

Heather Young (00:06)

Hi, welcome to today's monthly Q&A. We are excited that you are joining us. We are just excited about our topic today as well. My name is Heather Young. I am the Customer Relations Member Support Manager. And we have our coaches as well with us today. So, just a little bit about me. I've been homeschooling for I think we're going on our 13th year. My son is going to be a senior this year. So we're experiencing all of that fun.

And my daughter, this is her freshman year. So that's a little bit about me. We are going I'm gonna just toss it around and we're gonna introduce ourselves real quick and then we'll dive into today's topic. just going down my screen, we'll start with Jessica.

Jessica Migura (00:51)

Okay, my name is Jessica McGura and I've worked here with THSC almost four years, so member support, volunteer specialist and do coaching for like middle school, high school, things of that nature. all my kids are all graduated, so we are empty nesters. Our oldest two have families, so we have grandkids and all that. So just love to support the home school community and look forward to giving y'all some information today that should be very helpful.

Heather Young (01:20)

All right. Now Lindsay.

Lindsey Hoyle (01:22)

So yeah, my name is Lindsay Hoyle. I'm the outreach manager and one of the coaches with THSC and love homeschooling. I've homeschooled for over 15 years and enjoy getting to also work with leaders across the state. So that's been a new thing and just super exciting to get to pour into and support the leaders across the state as well as just the homeschool parents that are at home needing help. And so I'm excited to be here as well today.

Heather Young (01:52)

And Vicky.

Vicky Garcia (01:54)

Yeah, so I'm Vicky Garcia. I'm the Spanish specialist, member support specialist, and I'm also a coach. I've been here with DHSC for the a little bit o over the past seven years and I've had grown to love our organization every year, and I am always happy to help our parents, bilingual parents, Spanish learners, even or Spanish speaking people families and I I am a Homeschool mom of three. Well I I should say two since I graduated my oldest this past May. And so I'm always happy to help our parents in with their questions and so we're glad you're here.

Heather Young (02:54)

So please drop in the chat where you are homeschooling from or joining us from and how long you have been homeschooling. and so we just want to interact with y'all. And if you have questions, you can also drop them in there as well. All right, we're gonna get started. And okay, we are talking about exploring how learning beyond the walls of your home can enrich your

homeschool journey, create memories that y'all will treasure for years to come. So let's get started. Okay. All right. So first let's kind of look at what is learning on the go. So when I think of learning on the go, I'm thinking car schooling, which you know, we'll define here in a minute, road schooling, field trips, co ops groups, anything that takes you outside of the house. So car schooling is something that my family used a lot for a little while just because I had kiddos that were in speech, OT, vision therapy, those kinds of things. So we got to know our area parks and indoor playgrounds and coffee shops and those kinds of things pretty well as we homeschooled around town, really. makes me think of the wheels on the bus and I want to sing that song now, but I will

Heather Young (04:15)
spare everybody on that.

So it is great for families with kids that may have special needs and you're attending multiple doctor and therapy appointments. Weekly road schooling is kind of different from car schooling in that you're taking a length of time to travel and school on the road. Field trips are those amazing outings that we love that add to our daily lessons, or if we're honest, on those days where things just aren't going according to plan. They're amazing.

And then we have our co-ops or groups where group settings they really do help enrich your family's homeschooling education and just your social experience and character development, all those things. So that's just a little bit of explanation of each of those. Okay, organizing what you need to keep lessons simple, portable, and stress-free. So when we were doing a lot of car schooling.

What we would do, I would keep a bin with essentials in my car. Pens, pencils, crowns, markers, clipboards, those kinds of things that we would need. So I didn't have to take it with me all the time. and then books on CDs are great or any audio books or audio just kind of stories. Jonathan Parks was a great one that we would listen to a lot in the car. journals, that way you don't have to constantly be grabbing for paper and maybe some drawing notebooks too. So those are some things that you can keep as essentials. But then you also have there's visual icons that you can use if you're wanting to have some kind of visual schedule in your car to kind of help your kiddos understand that today's different and our schedule is different so that everybody kind of knows what's coming next. We took a cooler with all of our lunch snacks extra drinks, those kinds of things, so that we weren't purchasing meals all the time. and I would take pictures, this is just what worked

Heather Young (06:23)
for me. I would take pictures of teacher manuals for reference, just in case. Just the page that I might need for that day. And then I had it with me and I didn't have to take all the books with me because that's a lot really to take in a car with you. and even into the

Heather Young (06:39)

doctor's appointment too. Sensory items if you have kiddos that might need sensory items, you know, fidgets or anything that might be calming, those kinds of things. So those are just some ideas of what we would take in our car when we would do car schooling a lot. So anybody want to add to that?

Lindsey Hoyle (07:03)

Man, I think this is great, Heather. I love it. And one thing that we did is each of our kids had a backpack and so they always hated missing out on h needing a backpack like their public school friends had. And so, that was a fun way for us to incorporate that in our family was we'll go shopping, get a backpack, put the things in it that they need and be able to take that on our trip or

Lindsey Hoyle (07:27)

you know, group days or co op days. And so that was just a a fun way for it to be their thing and they can pack the things that they need in it as well.

Heather Young (07:36)

yeah. yeah. Because my kids got to that point too. And I remember one year my son wanted a specific Ninja Turtle backpack. It had to be this specific one. I think I visited five targets in one day to find

Heather Young (07:50)

that one. But we were successful and he was very excited. And you know, and pencil bags too, as they're getting older, you know, older elementary and stuff, you know, just those special things that make them, you know, just feel like they're, you know, growing up and getting bigger or, you know, more responsible. So that's awesome. Okay. Let's see. Yeah.

Jessica Migura (08:14)

I w Heather, I was just gonna say, you know, a homeschool mom when you see her with you know, one of those big carts that has the the handle on it that, you know, you can take the little because then it's compactable so it it folds up if it's empty. But I mean, that's what I carried all my stuff in, you know, for the kids.

Heather Young (08:32)

yeah.

Jessica Migura (08:32)

Different ac you know, things to do, so I just thought that. Yeah, I still have it.

Heather Young (08:34)

yeah, for sure. It and now that you say I mean I have one of those too, but also thinking, yeah. And thinking about the backpack thing,

Jessica Migura (08:42)

Mm.

Heather Young (08:43)
also lunch kits, like lunch boxes.

Jessica Migura (08:45)
yeah.

Heather Young (08:45)
My kids also wanted their specific lunch box. So

Jessica Migura (08:49)
Mm.

Heather Young (08:50)
it was it was just fun to kind of let them, you know, explore that too. okay, planning your day so you know, learning fits naturally into your rhythm.

So everybody's rhythm is different and looks different and feels different, flows different, because we're all, you know, our homeschooling is unique to ourselves. So these are just some examples that we're gonna talk about and then we'll kind of throw out how can we adjust this on a day-to-day basis. So Jessica, do you want to add some information here real quick?

Jessica Migura (09:25)
Yeah, well I just found this to be easy for me because I thrive in an environment that has structure. And typically kids do too, whether they want to admit it or not. So I would always just try to make sure I planned ahead like six weeks, nine weeks, a semester, or really for the whole year. and I did this with creating my own like homeschool management binder.

I mean you can go out there and spend you know lots of money on these things, but I just found it easy to do this, a homemade one. You know, you can go to Walmart, get a, you know, just one of those binders for a couple dollars and then create this. and it also allows you to customize it, you know, throughout the year because as it says here on the slide, life happens. So if you have a homemade one, you can really kind of modify it more.

You can go into your Word document or your Excel document. That's what I use to create mine. And I could just modify it and change it up. But the the homeschool schedule, there's actually a picture of it on the next slide for you know later on if y'all just kind of want to glance at that. So if you have multiple children, you can put this schedule together and it can be visual. So you can print this off so all your kids can see it. And you know, like Heather said, whether you're on the road or it's in your classroom, you can have that up so.

Your kids will know, okay, well, mom is with, you know, my sister during this time. I needed to be doing independent work. And they can see this, and so they're not, well, hopefully not, coming

up to you saying, Mama, mama, mama. But anyway, so that's good. Homeschool schedule, easy to do on Word or Excel, and you can keep that up somewhere posted in the classroom or in the car. and then a weekly goal chart. These can be done on Word and Excel.

plan you could plan for four days for academics and then that fifth day or any time during the week you know for co-ops or field trips. This can all be placed on the goal chart. Again, there's a slide provided that kind of gives you a little bit of a visual of what it can look like. But really the goal with this is just allow you to have freedom and your kids to have that independent opportunity to to take ownership to their work.

So you would print one of these out for each of the kids, and especially those ones that are independent and they can check things off when they're done. again, these are customizable. So if you need to modify it, like if something comes up, you need to double up on one day, or you take that fifth day that you, you know, scheduled for field trips or co ops, you can, you know, move an assignment there. But I just find that planning ahead helps

Everybody have a like just take a deep breath and be able to realize that some of this stuff is already put together and you don't have to, you know, rush, rush, rush. So whether you're, you know, homeschooling at home or on the road, I just I think planning ahead is just very helpful. So, you know, if you can do that during the summer or on the weekends, you know, just whatever, you know, works best for you, you can find that rhythm. So yep.

Heather Young (12:39)

Awesome. So here's one of the examples of the of a schedule for multiple

Jessica Migura (12:43)

Okay.

Heather Young (12:44)

children. I wanted to leave it up there for a second. That's why I went ahead and switched on you. And then an

Jessica Migura (12:48)

Yeah, that's good. Good. Yeah, that's fine.

Heather Young (12:51)

an example, your example of a weekly goal chart. So

Jessica Migura (12:55)

Right. Yeah, and I always leave a little section down there at the bottom. Usually I mean if it's printed out, it's gonna be on grid, you know, but at the bottom, you know, for notes, so if you want to leave your kiddo notes for that week. but I mean if it's on like a like a grid, they can just cross it out and it can be done. So I I think these are just extremely helpful to have things visual.

So kiddos don't have any questions and I don't know, it just helps everything flow a little bit better.

Heather Young (13:25)

You know, it makes me think of we so when my kiddos were really little, I would have our schedule with a v like a a picture as well as the word, just because they weren't reading at the time. And so

Jessica Migura (13:34)

Mm-hmm. yes. Right.

Heather Young (13:38)

this can be customized to what you know, whatever your needs are for your kiddos, whether they're little or you have a kiddo with special needs, you know, it it doesn't, you know, or high school, it at least kind of gives some structure.

Jessica Migura (13:53)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (13:54)

With also allowing with homeschooling flexibility for things to change because sometimes the days just don't go as planned.

Jessica Migura (14:02)

Mm.

Heather Young (14:03)

and so I would also use a spiral notebook. and because to be honest with y'all, I I taught for like nine and a half years before I started homeschooling. And so my first go-to thought was, I need to create my lesson plans. So I put them on

Jessica Migura (14:19)

Yeah.

Heather Young (14:20)

you know, the computer and nothing went like it I was always rearranging things.

Jessica Migura (14:24)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (14:25)

And so I saw something about using a spiral notebook. And in that spiral notebook, I pretty much would write out our goals for

Jessica Migura (14:34)
Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (14:35)
the day or for the week. And if and I did it in pencil. So like, you know, if I had to change it, great. Or you print it out. And if you have to mark through and pencil something in and change it, that's fine too. Y it's you know, the freedom of homeschool allows you to adjust as you need to. So these schedules are a guide for you

Jessica Migura (14:56)
Yes.

Heather Young (14:57)
and and it's just to kind of help you have some peace and calm in your day to day.

Jessica Migura (15:03)
Absolutely.

Lindsey Hoyle (15:05)
Which also Heather is really great because you know in in the state of Texas you're not required to do record keeping or submit anything to the state,

Jessica Migura (15:12)
Mm.

Lindsey Hoyle (15:13)
but this is a great record keeping that you can look

Heather Young (15:16)
Mm-hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (15:16)
back on and have as documentation. You know, if your kid did need to go in and have special needs tr testing or some kind of accommodation, you've got a lot of great documentation to show what you've been doing, what they're accomplishing, and so we would recommend that you do that kind of record keeping. Anyways, even though it's not required. So

Heather Young (15:36)
Right.

Jessica Migura (15:36)
And actually, ladies, I'll tell my little secret why I did this because we use pretty much the same curriculum, you know, for each of them. And so I would have these goal charts saved. You know, I'd print them off but I would save them. And then next year I could just adapt it to the next

child and I didn't have to recreate the will. Meaning, you know, the lesson plans were already laid out for the year. And so I could just change the dates and not the whole thing. So I don't know, if you're in for shortcuts, that's how it worked for me.

Lindsey Hoyle (16:14)

See two over on the chat,

Heather Young (16:14)

No, that's a great tip.

Lindsey Hoyle (16:15)

I think Charles has mentioned I need record keeping for dummies and you know, it's so funny.

Like, yes, it's it's

Jessica Migura (16:20)

Well this is it. This is it.

Lindsey Hoyle (16:23)

so simple and it doesn't have to be anything, you know, difficult and and stressful, just like Heather had said, have that spiral notebook, just write down what you've done for the day, initial it, put the date on it or something like that. but it is a great way to track and we do have some great resources on our member portal as well. So

Jessica Migura (16:40)

Yeah. Sure.

Heather Young (16:41)

Mm-hmm.

Yeah.

Jessica Migura (16:42)

Yep.

Heather Young (16:43)

Cause the I use the Spiral Notebook in several different ways. I mean, my my my scheduling and how I did it has changed throughout the years of homeschooling because my kids have grown, their skills have changed, their needs have changed. And so what you start with may not be what you finish with. And if you're, you know, your schedule may look different if you're using one specific curriculum. Or for us, I'm very eclectic. I use a variety. I mean, I've got stuff from everywhere. And so mine would look different. And I would use that spiral notebook to also put, you know, at the top any appointments that we have for the day. So it would keep track of when we were going to vision therapy or the doctor or whatever the case is. And it's all in one thing. And I had one per kid. So

Jessica Migura (17:35)

Love it.

Heather Young (17:36)

Yeah, and so your schedule can really be what you need it to be. And if you think about it, your schedule is also record keeping. So it's very, you know, it can go hand in hand. So okay. so taking this and kind of like paring it down to on the go, you know, you can take that schedule like Jessica's mentioned in your car. It can be visual, it can be written.

However, you feel is going to be best for your family. You can shorten it, change it, you know, just depending on what you're doing for that day or that week. You can adjust your goals for that day or that week. The main thing that kept coming to mind for me was focus on the basics, focus on the heart, and focus on the character. Because that when you when you focus on these, then you really are getting all that you need because.

Jessica Migura (18:35)

Mm.

Heather Young (18:36)

you know, our homeschooling laws tell us that we need to focus academic wise on reading, grammar, spelling, math, and good citizenship. So if you're having a day or a season where you feel like you're constantly not at home to fill in all these things, you focus on the basics. You focus on the heart, you focus on the character. And everything else can then be icing on the cake.

You know, if you're out and about and at a park, you can get science in with a nature walk that day. So there's a lot of ways to fill in different things when you're having to be on the go for a season or whatever.

Jessica Migura (19:19)

Right. Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (19:20)

So

Vicky Garcia (19:22)

Heather,

Jessica Migura (19:22)

It's good.

Vicky Garcia (19:23)

may I add something? Something that I

Vicky Garcia (19:26)

I did at some point when I let's say there was a trip coming and I knew that

Vicky Garcia (19:35)

I I couldn't take all of our stuff. So something that I did was okay, you guys I I kind of usually math was the one that we would always take more time on. So sometimes I would say let's only take your math book and we're gonna work on that because to me it was hard to know exactly how you know the days were gonna be but I knew I was gonna have at some point during the week some quiet time so we could use that for to concentrate on math. and of course reading they would always pack read they loved reading so any extra books for reading but that gave helped me not to just completely leave out all the subjects but concentrate in in that math book or you know, that that subject that maybe you were struggling with the most or yeah, so sometimes it could be, you know, I I did it. only just one subject. but yeah, just wanted to mention that. Yeah.

Heather Young (20:59)

That's great.

Because there are times where it feels, you know, at least if I'm being completely honest, there were days that I felt like I struggled to get everything in because of that season. And so

Vicky Garcia (21:13)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (21:14)

that's why this topic is so important and we wanted to throw this out there because you know, if you think of Just looking at the basics, you have math and language arts is what that's focused on. And you can hit science and all that with a book or a video or an audio, you know, those kinds of things. Because when you're having to listen to, say, an audiobook, you are learning parts of reading because reading includes comprehension. So then you can discuss that. So there's lots of ways to get all of this in.

You know, even though you may not feel like it at times. So, so yeah. So Vicky, this slide, Vicki has identified some possibilities that this type of homeschooling style or season you know, can open up for hands-on real world learning. So Vicky, if you wanna talk about some things that you put on your slide.

Vicky Garcia (22:19)

Yeah, so something that I found was that when you go you know on the road or if you go out and have homeschooling at the park, things like that, it's it's a great way to initiate organic conversations about relevant topics. 'Cause they you might be out there and they might ask questions, Mom, So what about the the you know this you know it could be the nature a nature question if you're at the park. or maybe if you're at the hospital, you know, it could be a a good

conversation, if you have to wait and you can teach things and they realize, you know, the doctor and and the procedure that could go into what's gonna be involved.

So I think it's very helpful because that organic conversation can lead to a learning experience. another thing is that

Jessica Migura (23:26)
Absolutely. Mm.

Vicky Garcia (23:29)
it can simplify and solidify learning. They're experiencing it right there. you know, and so they're seeing everything in action.

Jessica Migura (23:39)
Mm.

Vicky Garcia (23:41)
so it can help just to to make it strong in their hearts. I remember one time. well we especially in music, we would have them, you know, I was very strict when they were younger. Now they're thanking me for it though. So I was very strong in music and and it it felt like I was dragging them into, you know, the piano lesson and everything. But then one day I took them to experience this event at this event where there were over a hundred people, choir, piano, and everything was live.

Well it just when we were done with that, the f following weeks, they all of a sudden it just something popped and and now they loved music more than they realized it. So I think that when you take them on the go and and kind of place them in in places where they can experience those things. it solidifies it in in it simplifies.

I mean, I can't remember how many years I was, you know, you know, mm trying to get that into their heads. And then when we went to that event, it just happened like that. So it simplifies learning. So I know it can work with other different subjects, cooking or I mean the sky is a limit.

Another thing is that promotes smoother transitions to the next season of learning. Of course, once you solidify something, it helps you then go to the next, you know, learning experience. So I think it's just great to have that. another thing is that you discover new interests in your in your child. and not only you, but themselves.

They they would discover things that they did not know that they were good at. for example, I I remember going to the Holocaust Museum in Houston. and and I didn't realize how much all the the things that they had read in books, now they were seeing the the pictures or the items that sometimes they have, you know, there, they were connecting them.

And and by just hearing, sometimes they would come up with facts that I did not know. yes, mom, this is the so and so, and this happened in year so and so. and so it's just like, wow, I'm discovering something. so it's just great. of course, it revives initiative for forgotten goals. you can probably give them something to experience. that they pro they they had forgotten that they they liked or or that they were good at.

I don't know, it could be again in in my area would be music or even reading. I remember my oldest was struggling in writing, you know. I was, you know, making her write a report, you know, and and sometimes when we push that, it is just hard. And then the tension is there.

But then when I told her about, you know, how soldiers would read or actually write journals about what was going on in in in war, and that's how they make movies now. And because they they based all these happenings in what they wrote. And that kind of went like poom, you know? And she started

Just writing and writing on her journal. It was sometimes her day was, you know, long, a very long thing of stuff that she would write. So sometimes we can use these things as you know, revive things in in in their learning. And of course it creates a mindset of evergreen learning. You know, they can as they grow, they become adults, everything is learning.

I mean it's not just in a classroom, in a place, it it's just life. So I think that's just my intakes about this experience on the road or in the everyday learning experience. Yeah.

Heather Young (28:14)

Mm-hmm. Absolutely. We would take we would travel to see family up north all the time, and we still do. but along the way, we try to find different things that we can stop at and experience, and I mean it helps to break up the 20 hour drive, but you know, we've done things where it's, you know, been like an elective an election season. And so we stopped at different presidential.

Houses along the way and and experience different things like that. So it really does kind of we were talking about the Trail of Tears. And so we went that, you know, we took that route that time instead of our normal route. And so it just kind of helps to make those things more relevant in their everyday life. So awesome. All right. so we are gonna go into some question and answers time. let me pull.

Okay, sure.

Lindsey Hoyle (29:13)

gonna add really quick while you were looking that up. one thing that is also just a maybe an idea that we did over the years to to kind of give me a break at home. because I knew the kids needed to hear from others, even others in our community.

Heather Young (29:26)

Mm-hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (29:27)

And so there were several times over the years that I brought people into our home that that I knew and trusted. So one of them was an older man that was a World War II veteran in our church and just a precious man and I thought, wow, if he'll come and talk to my kids, they were all about the military and all about history. And so it absolutely blessed him. It blessed our family. My husband came home from work to be able to hear it.

So we had such a great experience doing that. and I would have people other people or friends or family come in and read a book to my kids or just an opportunity for them to practice good character. practice listening skills and also just be blessed by other people coming in. And so it was a it gave me a little bit more work because I had to prepare for that. I had to have my home picked up or clean or whatever. But it was so worth it. So I would highly encourage people to to do that. Bring people

Jessica Migura (30:27)

I love that.

Lindsey Hoyle (30:27)

into your, into your home, into this experience.

Heather Young (30:32)

Yeah, and and that can be the same with joining a group or a co-op. You get a different experience. The kids

Lindsey Hoyle (30:36)

Yeah. Yeah.

Jessica Migura (30:36)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (30:39)

can be fed by others. you know, because sometimes you can say the same thing a lot, but they hear it when somebody else says it. So it's it's not that I've experienced that, no. But but that's you know, so it's good for them to experience that. And you know, it co ops in in group environments they're learning other skills that they need to have for that for that social you know those social skills and so it's you know so there's all different ways to experience and learn when it doesn't it's you know learning is not just in a workbook learning is our life and so

Jessica Migura (31:21)

Yes, yep.

Heather Young (31:25)

you know learning on the go can help add in so much life into your day to day. So yeah. Okay. First question. What are your best recommendations for helping students with dyscalculia? I'm sorry. It never it doesn't matter how many times I have tried to say this word. That word I can never say well. So but just a couple of things that just some tidbits. There's a website called understood.org and you can

Google understood.org accommodations for whatever you know you're needing accommodations for,

Jessica Migura (32:06)
Mm.

Heather Young (32:07)
and you can get a whole list of different accommodations that could assist you and your student in their day-to-day. There's

A couple of links that the ladies are going to be dropping in. We have Noelle and our other intern, Debbie. They're both going to be dropping links in here. So I hope y'all are able to save those as we go along because there's another one by our journey westward on that topic, Fireworks Press. Their curriculum

is really designed for and it designed by somebody who has dyslexia and their stuff is very friendly to people with dyslexia or dyscalculia or even vision processing difficulties so that's another one to look at math you see is helpful because it's very hands-on same with all about math which is a which is from all about learning press

most people think of all about spelling or all about reading with them, but it's a Orton Gillingham based curriculum, which is often used with those that are diagnosed with dyslexia.

Jessica Migura (33:25)
Mm.

Heather Young (33:25)
Which in and it doesn't even like we my family, we used them for spelling because it's very multifaceted and it's very hands-on and visual. So it that could help learners across the board.

Life of Fred is a little bit of a different take because it's math through literature. And so it is about this lizard who is a math professor at a college, but he's also five years old. And so it's kind of these goofy stories.

And but they put math into action. So it could be something that's just comes alongside your normal math curriculum if you want. some people use it as their math curriculum. It really depends on what works for y'all. Simply Charlotte Mason has a a math curriculum that's a it's a

little bit different as well than your typical math curriculum. You could also look at some unit based, like campfire curriculum. They're very

It's unit-based, but it's from the perspective of different careers. And so that, you know, that could even provide you with activities or ideas that then you can put into action by going and visiting, you know, say, a firehouse or a restaurant with a chef or whatever the case is. math Masterbooks has math lessons for a living education. That's up through sixth grade.

And that is a simply that is a Charlotte Mason style where it's literature as well. And then right start. That is another hands-on one as well. Anyone else want to throw in? I know I threw out a ton, but I I the we really in these monthly Q&A's really want to provide a lot of resources for your families. anybody else want to add anything to that?

No? Okay. so another question came in about how does it work to access discounts to museums and aquariums and other things. So sometimes I have had success in the past by like getting our student and teacher ID through our member portal.

THSC has those student IDs and teacher IDs as part of membership. And I have been able to use those to get discounts at the museum downtown in Houston, at I'm trying to think, at Michael's, at, you know, various places. Not all of them accept them, accept those IDs, but some will. So I would suggest at least getting those made if you're a member.

And then that way you have something that you can take and ask for if they, you know, would grant those discounts for a homeschooling family. So there's that, but then also if you take a group, like if you take your homeschool group, then you could get a discount because of certain number of people attending, if that makes sense. anybody else want to add to that?

Lindsey Hoyle (36:49)

that a little bit in the chat as well. I think it just takes a minute to go and call and visit these businesses, the places that you want to go to, and just it can be tricky because you do want those other families to be certain. You know, if you give a number to a museum and you say we want this group discount or a school discount, you know, you want to make sure everybody understands, hey, this is a commitment we're gonna follow through with. So that can be one of the challenges working with a group.

don't ever hesitate to ask for those school discounts or teacher discounts, things that, you know, as a home school mom you are a teacher and so I've had to kind of fight for that over the years at different businesses and and surprisingly a lot of places will honor that. So

Heather Young (37:39)

Going to grab another question that came in the chat and then I'm gonna get back on the questions that have been submitted prior to just because I think this is an important one. It's a former school teacher that because I also taught in public education, and I had to go through a de schooling type process myself because you know, peep you know, there's a lot of talk of

kiddos having that de schooling time where they're able to transition from being in that public school setting to homeschooling. but oftentimes the the parents aren't put in that same kind of conversation. And I had to change my way of thinking. I had to de school in essence. And so Teaching from Rest by Sarah McKenzie was a book that I read.

that kind of helped me. It's a very short, easy read, but it's p I mean it is packed with some good stuff. and it helped me to step back and look at school and learning from a completely different standpoint. Because when you have kiddos, I mean even if they haven't been in public school, I mean kids will tend to see school as, you know, you're sitting down, you're having to do a worksheet, you're having to do this or that.

And learning is different though, because my kids will learn all day long, especially with interest based or whatever they're wanting to learn. They go and they have we have taught them how to learn. And so it's a shift in your mindset as to what school and learning is. so I hope that helps. You know with our schedule.

My kids, when they were younger, it was more detailed just because regardless of the age, I mean, even us as adults, we s we do thrive on some kind of schedule. But you can create a flexible schedule, which I kind of call a routine, where mourning requires like my kids are to get up, get their morning routine done, and start on their academics. But they choose when they do math in that time, language, whatever.

And so it gives them a little bit more flexibility while also still having structure. so I hope that makes sense and I hope that helps. if there's more to that question that you need, please drop it into the chat. But also if anybody doesn't get any questions answered, please know that you can reach out to us. If you are a premium or lifetime member, then you can schedule a coaching call.

advanced premium and lifetime, y'all can submit a question either through your member portal or on our contact page, which is thsc dot org backslash contact. And we can get back with you and get you some resources because we really do want to get these questions answered for y'all. Okay. moving on to the next one. Suggestions for parents on way to record, keep or document field trips for high school students specifically.

So I've put a link. Well, a link will be dropped in. There's a list of field trips in Texas on this link. So I just wanted to provide that. But something to know is that in the state of Texas, we're not required to keep certain contact certain records in a certain way. We only have three laws that it we're giving, you know, curriculum that's not a sham, it's bona fide curriculum. You're

You're teaching your kiddos. The second is that it's in some kind of visual format. And then the other is that you're touching that you're teaching grammar, spelling, reading, math, and good citizenship. So it doesn't say anything in there about having to keep records in a certain way or a certain amount. So you can keep a journal that

your kid, you know, that you list the field trips that you you know that you go to. You could have your students bring a journal to write in or sketch if they like to draw. they could do a photo scavenger hunt and they can, you know, create a slideshow and you use that put that in a digital portfolio. You know

it with that journal you could keep like a table of contents if you it's a journal that you're having them write information in and with the date of the field trip, you know, where it was, you know, those kinds of things. Those are ways that you can do that for high school, I mean for any age really too. Anybody else want to add anything in there on that one?

Okay, I'm just gonna keep rolling. another one is I'm new to homeschool life. my son was this individual's child was on a five four plan with some reduced work. So when translating that to the homeschool world, it does kind of seem a little overwhelming sometimes just because you're like, Okay, well, how do I do that? That was given to me. How do I do that for my kiddo? So again

Understood.org is another great place to go to. There's the homeschool toolbox that kind of gives you some information on homeeducator.com about homeschooling with a student with special needs and creating IEPs or a 504 plan. But basically, we also have in our membership for premium and lifetime access to what is our IEP generator.

And with that, you can keep track of goals that you have for your kiddo or keep track of those accommodations that you might need for your kiddo. And so those are one way. You know, that's that's a huge way of doing that. another thing you can do is if you're using a spiral notebook for day to day lessons, or I even use a spiral notebook just to keep myself on track. And I would just write myself notes about.

what I needed to address more or whatnot, you can keep a list of accommodations that you find helpful and those that aren't helpful. And that way you have that data, your kid knows, you know, what is helpful for him or her, and they can begin using that information to advocate for themselves as they get older. So that's kind of like an overview answer to that question because

you can get very specific with that. So if you want more about the specifics of doing that, please reach out to us. That way we can help you a little bit more specifically with with your specific homeschool needs. Anybody else want to add to that?

Lindsey Hoyle (45:03)

Just gonna add, we do have somebody in the chat that asks if this is recorded for them to be able to go back and listen to it.

Heather Young (45:08)

Hmm.

Lindsey Hoyle (45:09)

Do you have any instructions on that?

Heather Young (45:11)

So yes, it is recorded and you can usually the most updated or the most recent is put in your member portal. if you can't find it there, please reach out to us so that we can look into that. But these are recorded for later you know, for you to listen to later. Yep. Okay. Great question. All right.

Another question is what should I purchase to help my second grade son develop during his first year of homeschooling? Okay, again, this is gonna be a an overview answer to this question. because there could be other specifics that we may not know of that could go into that, but they our enters are going to drop in there some information from our home educator website, which kind of gives

different competencies that you can look for to kind of help you understand or or goals or create goals for their second grade year. and we also have what's called our homeschool roadmap now that you can, you know, re you know get and it kind of goes through just different stages of growth from the begin, you know, pre K through even after high school. just, you know, that

once they've graduated and that way you kind of see the different transitions and kind of what to generally expect within certain stages. Anyone else wanna throw anything in there?

'Cause I know I could talk all day, guys.

Lindsey Hoyle (46:57)

to be you know for parents to understand you you may buy curriculum and find out a month into it this is not a good fit or we're way too advanced or this is way too easy. And so you know just to to work quicker through a curriculum if it's too easy go ahead and go to the tests. Give them the test. See if they know the curriculum. If they know it move on move quicker. If it's hard back up save that curriculum for next year or for next semester and

Maybe go back to the grade level below and you know, you're not a bad teacher, you're not a bad mom or dad for having to do that. We've all been there. We have all purchased curriculum that we never used. So don't don't be afraid or ashamed of it.

Heather Young (47:40)

No, that's a good point because also with that, you know, sometimes within that this and this is for any grade, really, what Lindsay said and and what I'm about to say, because you don't have to immediately start with a full, you know, schedule of all the things. When I start our new year, we actually our first day is just full of just fun. We don't really do a lot of academic that day. They just kind of see what we're gonna be doing.

exploring it. We do activities. We have a special lunch. We I mean it's just kind of, you know, I have a theme every year. Like last year it was superheroes. And we talked about just, you know, the Marvel superheroes, but we talked about our superheroes in our everyday life. We talked about the the heroes of the Bible and we looked at their character development. So our first day really is just kind of fun.

in setting the stage and then we kind of do a slow start. So we'll start with like math and history. And then we'll add in something the next week where we add math, history, and then there's language. So it's okay to do a slow start, especially if you're you and your kiddo are new to homeschooling. And even when you're not, it really kind of just helps you s just smooth your way back into the everyday schedule. Okay.

Let's see. This is a UIL question. basically, that the ISDs around this individual's area has most of them have opted out, it seems like, and was kind of wondering about if the participation in ISDs is going to increase. what I will say to that is we are going into our next legislative year, so I would keep up to date on that.

they're gonna drop the interns are gonna drop some links for you in there so that y'all can keep tabs on that. But you can also reach out. Sorry, I have hiccups. if you're a member of THSE, you can submit an intervention request or a policy team to receive help in working with that. you can we have our t UIL assistance webpage that you can go to. So

That and it provides good information to support you when you're going to your district to try and see it like encourage them, you know, to participate, to opt in. So we're gonna put those in there for you and reach out to us if you have more specific questions about all of that.

Okay. this is about getting parents on the same page. The next question is how do we get on the same page and how do we catch up after not being consistent for a year? I'm gonna need to take a drink of water, so if somebody wants to grab this one for a second, that way I can calm my hiccups.

Jessica Migura (50:53)

Well, actually Heather, I had added some a link there for some national norm test. And I don't know if you said that earlier about, you know, in the state of Texas, homeschool families aren't required to take testing, but this is a good maybe way to implement this just to help you as a parent to know if there's any learning gaps or maybe if your student is ahead so you can give them more challenging work. so again, this isn't

required by law to take but it's it's good. And then they also learn how to take that time test. So when they go to college, if they're gonna, you know, have to do those entrance exams, this is a good way to do that. But for this specific question, if you have had to take some time off and you feel like maybe they're behind a little, you can find out, you know, if they are, you know, behind a little bit, see if there's gaps and you can kind of fill that in.

And then you can also see what they're ahead at and use this way as a tool to encourage them as well. You know, you know, maybe we didn't get you know, involved heavily in our academics this year, but look how well you're still doing and to encourage them so maybe on those areas where they are behind a little bit, they can be motivated as well, you know, that they can pick that up and not feel discouraged as well.

Jessica Migura (52:09)

So that's just maybe a a little bit of a tool. and then that first one about getting the parents on the same page.

we do have some links there that can just kind of encourage you on like the standards of where homeschoolers are compared to other students and other academic air arenas. So read through those, share those with your your spouse, you know, or with you know with the other parents. So definitely I think the interns will link those in there and review those for yourself and then and then share them.

Heather Young (52:43)

Yeah. And you know, you could sit down. go

Vicky Garcia (52:45)

I I like to

Heather Young (52:48)

ahead, Vicky.

Vicky Garcia (52:49)

yes, something w when you mentioned get the other parent on the same page. I'm curious if this is about having your your spouse help in the homeschooling, you know, actual home schooling.

Jessica Migura (53:07)

Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (53:08)

In in my case, my husband was not i is not very involved in, you know, checking the boxes or grading the test or, you know,

Jessica Migura (53:17)

Yeah.

Vicky Garcia (53:18)

repeating the phonics, things like that. And and that's something that I accepted and I said, That's fine, but he was always with me about purchasing the material.

there was this conversation that I would have with him, look, you know, regarding the budget for this year. And he was, you know, on on the ball, you know, with purchasing things. he would not go into details about comparing curriculum, but he'll say, Go for it. If you say that it's good, then it's good. But he was not the one that would be repeating the times table with the kids. But that was fine. I mean he was

you know, in it with us, with me. but then there are other the other type of not having the other parent in the same page is when they're skeptical about homeschooling.

Jessica Migura (54:11)

Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (54:12)

So when that happens, I encourage parents to speak with that skeptical parent about the law. Sometimes it's because they're not they don't realize the about the the freedoms that we have here in Texas.

So share with them the the articles from the Texas education, you know,

Jessica Migura (54:33)

Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Vicky Garcia (54:34)

the law, the the y you can share those and we have here for us, for for you. and you can share how open homeschooling is, you know, how it is legal and how homeschooling is outperforming you know, public students and well

Heather Young (54:54)

Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (54:55)

I I really don't wanna brag a lot on that, but

Jessica Migura (54:58)

Ha ha ha.

Vicky Garcia (54:58)

yeah there are things that speak to to the spouse, you know, about all the the the you know advantages. and then the third thing I'll say is just be an example. Show them, show show him if this is the you know, your husband, how you can you you're really into it. you know, you're preparing, you're you're committing to your students, to your children.

because sometimes I see that or I hear that from dads because the mom is the one, you know, staying. so sh I'll say prove him, you know, with your commitment, that yes, you can take control and and that you are passionate about it and that you are growing yourself into

Heather Young (55:46)

Mm-hmm.

Vicky Garcia (55:46)

teaching your students. yeah.

Heather Young (55:49)

And one other thing

that I'll throw in to just piggyback on that is you know, dads are very important

Jessica Migura (55:58)

Yeah.

Heather Young (55:59)

in our kids' everyday life, right? So the moms, we're very important in certain ways, our dads are very important in some ways. And so we I like to make sure that I recognize dads because a lot of times when we're talking about homeschooling, it's geared towards the mom, but the the dads are very important as well. And so it may be finding out

the role that you each want to play, like Vicky was talking about, you know, because my husband, he supports me and is in and is involved in our homeschooling, you know, in the way that is best for him. And I'm involved in the way that's best for me. So just maybe looking at what those roles might be to really help and encourage each other along. And so

We are almost out of time. I just realized the time it goes by so so fast. And we we had a lot of questions on this one. So I'm going to attempt to kind of wrap up with some information on the majority of these questions before we close out, real quick. But we did get a lot of other questions about how to know if your child is growing in in progressing,

how do we fit it all in, especially in the high you know, the high school ages. you know, how to how do we handle not finishing a curriculum in a year and and things like that. So what I will say is you can use placement tests to from the curriculum providers to kind of see where they're at. you know, sometimes life gets in the way.

There was a period of time where we adopted year-round schooling just because that helped us to take a break when we needed to and get back to it when we needed to. So, you know, and you can either you can even stagger subjects. You can do kind of like a hybrid thing if you want to look at it that way. It's not traditional hybrid, but you could do certain subjects on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday and other subjects on a Tuesday, Thursday, kind of like a college kind of

Jessica Migura (58:07)

Mm-hmm. Right.

Heather Young (58:08)

you know, schedule so to speak. and really a lot of the your schedule as far as how long it takes in a day, I mean, maybe just look at do you need to take some things out? Do they need to be doing all of it? If they know it, you're not required to do everything that's in a curriculum. In public school, they send home at the end of the year in elementary school books with consumables pages that are still there. they don't get to every worksheet and everything. And

Curriculum providers usually put in so much stuff extra in there. Not that it's just extra, not that it's just stuff, but they put it in there because they're trying to, you know, present stuff to multiple different types of learners. And so you can choose what you need to do or not do.

Jessica Migura (58:55)

Yeah.

Heather Young (58:55)

You can use that curriculum as your guide, as your tool to help you give that freedom, you know, to your learning.

Jessica Migura (59:03)

Mm-hmm.

Heather Young (59:06)

So I'm just trying to look here real quick, just before we I I'm just trying to make sure I can get all these things in. for for kiddos or for families that have multiple kiddos, especially those that may have like really little ones with babies, you know, you can have a time where you, you know, when the kiddo is when the youngest, the baby is sleeping, you can divide that time.

And spend some time with one kid and one time with another kiddo in that time when the baby is napping. You can have bins of toys that are just brought out for the time that you need to be doing stuff with your olders at your homeschooling. So it's novel. I did that with my youngest at when she was one. She was like, she noticed that the others or that my son was doing stuff, and she was like, I want to do this. So

I just had novel toys for her to utilize. And you can also use this time to also teach your older kids within reason and based on age and and all of that how to take care of a child. So they're learning child care along with their academics. So there are a lot of ways to kind of throw that in there. okay.

I know that we didn't get to every single question and I wish I could stay on a whole nother hour so that we could get to them. But I know that everybody has things that we and we want to make sure that we are respectful of your time. So I'm gonna wrap it up here and just

for some reason my screen. There we go. these are our next monthly QA dates and topics. raising capable capable kids beyond academics and real world learning that matters. We have our back to home school webinars coming up. It's a one-day full-packed one-day event. So you can register at our on our events page. And

If you we'd love to hear feedback, please let us know if there's anything that we could be touching on as well. But please reach out to us. We want to be able to support you. That's why we are here doing these monthly Q<unk>A's. thank you guys for attending and we hope y'all have a wonderful and blessed day.

Bye everybody.