



JOURNAL

The official publication of the Saskatchewan Home Based Educators Inc.

May 2017

Spring has arrived! In our house that means the wind up of many extracurricular activities, but it doesn't necessarily mean the end of homeschooling.

In a broad sense, we all know that home education doesn't begin in September and end in June – and it serves us well to keep that in mind as we are preparing our year end reports. Don't shy away from including details of learning that occurred in the summer. But in a narrower sense, I wanted to write a little about purposely year round schooling.

I have toyed with the idea for a number of years of completely committing to a year round school schedule – and older kids with summer jobs prevents it from being a true reality – but with slight modifications we do shape our year with part of the summer included!

If we are honest we know that much of our children's learning happens outside of the textbooks or curriculum, and outside of the standard hours/days of a traditional school calendar. We recognize it for families that farm, or maybe have a big garden, those who want to take a holiday during the year when other families and children are stuck in a traditional schedule, but what about the average family?

I have embraced it because I tend to feel overwhelmed with all that I have on my plate. I like to call it adult onset ADD. I find that I have about a 6-8 week attention span as a homeschool mom. I find if we do 6-8 weeks and then take a week off, our year functions much better and we get more done.

We do take a longer break in the summer, and a longer break at Christmas, but generally the 6-8 weeks on and one off is a great way for me to have a break to get some personal projects done in the middle of our school time. Maybe someone is really not getting something in their math, and they just need a bit of a break - or maybe we have company coming and our house needs a bit more attention than the daily tidy, either way it is nice to have a scheduled break coming so that when I feel like things are starting to pile up, I know that it is just around the corner that I will have a chance to tackle them.

It also allows me to switch out what we are doing a bit. In our home we use Math and Language Arts at the individual level of each child, but for Science and Social Studies we work more together with lots of read alouds and projects together. This allows me to have 6-8 weeks of a more Science focus, and then switch to 6-8 weeks more focused on Social Studies. This also allows for us to schedule in blocks of things like homeschool co-op or a session of gymnastics or swimming lessons.

Another benefit is that we don't have 10 weeks off in the summer to totally lose our routine, or to forget everything the kids have learned! Some of my kids don't have a problem with remembering their math facts after a long break of not practicing, but some do. So I have found that continuing with a lighter school load through part of the summer keeps us in a good routine and also keeps those facts fresh!

If you are interested in finding out more about this idea check out the following blogs,

[The Homeschool Mom](#)
[Hip Homeschool Moms](#)
[Weird Unsocialized Homeschoolers](#)

The freedom to structure our homeschools the way it works best for us is a true blessing!



MAKE sure to find THINGS TO KNOW on the second page—it contains communication from the SHBE board.



At this year's SHBE convention, Lisa McManus from the Home School Legal Defence Association (HSLDA) gave a talk on home education laws across Canada. She gave every province a grade, and discussed the positives and negatives found in each province. Some of the information she shared with us at that session has been printed in the spring 2017 HSLDA magazine.

Saskatchewan got a C+ grade.

Here's what Lisa had to say about our province.

There is good language in the education policy and a more comprehensive explanation of homeschoolers' rights are articulated there. But there is a requirement for frequent reporting and there are often issues with various school districts' application/understanding of their role.

Much of the work we do as SHBE volunteers revolves around educating homeschoolers and school divisions about what their respective roles are and ensuring our provincial regulations are being followed. Having HSLDA and their knowledge of homeschooling across the country available to us is a great asset.

Find out more about HSLDA at hslida.ca



HSLDA and SHBE developed forms to help you prepare your year end report—go to HSLDA.ca to look for them, and if you have questions, contact the SHBE helpdesk at help@shbe.info



Jason Elford from Nipawin Bible College and David Ong from Canadian Southern Baptist Seminary hanging with K-9 at the 2017 SHBE convention.

Have something you would like to see in the Journal? Is your local homeschooling group doing something others in the province would be encouraged by? Let us know!

JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS

By the 10th of the month
To
Journal@shbe.info



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