

JOB DESCRIPTION: HOMESCHOOLING DAD

By Greg Somerville

- Model the Christian life for my wife and children
- Develop a biblical vision for the education of our children
- Work with my wife to develop a sense of mission and philosophy for our home school
- Review curriculum plan to make sure it is compatible with mission and philosophy
- Help my wife develop and maintain a weekly schedule
- Provide my wife with sufficient time for planning and administration (weekly/monthly, annual retreats)
- Regularly ask wife for updates on schooling issues
- Respond promptly to my wife's questions, concerns, and requests for direction
- Graciously train my children in their attitude toward God and Scripture; toward parents and siblings; toward education and stewardship of time and talents
- Insure that my children respect, honor, and obey their mom
- Establish and maintain guidelines for my children's extracurricular activities

Guidelines: Home School Mission Statement

The Question

Brainstorming

- *Opportunities*
- *Atmosphere*
- *Values*
- *Unique gifts/interests*

Categories to Consider

- *Spiritual*
- *Mental*
- *Physical*
- *Social*

Extracurricular Activities

- *Positive*
 - *NegativeText*
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Nuts & Bolts of Homeschooling

The Educated Child

- “You are your child’s most important teacher.”
(p.7-8)
- “You are the expert on your own child”
(p. 19)
- “Please remember that, so long as you remain at the center of the education process, good things are likely to happen.”
(p. 18)

William Bennett, *The Educated Child*

The Tasks of Homeschooling:

Who is Responsible for What?

Task	Husband	Wife
Mission/Vision		
Curriculum Development		
Planning/Scheduling		
Budgeting		
Teaching		
Grading		
Filing/Paperwork		
Discipline/Discipleship		
Accountability		
Guidance Counseling		
Motivation/Morale		
Spiritual Oversight		

Family Mission Statement

Categories of your child’s life to consider when writing a family missions statement:

- *Spiritual (relationship with God; devotions; confession of sin; service in church; evangelism)*
- *Mental (attitude toward learning; reading; willingness to work)*
- *Physical (health; strength; recreation)*
- *Social (relationships with parents, siblings, other friends)*

DADS HOMESCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

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Some Questions to Help Me Think about Mission:

- What motto would I want to write above the door of our homeschool?
- One hundred years from now, what will be the impact of my child's education?
- God has placed gifts in my child that I must steward – what are they?
- My child has sinful tendencies that I must fight – what are they?
- How can I keep the gospel “the main thing” in my child's education?
- What attitude do I want my child to have toward education? Toward teachers?
- What do I want my child to know and be like upon graduation from high school?
- In what areas does our homeschool (or its principal 😊) need to change?
- Am I inspired by my vision for my child's education?
- What will it take for my homeschool to be successful in God's eyes this year?

Now Turn Your Thoughts into Goals: Things to Do, Things Not to Do

Examples:

- My child will love to learn, not just memorize and spit out facts
- Serving in the local church will always be part of our curriculum
- Each of my children will become skillful at playing a musical instrument
- As parents, we will graciously combat grumbling and complaining among our students (beginning with our own example)

Finally, Write Your “Home School Mission Statement” – Make It Inspiring!

One Dad's Thoughts On Family Mission by Fred Catoe

- Loving God – Deuteronomy 6:5-7
 - "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."
 - An excellent book that covers this is Paul Tripp's book, *The Age of Opportunity*.
 - I want to teach my family to know and love God.
 - Success - Family devotions
 - Failure - Very inconsistent family worship
- Serving in the Church – Joshua 24:15
 - "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord"
 - I want to teach my family that loving God involves serving Him and in particular serving in the local church.

All my family mission statement does is describe the particular ways that the Catoe family loves and serves the Lord. It gives some overall direction to the activities of the Catoe family. Here are a few of the elements of the Catoe family mission:

- We will have passion (not just attendance) for Church and related meetings.
- We will learn to see God in and apply his Word to all of life. I want to teach them to fellowship (problem/struggle - left to themselves, boys tend to drift to discussions about sports). Teaching my children to fellowship requires work on my part; I can tend to be lazy.
- We pursue hospitality with an emphasis on reaching out to newcomers and young believers. Result: Children love having people over. Over time, my boys have become very comfortable with talking to adults. My girls love playing with other children.
- We will be encouragers. Failure: I can be convicted that I need to encourage and see evidences of God's grace more than sin and problems.