

Homeschooling, Your
Community, and YOU



candidly
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Hello!

I noticed that there are a lot of thoughts out there about homeschooling, methods and plans, ideas and curricula, and how to care for the rest of your life while you're trying to wrangle and educate your offspring. This isn't that. I'm already proud of you for doing something amazing for your children and your family, and I applaud you for researching what you needed to accomplish that well and better.

Community - a beautiful design

We were not created to do life alone. Community was the first thing God gave to Adam, in creating Eve. It wasn't right for him to be alone, and it isn't right for us to struggle along alone, either. We need people to support us in our endeavors, joys, and struggles, and we need to support them in turn.

When you homeschool, you have given yourself a wonderful responsibility but you have also taken on a burden that is more often shared. One of the reasons public education can work is this: a team of people is responsible for each child, including the parents, the teachers, the administration, and the support folks. When you homeschool, you are all of those people [which is why talking to yourself counts as a parent/teacher conference!].

One of the things that helps to make homeschooling successful for a lot of us is our community. Whether it's play time, coffee time, field trips, baking days, or sharing a meal, we love doing life with other people. We mamas need friends just as much as our kids do. We need time to share our triumphs and tragedies. We need to remember that we are not alone. And sometimes, we need someone to do that one lesson with our kids that just doesn't seem to get through!

Co-op - a beautiful solution

Homeschool co-ops are a wonderful answer to the question of community. One family alone can do a lot of things, and it can be awesome. But several families together can create excitement, energy, and encouragement. Together, they can learn from one parent what another struggles to teach. Together, they can learn compassion and caring for others. Together, they can play a game of kickball that simply can't be played by three kids alone.



one time we got locked out of our house and had to have two co-op members come rescue us!

Some homeschool co-ops are complex organizations with classes and schedules and science fairs and homework. Some are park dates and field trips and book clubs. Many fall somewhere in between, with all of them working toward one goal: community.

Your homeschool support needs are going to be best met by your fellow local homeschoolers. You understand your culture, your school districts, your opportunities, and your experiences. Together, you can decide what you are looking for. Do you mamas need a mentor? Do your kids need extreme math assistance? Are you hoping to create an Olympic-level basketball team? Do you just need to get your kids together with other kids their own age so they can play that one complicated board game with someone other than you? Or is it that you really hope someone else can cover animal dissection so you don't have to?

Whether you already have a co-op or are hoping to start one, this website is for you. Here you will find ideas, tips, laughs, and encouragement as I share my own experiences as both a homeschool student and a homeschool parent. I'll help you find your own co-op groove by offering strategies and resources that you can use to serve your community. From big ideas to small thoughts, from hard questions to easy answers, we'll explore it all together. Along the way we might need a coffee and a cat.

