

2023 HOMESCHOOL FAMILY CONFERENCE

AUGUST 7-8, 2023



Simple Planning

Important to Remember:

No two homes are alike. These are only principles, not hard-and-fast rules.

Things to Plan Before the School Year Starts:

- What subjects do you want your children to learn before graduating high school?
 - See our Curriculum Overview Chart:
<https://homeschoolingtorah.com/curriculum-overview/>
 - Put your plans in your Teacher Binder (3-Ring Notebook).
- Plan your calendar for the school year.
 - Consider state laws (Romans 13:1-7). Many states require 180 days (36 weeks, or 9 months) per school year.
 - Plan around the Biblical Feasts.
 - Don't forget to plan time off for having a baby (approximately 6 weeks).
 - Include some "cushion" for unexpected illnesses or events.
- Plan the subjects you want to teach this year.
 - Use the Roadmap at Homeschooling Torah:
<https://homeschoolingtorah.com/members/roadmaps/>

How to Plan Your Daily Routine:

- Don't start with the routine. Instead, ask: "What do we want to accomplish with our lives?"

*The days of our lives are seventy years;
And if by reason of strength they are eighty years,
Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow;
For it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
Who knows the power of Your anger?
For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.
So teach us to number our days,
That we may gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:10-12, NKJV)*

- Doing things at the same time each day helps to establish circadian rhythms and habits. It lowers stress.
- When you have a baby:
 - Choose the time you would prefer to start the day.
 - Keep things in the same order each day (nursing, wake time, naps, baths, etc.).
 - Plan school for older children around your baby's typical day.
- Meal Times:
 - These should be at the same times each day.
 - When will you clean the kitchen and do chores?
- Bible Time:
 - This is the most important school subject.
- Early Readers:
 - Give new readers a priority in your schedule.

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- Keep the lesson at the same time every day, before your child gets too tired.
 - Twice-a-day reading is a good idea!
- Together School:
 - Keep it to 30-45 minutes at the most.
 - New to Homeschooling? 15-20 minutes is wise.
 - You don't have to do *everything* in the curriculum! 😊
- Breaks and Snacks:
 - Mom needs a break, too!
 - Lie down horizontally for a few minutes. (Set a timer.)
 - Go outside for fresh air and bright light.
 - Drink water.
- Math:
 - Spend 15-20 minutes on Together Math Drills.
 - Spend 10-15 minutes at the whiteboard, doing a few of the problems from the Student Worksheet.
 - Repeat for the various levels.
 - Have an ending time. The child can finish his assignments later, on his own time.
- History and Science:
 - Spend approximately 30 minutes on each (45 minutes maximum).
 - Read and discuss together.
 - Notebooking pages can be done later as homework.
- Language Arts:
 - 10-15 minutes on Spelling
 - 10-15 minutes on Grammar or Writing
 - Students can finish assignments later as homework.
- Don't forget lunch! 😊
- Afternoons:
 - P.E.
 - Game Time
 - Outside Time
 - Naps for Younger Children
 - Read aloud from chapter books.
- Homework:
 - Start with Copywork. This is important for all grades!
 - Notebooking pages
 - Finish math, language arts, and other homework
 - Read the Bible independently.
 - Read from a chapter book.
 - Older students might also read from a helpful non-fiction book.
 - Mom should be nearby during "homework" time, but she can get other things done.

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New to Homeschooling?

- Make your first routine, simply estimating how long each subject should take. You can modify it later.
- Watch the clock the first few weeks, getting in the habit of doing your routine in order. Setting habits is more important than academics at first. Those will come as you adjust to homeschooling.
- Keep each subject a little shorter at first, to help your children gradually increase their attention spans. Take more breaks.
- Post a written routine on the wall so your children know the order of the day. (No times are needed on the routine. You just want to know *What's Next*.) The routine will also keep you accountable.

A Weekly Planning Time:

- Pray – Remember the goals you have set, praying about how you will accomplish what YHVH has intended for you this week. Pray for your husband, your children, and your needs.
- Plan – Using your Teacher Binder, look over the coming week. Add supplies to your grocery list. Adjust your plans for your week's appointments.
- Print – Go to the Homeschooling Torah website and print what you need for the upcoming week (or month).
- Put – Put all the printed pages into their proper places. (Poke holes first.) Each subject should have its own divider in either your Teacher Binder or in each student's own binder.

Recommended Resources:

- If You Need a Substitute Teacher - <https://homeschoolingtorah.com/when-a-homeschooling-mom-needs-a-substitute-teacher/>
- Laws in Your State - <https://hslida.org/legal>
- Planning Calendars at Homeschooling Torah - <https://homeschoolingtorah.com/members/school-year-calendars/>