



Tips from the Trenches

advice from your Homeschool Iowa



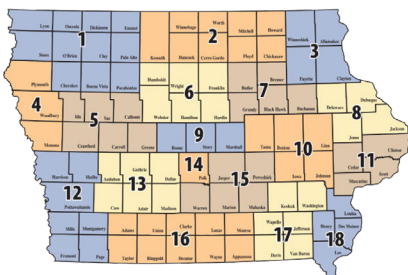
Regional Representatives

- There is a reason you are teaching at home. Don't feel pressured to conform to a traditional schooling mindset.
- You don't need to have it all together or be super organized for homeschooling to be effective.
- Avoid the comparison trap. Your family is unique.
- Pray and seek wisdom. Daily.
- Give yourself grace and remember that you are equipped for this task.
- Know the reasons WHY you are homeschooling.
- Learn to enjoy your children and smile often!
- Your children are never too young nor too old to be read aloud to. You're not just learning, you're making memories!
- Incorporate movement into your day. All will benefit from a break, not just the wigglers!
- Learning happens in all places at all times; no need to confine it to a specific place and time.
- Remember that "schooling" and "education" are not interchangeable concepts.
- Neither are "socializing" and "socialization." Socializing is hanging out with the people you like. Socialization is learning social norms of a society.
- Become a student yourself. Read for both pleasure and information as an example to your learners.
- Join Homeschool Iowa and know your rights under the Iowa homeschool law.

• *Relax & Breathe!*

- The process is most important, not the product.
- Give your children a variety of experiences that may spark an area of interest, or choose to learn about things they're already interested in.
- If your child is struggling with a skill or concept, back off and try again in a few months.
- Learning new concepts and practicing new skills can be stressful. Be your child's partner, supporter, and encourager.
- Introducing biographies at an early age can open a whole new world for your child.
- Encourage questions and teach your learners how to discover the answers.
- If you don't know something, but you want to learn, always start with a children's book.
- Tests mostly show what your kids don't know, not what they do know.
- The best way to learn to write well is to read, read, and read some more.
- There is a huge difference between learning to express an idea on paper and the mechanics of formal writing. Oral narration is a great option until the two skills align.
- If something isn't working, empower yourself to try something else. Remember, relationships and character matter more than a curriculum.
- If you are a Christian, the ultimate goal should be pointing your children to a relationship with Jesus.

Reach Out to Your Homeschool Iowa Regional Representative



Our Homeschool Iowa Regional Representatives offer localized assistance in 18 regions in Iowa. They have extensive practical skills and wisdom from years of homeschooling experience.

Look for "Regional Representatives" under the "Resources" menu on our website.



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