

Ready to Homeschool — Six DAY Countdown !!!

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DAY 2: DETERMINE INTERESTS AND NEEDS

This is the day to take a close look at your child(ren) who will be homeschooled. What are they interested in? What are their academic strengths and weaknesses? You don't need to get too deep into data right now. If you've been listening to them at all, you know what they TRULY want to learn about. Start with that.

Make a list of 10 things that they care to learn about OR need to spend time on academically. You will not be teaching/learning all 10. This is just a brainstorm list.

If you have more than one child, make a separate list for each one.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Go back over the list, and put a star next to anything that looks like Math, Reading, or Writing. If there isn't anything that could fit into those three categories, add them below. Don't overthink it.... It can be something new, or review.

Math: _____

Reading: _____

Writing: _____

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DAY 3: FIND RESOURCES AND PLAN NEXT WEEK

Today we are just going to flesh out a plan for next week. If you need to homeschool them TODAY, RIGHT NOW, put them in front of an episode of *Liberty Kids* (or *Sid the Science Kid* or *Between the Lions*) on YouTube with a snack and ask them to write three questions that they have when it finishes. [You now have 20 minutes to think.]

Look back at your answers for Day 1 (Know Your “Why”) and Day 2 (Interests and Needs).

Choose three topics from your lists and look around your house for a book or encyclopedia or magazine article or movie that is related in any way. You are only planning for five days, so you don’t need much. The internet will have LOTS of ideas, but you are trying to hurry and not get lost on rabbit trails, so guard your time. Almost ANYTHING can be turned into an academic lesson, so just go with the best three for now.

List the three topics on the left. Work to fill in the chart below with something for each day in each category. Something that will take about 20-30 minutes to accomplish. YES! That will only be about 2 hours of school each day — this is a transition period and you will all need extra grace, so just consider this an experiment!

Add in things like... “Read pages 4-10 in *Dinosaur Mystery*” or “Watch clouds for 15 minutes and predict tomorrow’s weather” or “Watch the next episode of *Liberty Kids*.” Do not make them write a report, please. That will frustrate everyone.

Look for places that you can combine lessons with more than one child at a time. There is no harm in studying the same thing together. This will buy you ONE WEEK while you find more resources or curriculum that will be a better long-term solution.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Topic 1: _____					
Topic 2: _____					
Topic 3: _____					
Reading or Writing					
Math					

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DAY 5: ACCEPT THE CHAOS

You have just made a MAJOR change in your routine on very short notice. Everything and everyone will need time to adapt and work out the bugs in your new way of life. Nothing will seem normal for a while. It might be better, it might be worse..... but it will definitely be different.

As you are making this transition, allow extra time. For everything. The house will be messier because everyone is home all the time. More people eating at home means more groceries and more dishes. Chores will take longer. You may find yourself giving more moments to comfort and social-emotional growth than before.

All of this is to be expected, but we all like to think that OUR family will be THE ONE that navigates change perfectly while everyone watching us just “ooooo’s” and “aaaaahhh’s.” Maybe. Probably not.

Flex with your kids’ needs. Continue to be the authority in your home, but be an understanding and compassionate authority figure. Challenge your kids to help you find ways to make the “new normal” work more efficiently for your family.

Take walks in nature. Listen to music. Do an art project. Bask in the freedom you have to be your child’s educator. Do not go on Pinterest to see how everyone else is doing it. Enjoy what you have.

If you do happen to have an extra hour, plan your second week, and start finding curriculum that matches what your child needs. Start watching my other YouTube series “Ready to Homeschool — Six Month Countdown” to lay a sturdier foundation for long-term homeschooling. Browse *Teachers Pay Teachers* for printable worksheets and lesson plans for short units of study.

Hug your kids often. Assure them that this is where you want to be. Pour love into them, and ignite a love of learning despite the chaos and mess.

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DAY 6: ARRANGE YOUR SPACE

Looking ahead at your plan for next week, what can you do to make a space for that to happen? Where will you work on those assignments? Is there a spot on a shelf for the resources you found? Where can you put pencils and paper so that your child can access them without help?

You might not be able to set it up exactly how you want it on such short notice, but you can start a “wish list.” Measure the space you have in a corner or on a shelf, and start shopping online or browsing Facebook Marketplace for an extra shelf or utility cart, or small bins that will help you corral the learning clutter.

You can give each child a different colored folder for next week’s assignments — you will probably want a different organization system for long-term, but for one week, it will help.

While you are at it, decide what you will fix for Breakfast on Monday of next week, and make sure the kids all know what time you expect them to be up and ready to learn. Pencil out a basic routine for your learning time, and then post it somewhere that everyone can refer to.

Call a short meeting with everyone in the family and explain your plans for next week. Communicate that you expect their cooperation. If you feel it is necessary to communicate explicit consequences for NOT cooperating, do so, but it’s best to keep it light and positive and convey your expectation that everyone will want to follow your lead.

Show them where they will sit and where they will find their materials. Think of it as “Open House” for your own homeschool.

If your children are old enough to have definite preferences, schedule a school supply shopping trip for all of you together for one afternoon next week. Let them choose a few items to make the homeschool space reflect their personality, interests, and needs.

Take a picture of your Lesson Plans from Day 3 on your phone (or make several copies) in case the original is lost. Then prepare yourself to work your plan!!

REPEAT the process from Day 3 for as many weeks as needed. After a month, you should be ready to implement a purchased curriculum or long-term study until the end of the academic year.

Breathe deep!! You are showing sacrificial love to your children. It will be rewarded.