

Nebraska Homeschool

The Home Educators Network, Inc.

August 2017 Back to School Volume 11, Issue 4



You know you're "back-to-school" when your child stops running around the backyard with his best buddy and they cozy up together to share the lessons for the day.

For the L-O-V-E of Homeschooling – sharing some homeschooling moments

Homeschooling With Little Ones: There's More To It Than Just Keeping Them Quiet

Who's On First? – meet your board of directors

Hope Full Conference Report





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Next Issue Membership Benefits



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Columnists The views of guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of NH-HEN.

Submissions to newsletter must be received by the 20th of each month via email at media@nebraskahomeschool.org.

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Notes from the Board...

It has been a blessing for us to bring the **HOPE FULL** conference to the local homeschool community. Melinda and Scott Boring shared so much with us and were able to minister to the needs of many families in our area.

Our verse for the conference was Psalm 71:14, "As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more."

Please hold onto this verse throughout the year. The daily challenges of parenting and homeschooling can weigh heavy on us. But regardless of our blessings or burdens, if we remember the source of our strength, we cannot lose hope.

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I will praise him." Psalm 28:7

> To the glory of Christ, Kathryn Dillow President



Nebraska Homeschool
The Home Educators Network, Inc.

Network News

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www.nebraskahomeschool.org

For the L-O-V-E of Homeschooling

- sharing some homeschooling moments



The Power of Words

by Kathryn Dillow

Homeschooling offers the opportunity to apply a multi-level teaching strategy and, in essence, restore "the one room schoolhouse." Teaching all students the same subject in the same room allows them to learn by exposure and association. A single curriculum that meets the needs of multiple levels is something many homeschool parents choose to use. I was no different. During the elementary years, I chose a multi-level K-8 spelling curriculum to teach my three children who were at three different grade levels. My oldest was progressing with spelling at an appropriate rate and my second child was catching up to his level quickly, so I decided to offer them both the same pre-test to see how they would do. To my pleasant surprise they both did well on the pre-test, so I started teaching them the same lessons. Meanwhile, my youngest child was continuing at her own pace.

This particular curriculum used comprehensive quizzes at the end of each section, to again test and reinforce the previous lessons in the unit. One fall week I gave my two older children their comprehensive quiz – 150 words in all. They both did well and mom was satisfied. I also gave my youngest daughter her quiz which was also 150 words in length, but things didn't go as well as they usually did. She completed the quiz without any problem, but she only spelled 78% of her words correctly. She normally scored a 90% or higher.

I assumed my disappointed-mom face and lower- toned voice then asked, "What happened today? You normally score much better. Did you forget the words we studied?" My daughter's countenance dropped, she looked down at the table and sat quietly — tears began to form in her eyes. "It's okay," I said with a softer voice and a stroke of her hair, "We'll work on them again." I went back over to the counter where I had graded the quizzes to place her quiz in the pile of graded papers. That's when I realized exactly what had happened. I had mistakenly given her the same quiz as her two older siblings!

"Oh, my!" I exclaimed aloud. All three of the children looked at me wide-eyed and surprised. "Honey, I gave you the wrong test! I'm so sorry! I gave you the same one as your big brother and big sister." I paused, "I can't believe it! You did so well!" My two older children began celebrating for their sister and she just sat there trying to comprehend what I had just said. I went over to her and hugged her. "Honey, you did great! You did really, really well. You did the same test as your brother and sister and you did very well." At this point she began to understand. Sitting up straight in her chair, she ran her sleeve under her nose then flashed her big bright "cheesy" smile. She was proud of her accomplishment – we all were.

That evening when my husband returned home from work my two older children could hardly wait to tell Dad what had happened that day. I insisted that they let their little sister tell the story. Amid smiles and laughter, my youngest child related the story to her father while her older siblings chimed in with additional comments. Dad responded with hugs and jovial words of pride and encouragement for a job well done.

I have reflected back on that day many times throughout my homeschooling journey. I've learned a few lessons too. First, parents can and do make mistakes. When we do, we need to apologize and ask for our child's forgiveness. Second, a parent's words impact the heart of their child – for better or worse. We need to handle our words carefully. Our guidance and correction need to do more than teach a subject, they need to instruct our children in godly living. Third, God uses homeschooling moments to teach parents and children alike. Every year God reminds me of these three lessons in one way or another. I am reminded that I am His child and He is my Father. I too am still being "trained up" in the way I should go.



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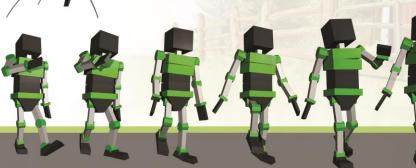
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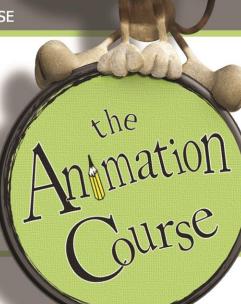
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Homeschooling with Little Ones: There's More To It Than Just Keeping Them Quiet

By Janelle Knutson

It can be quite a challenge trying to home educate older children with little ones around. I don't know how many times I went to bed feeling like a homeschool mom failure as I contemplated the school work that was neglected and the huge amount of time that the little ones dominated that day. I remember spending hours poring over homeschool blogs for practical tips on how to homeschool with little ones around only to be discouraged when implementing those ideas didn't bring about the desired results.



It is still hard for me to find a balance between caring for my young children and educating their older siblings but, amidst the dirty diapers and unfinished school work, I have learned a valuable lesson about home education. You see, homeschooling is not merely about finishing curriculum and keeping little ones quiet. Homeschooling is about training the hearts and minds of our children for God's purposes and sometimes, that is best accomplished within the chaos that the little ones create.

For years I viewed my young children's interruptions as distracting me from what I felt was the more important task of teaching my older children at home. My goal for homeschooling was solely academic excellence. Once I began viewing homeschooling as a training ground for preparing my children's hearts and minds for God's purposes, I was able to see all those interruptions by my younger children as opportunities for teaching and training my older children to become more like Christ.

So before you give up on homeschooling because your little ones are wreaking havoc on your home, try asking God to show you how He wants to turn everything into opportunities for accomplishing His homeschooling plan for the day. This can be a challenge when you are feeling overwhelmed and frustrated. The best place to start is by repenting of any wrong feelings, thoughts, or actions toward your young children and then asking God to give you eyes to see your little ones as He sees them. Next, start praying that God would show you how to use interruptions as tools to aid in the spiritual and mental growth of your older children.

Having to take a break from studies because a little one needs attention can become an opportunity for teaching a valuable lesson in putting others first. Having to deal with constant interruptions provides your older child practice in patience. Loud noises from younger siblings offers good training in staying focused when distractions are present. As a parent you can demonstrate how to have compassion for others when you take the time to care for a toddler who gets hurt or a baby who needs to be held. And when your older child gets frustrated by all the interruptions and wants to lash out at her younger sibling, take time to talk about self-control and being slow to anger.

Keep in mind that your older children aren't going to catch all of these heart-shaping lessons on their own so make sure to take some time to communicate these lessons to your older children as frustrating situations arise. Remind them, that while it might be difficult to love their younger siblings in their own strength, that the Lord will give them the patience, compassion, and love they need if they ask for His help.

I can recall a time when I was busy teaching a lesson to my older daughter when a younger child interrupted our studies. Frustration and anger quickly rose up within me as I rudely dismissed my little one's needs and continued on with our lesson. It wasn't long before that same child became more adamant about gaining my full attention and it was impossible to continue with the assignment. Because God had already been working on my own heart, I soon realized that my attitude toward my young child was not pleasing to the Lord. I used this distraction as an opportunity for teaching and training my older daughter as I openly acknowledge to God and my daughter that I had sinned in my attitude and words toward her sibling. I took the time to pray out loud in front of my children, repenting of my sin, receiving God's forgiveness, and asking God to give me His heart for my little one. That distraction became a powerful training time as my older daughter witnessed the process of repentance and forgiveness and was then able to recognize her own sinful attitude toward her younger sibling and repeat the process of repentance and restoration that was just modeled before her. God had taken an annoyance and used it to train my daughter's heart (and my own) for His purposes!

Not only can our young children be used by God to transform the hearts of our older children but they can also aid in training their minds. We often forget that the best training for our minds is the study and application of the Bible. What better way to teach our school-age kids how to apply Scripture than through daily putting into practice God's Word as they interact with their younger siblings. Scripture memorization is good, but having God's Word transform our daily lives is even more important. As you homeschool your older children, look for opportunities to put the Scripture they know into practice as they interact and react to their younger siblings. Knowing spelling rules and math facts is important for our children to learn, but understanding how to apply God's Word and watching the Lord transform their hearts and minds is even more significant.

We must remember that the success of our homeschool day should not be based on how much curriculum we complete or how quiet the little ones were during school time. Rather, the success of our homeschool day should be determined by whether or not we accomplished what God had planned for our family that day, which may include some valuable lessons brought to us by the cries of a baby and the demands of a toddler.

Janelle Knutson and her husband, Kurt, homeschool their six children in Southern California. You can find Janelle blogging about motherhood and homeschooling on her website, chatting about everyday life on her Facebook page, or encouraging women through her speaking engagements at homeschool and women's events. For more about Janelle, visit her website at www.JanelleKnutson.com.

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Who's On First?

You may recall your parents (or grandparents) talking about the Abbott & Costello slapstick comedy routine "Who's On First?" It's the one where they run through an entertaining dialogue identifying the players on their baseball team.



As the routine unfolds it becomes painstakingly obvious that the manager of the team knows the team members' names, but the new player just isn't getting it. At times it can feel the same way when it comes to our Nebraska Homeschool members knowing who volunteers for our group. So we thought we'd run through our own routine and introduce your Board of Directors – hopefully we'll do a better job than Abbott & Costello. We'll introduce our program managers in our next issue.



Name: Kathryn Dillow Homeschooling Years: 2008 – present

Ongoing Service With Homeschool Community:

Nebraska Homeschool

President/Executive Director: 2016 – present

Member-at-Large: 2014 – 2016

Home School Foundation

Nebraska State Ambassador: 2014 – present

Background:

Kathryn was homeschooled as a child, starting in 1975 when her family was serving on the mission field in Japan. She graduated from homeschooling in 1980 and attended college to become a registered nurse. In 1984 she graduated from college, married Eric Dillow, and entered the United States Air Force Nurse Corps. Kathryn and Eric served side-by-side in the military until 2005 when she retired in order to be home with their three young children. It wasn't until 2008 that Eric and Kathryn knew that homeschooling would be the best way for them to educate their children. They've had the opportunity to homeschool in three different states – Nebraska, Maryland, and New Mexico – where the homeschool laws vary greatly. When Eric retired from the military in 2012, the family moved back home to Nebraska. Since that time, their oldest child has graduated from homeschool and is now attending the University of Nebraska Omaha. Their two younger children are presently homeschooling through high school.



Name: Jess Howell Homeschooling Years: 2013 – present

Ongoing Service With Homeschool Community:

Nebraska Homeschool

Secretary: 2016 – present

Interim Treasurer: 2017 – present

Membership Coordinator: 2016 – present

Background:

Jess has always found ways to keep herself busy in life. She graduated in 2000 with a major in Business Management at Northwest Missouri State University before beginning her career at a small market research firm. In 2004 she returned to college to earn her MBA from the University of Nebraska Omaha. The following year she married her husband Shawn and together they completed their MBA program in 2006. Shortly after the first of their three daughters was born, Jess began leading the Early Childhood ministry at her church. Over the following several years, her involvement in the church would include a position on the church board as well as Administrative Assistant to the Lead Pastor. At the peak of her part-time work in ministry and her career as a Project Manager, God placed the idea of homeschooling on her heart. Seven months later she left the career she loved to begin her homeschooling journey with a 5, 4 and 2 year-old in tow. In addition to homeschooling, Jess works part-time with Abrahams Catering and is also very active in her church as a life group leader and Early Childhood Director.



Just click on the old TV to watch
The Abbott & Costello Show

Who's On First?





Name: Tricia Croushorn Homeschooling Years: 1993 – 2014

Ongoing Service With Homeschool Community:

Nebraska Homeschool

- Member-at-Large: 2017 present
- Past Offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, & Secretary (1995 – 2017)

Lightning Basketball

- Board of Directors/Athletic Director: 2004 present Metropolitan Area Homeschool Graduation
 - Manager: 2006 present

Background:

Tricia moved to Omaha from Cedar Falls, Iowa in 1980. Soon afterwards, she met her husband-to-be, Mike, and became a Husker fan. Married in 1985, Tricia and Mike had three children – Abilene, Tyler, Samuel, and one grandson, Zachary. They began their homeschool journey in 1992 shortly after meeting friends who homeschooled their children. Then, in 1993 they attended their first homeschool graduation, and their path was set. Over the next 21 years, they homeschooled their three children from kindergarten through graduation. Tricia began her volunteer journey early in her homeschool career. Her servant's heart and management skills were well-suited for the homeschool community and have benefited many. She enjoys working with and serving others who are on the homeschool path. Tricia has been instrumental in providing many iconic homeschool opportunities around the Omaha metro – virtually every Nebraska Homeschool (HEN) program, Lightning and Wildcats homeschool athletics, various homeschool dances, and the Metropolitan Area Homeschool Graduation are just a few of the programs that bear the loving touch of Tricia. In 2017, after 34 years with Tricia, Mike passed into his Savior's arms after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Tricia now runs their family business, Liberty Property Management Company, and continues to serve our homeschool community.

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Eric (Rick) Brown Director

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Spelling Bee 2018
January 19th

Bee on the lookout for study resources – follow Bee updates in the Network News!



Seeking Christian homeschoolers to serve on Board of Directors and in other programs.

Serving others is a reward unto itself. But we want to offer a few more perks to those who are willing to help Nebraska Homeschool support homeschool families.



Board member perks:

- Waived membership fee; lifetime membership for those who serve a term as president!
- TechSoup account allowing you to purchase computers and discounted software while you serve with Nebraska Homeschool
- Free or discounted professional training with Nonprofit Association of the Midlands (NAM). We're all life-long learners, so build your skills and resume.
- Opportunity to shape our programs. We're always seeking ways to improve homeschooling opportunities across Nebraska. We would love some fresh ideas and folks who are willing to help us "make it happen."

[Board applicants must be approved by sitting BOD and agree to sign documents prior to serving.]

Program manager perks:

- Support from the board of directors (website promotion, marketing, administrative requirements, etc.). We'll do our best to let you have the fun of running a program while we take care of the behind the scenes business.
- Same Tech Soup access as a board member
- Same NAM training opportunities as a board member
- Opportunity to shape the program you manage.

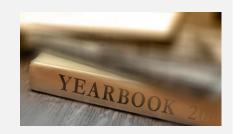


Our immediate needs:

- 2 board members
- 1 spelling bee manager
- 1 box tops manager

We've Dropped the 2018 Price!

We understand the limitations of a homeschool budget. But we don't want that to stop you from getting a Legacy Yearbook for your family. So we dropped the price.



New Prices!

Nebraska Homeschool Members: \$25

Non-Members: \$35

Online ordering is now open!



2017 Legacy Yearbooks Are Here!

Pre-ordered books can be picked up at a Picture Day event (Sept 6th or 26th). If you need your copy sooner, please email us at yearbook@nebraskahomeschool.org.

We also have a few remaining copies of 2014 (\$15), 2015 (\$15), and 2016 (\$35) - *just in case you forgot to get one.* Email requests. Limited quantities/while supplies last.



Your partnership helps struggling families purchase the homeschool curriculum they need.







Please join with us!

homeschoolfoundation.org 540-338-8688





Hope Full



There was a nice turnout for the conference on August 5, 2017. We were blessed with the opportunity to visit with families, each other, and all of our wonderful speakers and vendors who took time from their day to serve our homeschool community.

Many were blessed by the wisdom and heartfelt sharing of Melinda and Scott Boring as they spoke to parents about homeschooling children with unique learning needs. Several parents were able to meet with Melinda one-on-one and brainstorm for ideas to help their children. When I drove Melinda and Scott to the airport the following morning (at 4:30 a.m.) they both told me they felt it was indeed God's calling that they were here at this time.

Others attended Shelley Noonan's presentations (Three R's for the Homeschool Mom) and were encouraged as they prepared for this coming year. As a side note, Shelley was able to connect with Wildewood Christian Church (WCC) Women's Ministries to share even more about her services for all women (homeschooling or not).

Lastly, we have implemented a Prayer Team to pray for our homeschool community, anyone who wishes to share a request, and for the Nebraska Homeschool leadership. We'll be sending out more information about this on our Facebook page and in our other publications. If you have a special need or wish to join the team, please email me at info@nebraskahomeschool.org and I'll add your name to our team.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

A big "thank you" to all who helped bring this year's conference to you. Your conference workers included Daphne Carden, Hannah Carden (homeschool teen), Rhonda Dunaway, Julie Knutson, Stephanie Lovett, Angel Peterson, and of course your Board of Directors. Our A/V support was provided by Chris Smith (youth pastor at WCC), and two homeschool teens, Dylan Ferguson & Daunte Ferguson.



Kathryn Dillow President, Nebraska Homeschool

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SAVE THE DATES!

Homeschool Picture Day (#1) @ OHLC 10:00 am -2:00 pm
Homeschool Picture Day (#2) TBA
Metropolitan Area Homeschool Graduation 1st Meeting
Nebraska Homeschool Spelling Bee (Official Scripps Bee)

Watch for details in the Network News!

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Apr 21, 2018 Class of 2018 Homeschool Graduation Ceremony

DID YOU KNOW??

NH-HEN Members enjoy a \$20 savings on Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) membership when they use our *Discount Group* number. Login to the member website to find the discount number or request it by email from info@nebraskahomeschool.org.



Share Your Homeschool Events: Do you or your group want an event listed on our calendar? If so, just email info@nebraskahomeschool.org. Be sure to place "Calendar Submission" in your email subject line and include full details in the body of the email. We are interested in homeschool events, clubs, sports and arts activities. We also accept some community events as well. Please submit your item as early as possible so we have time to contact you if we have any questions. Submission is not a guarantee of posting. NH-HEN holds full discretion on which items to post.

Next Issue:

Member Benefits – making the most of your membership