

Finding a Home for your Homeschool Co-op



candidly
Katie did

Every good co-op needs a place to call home. A space to meet all your educational needs and for your teachers and students to feel comfortable.

To that end, you might notice that a lot of homeschool groups meet in churches. The reason for this is pretty straightforward: churches tend to be available during the week, and to have all the great things you might need. They have large meeting spaces, smaller classrooms, usually a kitchen, sometimes a gym. A church won't usually mind if you have messy projects because they love children. There's often a nursery and maybe a preschool space for your own little ones to use. If they have a playground, you have built-in recess options! They're going to have security and insurance requirements for two-way protection. And you can keep a nice open line of communication between the church and your co-op, especially if one of your co-op people is a member of the church.

What if you don't have a church member? What if you're not even a religious group and you wouldn't feel comfortable there? Well, my friends, all is not lost! You might try some of the public spaces available in your area: a fire hall, a grange building, the library; maybe your town hall has a meeting room that's available to rent.

You could go crazy and meet in someone's house! Perhaps one of you has a medium to large house with a finished basement. You can use different rooms if you have different classes.

But you don't need a space with classrooms if you're starting small. One great way to start a co-op is to have no location at all! You can start with just field trips. So many places would just LOVE for your homeschool group to come and learn with them!

A locally-owned coffee shop might let you use some of their space for a story hour.

Our co-op likes to get together a few times during the summer for a classic park day. We just pick a local park and show up! Usually a park has places to sit and chat, as well as safe play space for children of many sizes and abilities. We are lucky and our local park has places for our REALLY big kids to organize a game of some kind, since they're too cool for play dates. And it has a pickleball court - what more could we want?



This is not one of our kids.
Because I never remember to
take pictures at park day.

What options can you find near you for a group of families that just want to watch the world learn? Are there any outlandish places you've met as a homeschool co-op?