

I'm Done Homeschooling – Things I Would Do Differently and Things I Would Do Again

by Marilyn Boyer

Introduction: I just want to share with you what I LOVE about homeschooling and what I was bawling about as I wrote about what I knew I would miss about it.

TEN THINGS I'D DO DIFFERENTLY

- 1. Don't feel like I have to teach everything that is in the book or finish every book.**
- 2. Don't assume that a government school course of study is best for my child.**
- 3. Don't hold my child to standards of "where they're supposed to be" or hold them back because they are learning too quickly.**
- 4. Realize there is no average child.**
- 5. Don't feel pressure to prove to others that my kids are "where they're supposed to be" or being "properly socialized."**
- 6. Refrain from feeling inadequate to teach my child. Instead, develop dependence on God to creatively supply what each child needs.**
- 7. Don't assume my kids need lots of involvement with kids their own age, but instead expose them to all ages of people.**
- 8. Don't be afraid to discern that certain subject material is detrimental to my child's spirit and refrain from using it even if everyone else thinks I have to teach it.**
- 9. Use textbooks, but not exclusively. Get my child into the real world. Use books as tools, but not be enslaved to them. Practical implementation is a very good teacher.**
- 10. Waste large quantities of my child's time with skills they will never need.**

TEN THINGS I'D DO ALL OVER AGAIN, AND MORE OF

- 1. Study my child to learn their passions, desires, what inspires them, what discourages them, and teach accordingly. Plan what I see my child as needing to study, not some prescribed program.**

- 2. Listen to and ask for their input on how they learn best or which curriculum to choose.**
- 3. Let them explore their interests and passions.**
- 4. Cut down on busy work, realizing that it motivates a child to see an end to the lesson and more time to explore areas of interest.**
- 5. Find ways to serve others, teaching by example how to develop a servant's heart.**
- 6. Be creative with "subjects" taught.**
- 7. Encourage my child to try new things. Some they won't like, sometimes they'll find new passions.**
- 8. Focus on character building and instilling God's Word in their hearts.**
- 9. Making time for fun things. Looking for ways to teach so they don't even realize they are learning.**
- 10. Stay home more often than not. It's hard to effectively homeschool when you are never home.**