

Homeschooling Tips

1. Create a schedule . . . but hang on to it loosely

Even if all you do is set aside a few hours a day within which schoolwork needs to be completed (for example, 9am – 2pm), it gives your kids context for the rhythm of the day and also gives them a finish line to work toward.

2. Set up your classroom

You don't need a desk or a white board but designating a chair in the dining room or cushion on the family-room couch for all schoolwork will give everyone accountability and structure.

Stock the spot with the essentials—pencils, laptop, charger, paper, water. The fewer excuses they have to get up to “look for their special eraser,” the less distracted they'll be.

3. Use your kid's currency

Motivation is key. At school, the risks and rewards of whether or not your kid completes work are made clear from day one. The same should be true for your new at-home routine.

Can they earn extra screen time? Lose screen time? Figure out what makes your kid tick and leverage it to keep them on-task.

4. Be aware of your kid's learning style

Let's say that you're a naturally introverted person who learns best in isolation and your kid is an outgoing extrovert who learns best in groups—if you try to teach them the way you learn best, you're both going to end up frustrated.

Keep in mind that every kid learns differently, and your first approach may not be the best approach. If you find yourself

having trouble engaging your kid, try different methods of helping them connect with the curriculum.

(For example, reading aloud as they follow along versus having them read lengthy texts on their own.)

5. Don't be afraid to fail

If you're doing something and it's not working out the way you hoped, try something new. Be open with your kids what the challenges are and let them chime in on what they want the day to look like.

Be on the same page about the overall end-goal, but be open to changing your approach in how you get there.

6. Be there for your kids

What your kids really need most right now is you. Your presence. Your steadiness. And your love.

Oh, and one homeschool silver-lining? You get to stay in your pajamas all day if you want!