's free spirit. It was wasted in the special education room. (Which is a room full of exercise bikes. You know like hamsters on a wheel!) Needless to say, keeping my daughter in the system was a mistake I continued to either deal with her or defend her and by doing this I feel I have lost myself and am starting to lose her. So with my husband on board we have decided to homeschool.

Why? Because . . .

I believe in freedom.

I believe no one wants better for my child, than me.

I believe in watching them grow.

I believe in sleeping in when tired.

I believe every child grows at a different speed.

I believe in everyday learning.

I believe in taking back my life.

I believe my children are more than names on the attendance.

I believe you're only young once.

I believe time goes by too fast.

But most important I believe in my children and

I believe in myself.











Does the whole idea of taking control of your children's education scare you? Because it terrified me! But when I really stop and think about it, it's the system that has made me feel not good enough. If you do not fit into their square, then you do not fit right? WRONG! The system does not want free thinkers.

Where do you start? As a newbie to the homeschooling community, words like curriculum and socialization can cause grey hairs! So, as a clueless homeschooler, I needed inspiration.



I went to the public library. I told the lady I wanted every book on homeschooling. She found me three! Am I the only one that has noticed libraries do not have as many books these days? Out of the three books I read, I found the most inspiration from LauraMaery Gold & Joan M. Zielinski's Homeschooling, Step-by-Step. I enjoyed the whole book, but certain things really stood out for me. Firstly, they include a list of "teaching strategies." These are ways to teach information. Yes, you can buy a full curriculum or build your own using free or cheap resources. Yes, you read that right, free! There are many amazing women that have put worksheets and unit studies together. Check out Pinterest or Teachers Pay Teachers. Secondly, they give very detailed steps on making a lesson plan. This is how I started parts of my plan for next year. I started with a 2-10 word description of the focus of my lesson. I then determined the learning objectives that will be covered in lesson, new vocabulary, gather materials, plan introduction, procedure and assessment. Overall, the book was a great read, and really inspired me to think outside of the worksheets!







Then, I turned to social media, the first thing I did was typed “homeschool” into Instagram. I was so shocked at the large and growing homeschool community. Everyone was so welcoming and helpful. Actually, the page I started in April has already grown to 600 Instagram friends. I now have 600 other homeschool parents I can network with, not to mention learn from. Through my Instagram I actually found other homeschoolers in my area. Shocking right! Before following homeschoolers on Instagram, I assumed homeschool was literally school at home. I was dead wrong, and for once that was okay. Homeschooling can happen in the kitchen, grocery store or even in an RV across country! The world around us is full of beautiful places and sometimes the best way to learn is to explore.

Then, I began signing my email address up for every homeschool blog I could find. Each day I receive new emails from amazing homeschool moms with freebies, stories and ideas. This is all inspiration for me. During this I found a checklist of the material needed to be covered in each school year for my area. For me, this was a fantastic find. I am now able to use the checklist as a guide to make sure I am covering enough information each year. I have decided to build my own curriculum. I am going to start with some unit studies. The first one I have chosen is a book study on The Hungry Caterpillar. I have used the book as my main idea and branched off of it. For example I found a yoga lesson that goes with the book. So I am able to use the book study for multiple subjects.



So, as a newbie to homeschooling, I am here to tell you; homeschooling does not have to be complicated and expensive. Use freebies when you can or make your own worksheets. Remember those amazing women who make free worksheets, well they also have clip art so you can make your own. How awesome is that, a worksheet made just for your child's needs.



I am currently in the process of making a summer plan. I have decided to use theme weeks for my summer teaching. I hope this will help make the transition from public school to homeschool a little easier and to see how much my daughter already knows about each mini subject. The first week we will be doing a nature themed week. This will include insects to flowers and a little of everything in-between. To add a hand on approach to this theme, we have planted a vegetable garden and are watching it grow. We also have been watching our "pet" caterpillar change from caterpillar into his cocoon. Each theme week will have crafts, games, recipes for snacks, some sort of field trip; something hands on and yes a few worksheets.

Will homeschooling stop time? No, all kids grow up and they do it very fast. Homeschooling however for us, will help us to enjoy the time we have more. Remember, the idea of homeschooling should not be stressful, teach from your heart and educate their heart.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Taylor is a stay at home mother in her mid-twenties. She is the mommy of two biological children, two bonus children and an angel in heaven. Taylor and her fiancé are “two of a kind, working on a full house.” They met in church when Taylor was only five. Their family is currently at the beginning of their homeschool journey. Taylor is also known as “The Clueless Homeschooler” and one of her biggest homeschool pet peeves so far is, when people question socialization.

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