

“Help! I’m Homeschooling My Teenager!”

Françoise Dupré

Parents often think they can’t homeschool because they are not advanced enough, or formally taught, to educate their kids after a certain age. Françoise now has two kids who have graduated from high school and a middle schooler! She will be sharing her journey of homeschooling high school students (a boy and a girl) and how her family was enriched through the experience.

From Françoise:

As we begin to homeschool, we are more than their mom, we become their teacher, their principal, their counselor and the force that motivates them.

I didn’t plan on homeschooling. It was an overnight decision that I will never regret. I doubted my ability to educate my children because I wasn’t raised in America and it all seemed so foreign to me. The curriculum choices were overwhelming. I called and talked to many friends and experienced homeschool moms to get feedback. I made my choice and prepare myself over the summer. Then, I learned the material in order to teach. I learned the phonic sounds along with my children. This was the beginning of my journey. After 14 years, my oldest two are in college with scholarships and no debts. I still have a middle schooler. Her homeschool experience is different than her siblings’ because our family is at a different stage. Different is OK. It is about adapting to change. Raising and homeschooling teenagers is another intimidating phase to face. Am I up to the task? There are many options available to help educate your teens at home. My motto is- If I can do it, you can do it. I believe in asking lots of questions to the parents who have been in my shoes and learning from them. Learning in order to teach, making changes, and adapting to the different stages of life is key.

Takeaways:

- Am I qualified to homeschool? The early years
 - a. I had to learn in order to teach them
 - b. I taught them how to learn
 - c. They learned to become independent
- Am I qualified to homeschool my teenagers?
 - a. Looking for a high school program (online, co-ops or back to school?)
 - b. It’s ok to change curriculum to find what works
 - c. Friends, sports, music, late night talks... make it happen
- Conclusion
 - Love them, teach them integrity and show them that their efforts will not come back void.