



From School to Homeschool

Should You Homeschool
Your Gifted Child?

Suki Wessling

From School to Homeschool

How does our MINDSET affect how we see the world?

- ❁ Carol Dweck's research shows that our mindset going into a task actually affects our ability to complete that task.
- ❁ Our mindset about education was created by our national/regional culture, our own educations, our parents' ideas of education, our friends' influence...
- ❁ What is your mindset?

School-based Mindset

Generalization
alert!

- ❁ Education is best left to professionals
- ❁ Children learn best in a classroom of their age-based peers
- ❁ State standards reflect what all children should learn at each age
- ❁ If a child isn't learning, it's the teacher's fault
- ❁ A child who is unhappy in school needs to be "fixed"


Homeschool-based Mindset

Yup...more generalizations

- ✿ We all have to learn how to learn
- ✿ Each child is unique and learns differently
- ✿ State curriculum is not necessarily what every child needs to learn
- ✿ All children want to learn—it's our job to figure out how to guide or mentor our children
- ✿ Not all children and all families fit into the public school model, and that's OK
- ✿ A child who is unhappy and not learning needs guidance and love

How do we get from there to here?

- ❁ Question your assumptions—what is your mindset about education?
- ❁ Take a good look at yourself, your family, and your child—what do you really need?
- ❁ Relax – this can be a long transition



How did I get from there to here?

Deschooling

- ❁ Deschooling is a process you go through
- ❁ Deschooling is a process your child goes through
- ❁ Recommended books: *Deschooling Gently* by Tammy Takahashi, *Dismantling the Inner School* by David Albert, and Sandra Dodd's *Deschooling Resources*
- ❁ Remember that you and your family are different from every other homeschooling family, and your journey will be your own

What are the qualities of a good student?

School

- ✿ Follow instructions
- ✿ Wait and be patient
- ✿ Figure out what a teacher wants and provide it
- ✿ Take tests
- ✿ Deny physical needs such as sleep, meals, fresh air, and exercise
- ✿ Deny personal needs in deference to classroom needs

What are the qualities of a good student?

Homeschool

- ✿ Determine what needs to be done
- ✿ Grab an idea and run with it
- ✿ Figure out goals and the path to attain them
- ✿ Judge one's own skills honestly
- ✿ Focus on goals when easy and entertaining options are calling
- ✿ Develop a strong will

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How does a child move from school to homeschool mentality?

- ❁ This is unlikely to happen overnight—watch for incremental changes
- ❁ Address the “school at home” issue—your job is not to do school better, but rather to do education better
- ❁ Focus on success: the more your child succeeds, the more s/he will want to do, the harder s/he will try
- ❁ Your child’s ability to be self-directed will vary widely depending on maturity and personality

Finding out who your child is... what your child's needs are...

- ❁ Parents are often surprised at what kind of homeschooler they end up with
- ❁ Homeschooling can be transformative for kids—from minor changes to radical changes; from slow growth to fast growth
- ❁ Question everything you learned about your child in a classroom
- ❁ Allow a lot of experimentation

Transformations

Finding out who you are... what your needs are...

- ❁ Homeschooling is often a transformative process for the parent, as well
- ❁ Period of questioning your own beliefs
- ❁ Period of questioning your abilities
- ❁ Psychological theory of “disintegration”—we need to tear down in order to rebuild
- ❁ Finding ways to take care of your needs

Finding out who your family is... what your family's needs are...

- ❁ Families also transform: parental role changing, sibling role changing
- ❁ The importance of family meetings
- ❁ Disintegration and rebuilding may happen
- ❁ Homeschooling requires adaptation and change...

The importance of listening and adapting

In school, teachers plan an entire year.

In homeschool, parents adapt to changing needs:

- ❁ You will learn and change
- ❁ Your child will learn and change
- ❁ Your family will evolve with your changing needs

Suki's Top Do's and Don'ts

DO...

- ✿ Get to know your child again and have fun...
- ✿ Find a support system
- ✿ Help family and friends see why this is a positive choice
- ✿ Try out lots of different experiences
- ✿ Explore your options

Suki's Top Do's and Don'ts

DON'T...

- ❁ Spend money right away, especially for curriculum
- ❁ Try to go it alone
- ❁ Feel that everyone has to approve of your choice
- ❁ Get your child too overscheduled
- ❁ Define your homeschooling style before you try anything

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and finally...

DON'T...

❁ Worry... it will work out one way or another

Educational choices are for **now**, not forever

DO...

❁ Start homeschooling today—why wait?

You won't regret trying it, but you might regret waiting

Resources

Magazines:

- ❁ [The Homeschooler](#)
- ❁ [Home Education Magazine](#)
- ❁ [Life Learning Magazine](#)

Books:

- ❁ [Deschooling Gently](#) by Tammy Takahashi
- ❁ [Homeschooling and the Voyage of Self-Discovery and Dismantling the Inner School](#) by David Albert
- ❁ [Creative Homeschooling](#) by Lisa Rivero (new edition)
- ❁ [Free Range Learning](#) by Laura Grace Weldon

Websites:

- ❁ [HSC](#)
- ❁ [Sandra Dodd's Deschooling](#)
- ❁ [Homeschooling A to Z](#)
- ❁ [Diane Flynn Keith's Homefires](#)
- ❁ [Mindset](#) by Carol Dweck
- ❁ [My links page](#)

My Book:

- ❁ [From School to Homeschool](#)

These notes available at
<http://sukiwessling.com/HSC/>