

Family Worksheet

This **Family Worksheet** is a tool to help you and your spouse make a wise decision about homeschooling. This is used by permission of Debra Bell, the author of *The Ultimate Guide To Homeschooling*, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Homeschooling: Is It for Your Family?

1. Evaluate your relationship with your spouse.

_____ **Excellent.** You have a common vision and goals. You are able to move quickly to resolve conflicts that arise.

_____ **Good.** You communicate well about your differences in vision and goals. You seek out wise counsel to resolve conflicts when necessary.

_____ **Fair.** You are both Christians. You eventually make peace about your differences. You rarely lose control of your emotions when you experience conflict. You do not seek help in resolving conflict.

_____ **Poor.** You disagree strongly about your vision and goals. You have a great deal of conflict, and you resolve it in a destructive way.

2. Evaluate your relationship with each of your children.

_____ **Excellent.** This child is highly motivated by your praise and has a strong desire to obey his or her parents.

_____ **Good.** This child can be motivated by your praise, and you are making steady progress in his or her willingness to obey you.

_____ **Fair.** This child is challenging and you are often overwhelmed by him or her. You and your spouse do not have an agreed-upon plan for training the child. You do not believe God can sustain you.

_____ **Poor.** This child is wearing the pants, and you gave up a long time ago. You feel like a failure as a parent. You aren't getting help and you have no hope that things are going to change.

3. Evaluate the atmosphere in your home. Circle all that apply.

POSITIVE:

Peaceful
Secure
Fun
Hospitable
Spontaneous
Stable
Organized
Encouraging

NEGATIVE

Stressful
Insecure
Somber
Isolated
Rigid
Unstable
Chaotic
Discouraging

4. List all other responsibilities and commitments you and your spouse have beyond maintaining your home and caring for your children.

EMPLOYMENT

CHURCH

VOLUNTEERING

HOBBIES

5. What plans do you have for limiting other responsibilities and commitments in order to homeschool with integrity?

6. Evaluate your home as an educationally stimulating environment.

- a. How often do you use the library? _____
- b. How many hours a week is your television set on? _____
- c. How many books are in your home? _____
- d. What types of presents do you usually buy for your children? _____
- e. What magazines do you subscribe to? _____
- f. What interests do you share with your children? _____
- g. What kinds of topics do you discuss as a family? _____
- h. Are pencils, paper and art supplies readily available to your children? _____
- i. Do your children have an adequate place to play outside? _____

7. Can you commit a minimum of four hundred dollars per year to home-educating?

8. Rate yourself on initiative by asking yourself those questions and circling one of the words that follow. Are you a learner? How many books a year do you read? Do you enjoy tackling new projects?

Excellent **Very Good** **Good** **Fair** **Poor**

9. Rate yourself on discipline. Do you finish a job? Can you set goals and achieve them? Do you get up and go to bed on time? Do you fulfill your obligations?

Excellent **Very Good** **Good** **Fair** **Poor**

10. What are your reasons for homeschooling? Is this a biblical conviction?

11. How supportive of homeschooling is the father?

Very Supportive **Supportive** **Neutral** **Not Supportive**

12. What role will the father be able to play in your homeschool?

13. What support system is available to you: Your husband? Your family? Your church? A homeschool support group? A friendly teacher? A Christian school? A library? An educational consultant?

14. Are you willing to go to seminars, attend support group meetings, read books, etc. in order to always be improving your teaching skills and your homeschool?

15. Evaluate your willingness to seek help.

_____ I readily seek help from others who have a strength in the area I am struggling with.

_____ On occasion, I do seek outside help if things get pretty bad.

_____ I prefer to make things work on my own.

16. Having prayerfully weighed the cost of homeschooling, are you prepared to commit yourself to home educating for **one year** before reevaluating your decision?

YES _____

NO _____