

Dear new home educator,

Welcome to the journey! Many people have asked me over the years why our family home educates. I am in my 13th year and getting ready to graduate my first child! This is a valid question for us all to ponder individually when asked. I would like to challenge you to create a Mission Statement. Ask yourself these things: Why do we want to homeschool? What kinds of academic, social skills and extra curricular skills do I desire for my child to learn? What kind of character qualities do I want to pass on, what is our philosophy of education, spiritual teaching and family goals do we desire to teach?

A Homeschool Mission Statement is the big picture for our kids' education and family goals. As a mom-teacher, it is also a guide for us to stay on track. This reminds us of the goals to achieve, to stay intentional with the vision God has for your family and to not loose sight of what is important.

All of our families are unique: my homeschool goals are not going to be exactly like yours. Having a mission statement also helps me from mimicking someone else's homeschool, keeps me tuned on what God wants for my family.

For some, our Mission Statement will be short, simple, have a few goals for the year. Others may be more detailed, and lengthy. Each family is different and with a variety of children. Keep in mind, to start simple.

The main thing I would like to impart here is to know WHY you home educate. Pick a couple things that are important to your family and then make plans to achieve those. Spend TIME with your child(ren) and get to know them as you learn to school them at home. Homeschooling is not only doing school, but it's getting to know the WHOLE child, their needs, their gifts, their struggles and learning to cooperate together.

You are investing in the life of your child in so many areas. It is priceless.

As the CHEER Leader, one of my desires is to provide opportunity for stronger relationships within the group, for meetings to be a continual place to learn and grow, provide time that we can cultivate transparency with one another, a dependence on God and to reach out to others. We're a family, we need each other. Hebrews 10:24 says- "Let us consider how to stir up one another in love and good works."

CHEER is here to provide tools for learning and encouragement to ladies in their homeschooling journey.

Sincerely,
Steering Leader