

Ask an Expert: Monthly Q&A with Homeschool Coaches - September 2025

Good morning, everybody.

We are excited to be hosting our September monthly QA.

The coaches and I are here today to answer a variety of questions such as scheduling.

I think that's a big portion of what our monthly QNA will be about today.

But if you have any questions, please let us know.

We would love to answer those for you.

My name is Heather.

I am the customer relations member support manager for TSC and we have our coaches, Jessica, Vicky and Lindsay, with us today.

And so after I introduce myself a little bit, I'm Gonna let them introduce themselves.

We have been home schooling Since my son was four.

He's now 16, so I guess that would be twelve years.

And we have had our great days and we have had days that we struggled, but that's pretty much life and so that's why we're here to help you all through all of this.

So we're excited about that.

I have my son, I have my daughter and we are just checking along in our year this year.

So that's us.

Let's start with Lindsay.

Yes.

So my name is Lindsay Hoyle and I am the special needs specialist with Texas Home School Coalition.

And so I'm enjoying that.

Just love helping out our families and just people who are trying to home school and need help with maybe questions in regards to special needs.

So I've been home schooling my kids have four kids for over 15 years and my oldest is attending college and my next next oldest is a senior.

He's actually in the public school system which is a little bit different for us, but he wanted to have that access to be able to do sports and and so we prayed through that and it was it's been a good experience so far.

Our two younger kids are middle school and high school age and so we are using the UI opportunity for those two to go into the public school and do some sports and after school group like the barbecue team is what my son is doing, which is a lot of fun.

So we home schooled during the day otherwise.

And so it's been a good year so far and just excited to be here.

Let's go with Vicki next.

Yeah, so my name is Vicki Garcia.

I'm with the customer relations and member support of course, and I am a coach here.

I have home schooled for the past twelve years and counting and I have three children, Priscilla, Benjamin and Arlene and their Priscilla in the 12th grade, 11th grade, and then the third child is in the eighth grade and English is my second language.

So I have tried to keep a bilingual home school throughout our journey.

So I'm always happy to help encourage those parents that would like to keep a dual learning, dual language learning At Home.

And so again I'm Vicky and always ready to encourage families, families as they come our way in this journey of home schooling.

Yes.

And Jessica.

Well, good morning.

My name is Jessica mcgurra.

My husband and I have four kiddos.

They have all graduated home schooling.

So we home schooled for about 25 years.

So for here at THSC, I am member support and volunteer specialist, do a lot of work with reaching out to new members as well, coaching as well, middle school, high school or multi-age kids, you know, our generational kind of thing to help outreach with home school community.

So definitely happy to be here, Happy to answer questions and you know, to support all of you as much as possible.

Awesome.

All right.

So we are going to dive into some questions today about scheduling.

The first question is how do I create a daily schedule? There is a variety of ways to create a daily schedule.

There's not one specific way that's right or wrong because the freedom that we have with home schooling is that we can create a schedule that works for our family.

And I know our schedule has looked very different as we have gone through the years.

So I will share a little bit about mine and a little bit, but I wanted to see if anybody else had anything that they would like to throw in about creating a daily schedule.

I guess I'll just quickly just say because I know you all are in the thick of it, so Since I'm done with home school, I'll be short and sweet.

A lot of times I used a Becca and they already had schedules put in place for like multiple children.

They gave you samples, but I think whether you use that curriculum or other curriculum, you could use that, you know, where you're setting up your schedule at on a piece of paper, having, you know, eight starting it out with the time that you want to start and end feeling in that, you know, have a column for each of your kids, and then that way you can alternate spending, alternate spending time with one child while the other ones are doing independent learning, but

also a lot of times curriculums out there, you may find that they have a system in place and to give you an example of their scheduling, but that's really kind of how I did that with multiple children, you know, with the four kids home schooling and as they your kiddos get older, you know, they're going to be doing more of that independent work to where you won't have to spend as much time with them and you can focus more on the younger ones.

But I'm sure you ladies, now that you are still in the thick of, you'll have some great ideas, So I just want to throw that out there real quick before you'll take it.

Awesome.

Well, thank you.

Because actually that did remind me of some things just like you were talking about curriculum providers will often provide at the start of the teacher's manual or whatnot, the different ways in which you can, you know, have a four-day week or a five-day week or different ways to break it up throughout the week and you can definitely use that to kind of help you schedule out your, you know, that specific subject throughout the year.

It also helps, you know, during the day to know what you need to do each day.

Go ahead.

Jessica, I was just going to say, and there's two curriculum providers that just come to my mind, it's in the member portal as discounts that really are good with scheduling.

And so that's a and the schoolhouse Teachers com, our members get discounts to their curriculum and they have really great ways to help you, you know, just kind of streamline that scheduling.

So that's a great, that's a, that's a great thing to point out because our member portal does have a lot of discounts and you know, resources for our members to help them, you know, throughout all different type parts of the home school journey really.

So absolutely, yeah, great.

Right.

Master Books is also one that came to my mind, I'm sorry, Vicki, Master books, we've used them and they break it down, you know, each week they break it down to the week and then the different days during that week and what you know, you do each day kind of almost like a syllabus, you know, so to speak, and we've used that, but one thing that I do want to just say is we are talking more about scheduling is that even though curriculum provider has these suggestions for you, they are just that they are suggestion.

That's right.

That's right.

Yeah.

And you have that freedom, you know, to schedule that way or change it up or what not.

If a, if a lesson needs to go more than two days, that's fine.

It doesn't mean you're thrown off, It's just that was needed.

So but go ahead, Vicky.

And it t mean to interrupt you? Yes, no, no worries.

I just wanted to say that just like Jessica Becka was one of the curriculums that we used when we started and it really helped me because yes, it already had and what to do each day and all of that.

And as we went, you know, throughout our years in home schooling, then I learned that you can be flexible and and use other resources, right.

SO2 years ago, I found this book at a books sale and even though it's, you know, created for teachers like in the public school setting, I found it really helpful because it has templates to to help us parents learn about how to schedule.

So here you have Monday, you know, Monday, Tuesday and every the, the days of the week and it it divides all of these subjects, it gives you the the the the, the sample, and then it also gives you like a clear, you know, page where you can create your own.

So I thought that was very cool because like I said, it's for teachers and you have to understand that in Texas home school parents are considered teachers.

So I keep telling that with the to the people that I talk to because sometimes there's some, you know, feeling of no, I can't, I can't do this, How can I do this? But you know, in Texas we have that freedom that home schooling is a type of a non-accredit accredited private school and just this, any other school operates and they have the title school.

You have to believe that for your home school and you are a teacher.

So again, you can take these ideas and and create your own.

And I just wanted to share this that for the longest time, you know, when we're home schooling, of course, what we want is for our kids to grow into taking ownership of their learning.

And I remember doing a schedule at the beginning of our year and showing it to each of our kids.

And I said, listen, this is what we're Gonna follow this year and blah, blah, blah.

And I would just tell him, let's stick with it.

And then one time I remember buying a planner and I told him, yes, you can do this for yourself and this is how you can put your tasks and but I got discouraged because they, they were not very interested in this thing, so I guess they were not ready or there were not very into they did not have the vision for it yet.

So this year, I'm just very proud to say that now my oldest is following this thing that I bought two years ago and now she's following her own thing and and this is what we want, you know, help our kids create a struck structure and and just create their own thing and and then don't get discouraged, you set the plan you, you tell them and and you know it, it took years for us, maybe for you, it will take, you know, quicker time.

But I just want to say don't get discouraged.

And now I just love to see she's journaling all of her tasks and you can get this at Walmart and and now I didn't have to worry about creating a schedule for her, she already had, you know, her to-do list in mind.

So just wanted to throw that out there and and hope it's helpful to you.

Awesome.

Yes, that is, thank you for that, Vicky, because it is important to recognize it.

I mean, sometimes, you know, we want certain things for our kids, but sometimes they're just not ready.

And I have also experienced that myself to and this year we have had to do some changing and how we schedule things out because of that, you know, that reason plus, I mean my kids are, you know, one's a JR, one's in eighth grade.

So there are different levels to just in general.

But I wanted to show you a lot of times we think of our planners as being, you know, kind of like a book, right? We open it up and it's from left to right, but this year we found this one and it still

goes from left to right, but it's not, it's a different, it doesn't go this way, it goes this way and you can stand it up.

Is that not consumed? No, it is not.

Yeah, it's, it's not that one.

I know, I really do like not yes, yes, but, but this one is said that family or kids or individuals in general that have like say they've been diagnosed with ADHD or something like that, that this is one way that they that is helpful for some, not everybody, right.

I mean, we're all unique and different in our own ways, but you see the entire schedule on one page vs, you know, a book style where it's like you have to open it up or whatever, but and it has weekly priorities, a habit tracker and.

The week review.

So we've used that to kind of talk about, Okay, what did go great last week, what can we work on this week that you didn't like how with last week? So let's kind of learn about, you know, how to adjust that.

But before it gets to that actual planner.

What I've done with my kids, I have spirals.

I love spiral notebooks because I mean, you can get them pretty cheap, you can.

They're also kind of fun to, you know, I mean, I not have one with this gate on the front, you know, but I plan out the week and I write all the lessons that they need to have for every subject on their spiral and my daughter will take this and she will go to her planner and she will plan it out in the week.

But my son, he likes more of just the spiral for his planner and so his is more.

I have one day where I have everything on there and then we have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and he only focuses on that one day because for some people the whole week may be too overwhelming.

And so it really just depends on, you know, on the on the kido.

But not consumed does have a great.

I don't know what it's called, but it's not necessarily a podcast, but it's like a week long training.

I guess you could say just about how to develop independent learners.

And so it goes through different stages, what it might look like from stage to stage with different examples.

So yeah, a lot of this, I learned from them as well, but we've enable it to, you know, meet our kids needs.

But going back to how do we start, how do we look at and actually start getting our schedule laid out? The first thing that I do is I look at our extracurriculars because we dance in our family a ton.

And so I start by putting that out on my planner for the entire, you know, year, the days that dance is that we have classes, I put in our performances throughout the year, those kinds of things.

And then from there I work with the kids ODS working on how do we schedule out our week.

This is what's do each week.

But we have dance for a good portion of, say, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

So that means our Mondays and our Wednesdays and our Fridays are going to be our more heavier academic days than our Tuesdays and Thursdays.

So knowing your extracurricular activities ahead of time, you know, or clubs or anything like that as much as you can.

I mean, now things come up and pop up throughout the year, but like today, my son woke up sick.

So obviously that's going to change our date today, but that helps you see the big picture.

So I like to start with a big picture.

And then from there, I like to look at, Okay, what are going to be our times off throughout the year, we we typically take off from Thanksgiving through New Year is summer part one.

And then we have about the same amount of time in the during the actual summer for summer part two.

And because of the way our schedule is and so then I know between our day that we start and our day that we break for summer part one, we have, we need to get this in and so forth.

Now, I mean, it's a guide, it's not hard and fast.

Life happens.

We we revamp as we need to, right? But that gives me a good starting point to kind of know and helps me gauge how we're doing throughout the year.

And then from that, I go down into the day-to-day routine.

So I have the annual picture, I have like a weekly picture and I have our day-to-day picture.

And from that, not only are we able to kind of schedule out our courses, but then we're also able to, you know, just kind of learn different tasks in that.

So this is how I schedule, that's a task, you know, all these executive functioning skills that are so important, organization, time management, those kinds of things and yes, flexibility because routine is great, but we also need flexibility because, yeah, so that's kind of how I've done it in a nutshell over the years.

And even within that, like in our day-to-day, we always try to schedule in a time and then I promise I will pass along so that others can throw in their \$0.02 to.

But in our day-to-day, we always try to have a time where we meet together.

It's been called a variety of things.

It's been basket morning meeting, daily discussion.

It all just depends on when that year we can get it in.

But we cover different things during that time.

First and foremost, we cover a hymn and we cover the Bible.

And so right now we're doing, we're reading a Psalms in a Proverbs, and then we also cover, like root words, prefixes, suffixes, those kinds of things.

What do those mean To kind of help us with our vocabulary? And then we work on habits.

So we have this and we're working on The Habit of attention right now and what that actually means.

Cause there's passive attention, right where you're not really paying attention, you're just there or there's active attention.

So what does that mean? And then we throw in some art, you know, where we do art through history and so we'll throw that in and we, you know, certain days we have read aloud, It really just depends on the day how much we do what we do, but we always spend portion of that day together, you know, and then my kids are older, so they know these things are need to be done and they know that it's not done until I have initials that I've checked everything.

So that's just how we do it and I'm going to stop there and I'm going to jump in.

Well, I, I just wanted to share something that I said I would just add to that.

Are you all able to hear me? Sorry? Yes, Yes, we can hear you.

I think there's a slight delay but we can hear you.

No, no, go ahead.

Go ahead Vicky.

Okay, Okay, Okay, go ahead, Yes, Thank you.

Well, I remember listening to these to this podcast one time and it really helped me and this lady explained about how routine is a sequence of activities each day that brings us closer to our objectives.

And that's something that together you made me think you look at the big picture, extracurricular activities and then you go, I like how you said it weekly and then daily.

So you have a objectives and and so you have to look at the big picture, what are your objectives to tackle? And so the routine or as the schedule will, it will be you will create a sequence of activities each day that will bring you to closer to those objectives.

So that's how I see it that way.

Same for us.

We have piano, extracurricular, we have church, and so you have to think about all of those as a big picture.

And while you were talking, Heather you, you made me think about this, that sometimes I'm getting started.

Parents that are getting started ask this question, how many hours should I, you know, home school or they get very concerned about they withdraw today and they have to start tomorrow and they don't have a structure, they don't have a schedule the next day.

So I just want to say home schooling in Texas is non-accredited.

That means that there is not a requirement of hours on how many hours you have to cover.

And another thing about non-accredited is that you do not have to follow the public school calendar.

So that gives you flexibility about your, your breaks, your hours and just how you create your schedule.

And so I just wanted to say that about, you know, the routine this, I really like how this lady presented it.

A routine is a sequence of activities each day that brings us closer to our objectives.

So just wanted to mention that.

So Lindsay, I give you thank you so much.

I'm not sure if, if you all can hear me, if you can just give me a thumbs up and I'll keep going.

But Okay, great, Sorry about my internet.

It's just one of those days.

So I just wanted to add to that that the structure can be so important for our kids that have special needs.

And you know, picking a routine like Heather and Vicki mentioned, just having that structure each and every day is so important and the flexibility is so important.

But if you do have a child with with special needs and maybe in particular autistic, a child with autism, that would be very important to stick to a schedule and you know, giving them that that process to be able to go through daily is so helpful.

I also just wanted to say to something that changed for us this year Since we do have our oldest in the home is in the public school and we have kids that are going in and doing UI activities.

We've had to structure our day more so around the public school and the public school schedule, which is not something I've typically done over the years.

And so I just want to encourage you that if that is where you find yourself that you are Okay with that and you still have flexibility within your day to structure your day the way you want to, your lessons the way you want to.

I know for some of my kids we, we like to do, you know, all of maybe math for the whole week.

They might want to do all of their math on Monday and maybe do all of their reading on Tuesday.

I mean, there's flexibility to change things up for what works for your children.

And you know, to find maybe even things that work with your schedule if you work or you're part-time that you find the the topics that your child needs, your undivided attention and help with that, you do that with them during those hours that you have the ability to sit with them one-on-one.

And so you know, it does definitely depend on your ages and the needs of your children.

But yeah, structure and a schedule is so important for every family.

Also, I would encourage you to maybe ask your spouse that if they want to have certain things that we do together as a family, my husband, it's very important to him that we sit and eat breakfast together each morning and that that sets our day off for everyone.

So those are things that, you know, we work together as a family to try to make happen.

Yeah, that's really good And actually that makes me think of something too because I've mentioned having flexibility, but I think it's good to just add to that and that sometimes a lot of kids will have in it.

I mean even sometimes as an adult, I still have this and I'm still working on this.

When things don't go the way that we want them to go, we have to work on learning flexibility and work on generalizing skills and transitions and those kinds of things across the board because sometimes things just don't go the way we want them to go.

And it's gotten, I mean, there have been a few years where our schedule changed in the middle of the year because something came up.

So you know, it, it's just, you know, it is what it is and like with, I know that Jessica, know Vicki mentioned this as well.

And I think Jessica, I think everybody's touched on it a little bit.

We've thrown out the word schedule and we've thrown out the word routine and so sometimes I like to talk about the difference between the two because they're very similar, but they're different in some ways too.

Like when I see it or think of a schedule, I'm thinking from this time to this time we're doing this, you know, and that's the whole day.

But then there's also a routine and where in which you have, you know, like within this time frame, like say in the morning, this is what we're doing, you know, and it may not be as specific, but it does so give you a routine.

So it's kind of like a flexible schedule.

I guess you could call it because we used to have a very, you know, I don't know strict is the right word, but we had a schedule that we followed, you know, it was math, it was language, it was, you know, so forth.

But then as my kids got older.

You know, and things were added to our schedule and that kind of stuff, we had to switch to a routine.

And you know, we get up, we have our morning stuff that we do, we take our walk where we cover our proverbs and our songs and those things.

And then you know, we have morning.

So from the end of our walk to lunchtime, they know that they're supposed to work on a school and then there's lunch.

And then after lunch we have our afternoon, right? And so that's more of a routine than it is a specific schedule.

So you know, we have a variety, we've had it both.

So it can change as your, you know, your life needs change, your kids grow older and and if you're trying to teach them more independence.

But yeah, so that's quite a bit actually about scheduling.

I think we've touched on a lot of what the other questions actually cover, but I'm just going to throw out another question.

Do I have to follow the public school calendar? No, you don't, You can school year round, you can follow the their schedule.

I mean, it really just depends on what works best for your family.

When we first started home schooling because I used to teach, you know, in special education in the public schools, we followed the schedule, the public school schedule because that's what I knew, that's what I was used to.

But then we, I don't know, it just morphed into a year-round schedule to a summer one and summer to schedule.

I mean, it just changes.

So you have that freedom as a home schooling family to determine, you know, what your schedule, your routine, whether that's annual, weekly, daily, what it's going to look like.

So so yeah.

And then so here's a great question.

How do I adjust my schedule if something comes up in the week? So I'm going to throw that out there.

What are some ways that you guys, you ladies have adjusted your schedule when things happen in life? I guess what I used to do is because during the week we always had one day off and so a lot of times we did two lessons at once on the other days.

But I did that not only to compensate for the one day off like on Fridays because we had a co-op, but also I did that for those instances where if someone were sick or something like that happened, then we were already actually ahead as it was.

So I just kind of built that in to our system to con compensate, you know, for those types of things that will happen not it's not if it's when when it'll happen.

And so yeah, that's what I did, you know, you look at your overall lesson plans, you know, what has to be completed for the year.

And so that's what I did, I would just, you know, double up sometimes on lessons and then to compensate for that one day off a week that we had as well as, you know, things that came up throughout the year, and it really did seem to help quite a bit.

But also with being home schooling, you don't always have to do it during those hours that you set.

You know, your kids if they want to do a little bit on the weekend, they can, you know, if they're motivated or in the evening.

I mean, so you can do things like that.

It doesn't have to do just from eight to three or whatever.

So there are different ways that you can work in to to kind of compensate.

I would, I would add to that too.

One of our sons is working now and that was a new thing.

We didn't start our year with that in mind.

And so he took on a little part-time job in the afternoons and it totally shifted what we were going to have to do for the schedule.

And so even today we had a discussion that you're going to have to finish up your, your work this evening or you know, make it up on Fridays because we do try to take Fridays off as well.

And so yeah, you just have to kind of roll with it and just be be be Okay and understanding and gracious to your kids and you know, give yourself grace as well when you're trying to figure those things out well and also Lindsay with have an older children like that, that's a good way to get them self-motivated and have ownership to their school for if they're going to do activities like take on a job or do a sport that takes more of their time, you know, to say, hey, if you're going to take this on, how are you going to integrate that into where your school is still the priority and to have that discussion and have them give you the information of how it could look like for them cause that, like I said, that's going to give them ownership, get themselves motivated and so I like that that's awesome.

Yeah.

That you said that Yeah.

And we've had that same thing happen to us, you know, this beginning of our school year, you know, we, we've added some things in and that's changed our, you know, schedule on our daily schedule and you know, and with working, I mean sometimes it may be that lessons are covered in the evening because something has come up during the day or like we didn't plan on going bowling every Monday, but that has now started.

And so right in the middle.

Yeah.

So like for two and a half hours we're at the bowling alley.

Well they are bowling.

I am not, but you know, it's a great time to meet, you know, for them to meet others and get out and exercise and you know, but I'm like if you don't finish before, you have to finish after.

And so sometimes we're finishing up things in the evening, but we took a break in the middle of the day, you know, Yeah, and so well they did but but you know, and that goes to with you know, if you're working in home schooling as the, as the mom, you know, sometimes your schedule is not going to be the traditional daily schedule you're going to have possibly night school.

I don't know what you want to call it, but you know, and you know it just and sometimes there's there was a year that we had, I don't remember what I called it, but we would do, I would do lessons with them on two days out of the week.

It was kind of a hybrid, like a college style kind of thing.

I would do lessons two days a week and the other days they worked independently and so that way, you know, but what I love to, and it's been touched on, is that home schooling isn't just about the academics, it's also about life.

It's about learning how to become a citizen, you know, an active citizen where you are, you know, contributing to your family, contributing to your community and and just all those life skills, those character traits and habits that are so important, you know, so it's, it's more than just academics.

I mean, everything we do is learning.

And so that's what, you know, I mean, a schedule is teaching you, even if you want to look down right to the very basic of a schedule, you're learning some academic skills while you're learning a life skill because you're learning chronological order, you're learning time.

And those are basic skills that we teach with academics.

So everything, you know, intermingles.

So yeah, I think it's great.

One thing that we've done when we've been thrown off because you know, like today my son woke up not feeling well and I mean, if my kids are not feeling the best now, if they're just a little

off, I mean, Okay, we all have had to work and do school when we didn't feel the best best, but if they are really not feeling well, they're not going to be learning we we don't.

And so I'm like, Okay, we do what we can and then we just reassess from there and we continue going and like I said sometimes we've also doubled up depending on what the lesson was and was able to catch up quickly or we had to take a little bit of time and use some of the time that we may have taken off to finish up or or what not.

I mean if you balance it out and in in that you are teaching another life skill.

So so yeah, cause we also do a well it's not co-op, but we do home school with other families on Friday.

And so you know, we have to schedule our days, our other stuff into four days.

So but anybody else have anything that they want to add in about a schedule, but I, I will wait after that.

I will say there's another resource that I want to throw out, but I will pause to see if anybody else wants to say anything.

Yes, I while you were all ladies were talking and just by knowing that most of us will actually Heather Vcy and I, we already have middle, middle school and high school kids.

So we were covering, you know, how flexible it is with the age group that we have.

But I it made me think of when I was home schooling my kindergarten and elementary kids and the beginning of my home school life.

I was very concerned about covering the curriculum and the lesson planned for the day.

And I wish I had these wonderful ladies with me next to me and knowing all of home schooling, the freedoms of home schooling.

And of course, I was in Mexico and I was just trying to follow this structure, you know, home schooling.

But then I see that getting started parents also feel that pressure to complete the lesson for that day in, you know, that day.

So just again, you already mentioned it, be flexible and be aware of unexpected situations and if you do not get to cover the lesson planned for today with your kindergartener or your elementary student, you you can just move on and and it can be covered the next day or at the end of the week and it's fine Or sometimes you just have to discern, do I have to have my, does

my kid have to cover the 20 math problems in that page or is he good by covering just those ten problems? And he's doing great with just answering those ten math problems.

So you just have to discern the amount of the load in the lesson plan for the day and just call it a day and be sure you, you, you tell that to yourself because I had to struggle with that.

I said, I already see that my kid can do well.

He, he covered the material so you don't have to place a guilt on him for not finishing up, you know, page one to page a 170.

So it is just because I was guilty of that at the beginning, you know, I was guilty myself and then I was, you know, transferring that guilt to them as well.

So as I guru into the journey of home schooling, I said, that's not healthy.

So remember in Texas, you are the the, the school administrator and you once you call it a day, you know, then move on and and move on without built, absolutely.

And that's a great point because we have talked a lot about more of the older kiddos and how that looks because that's where we are in life right now.

But as you were talking, it made me think about when my kidos were younger and there are days that I could see they were anti, I could see they weren't focused and I was like, I would just say it's a field trip day and we would go and go on a field trip.

Now I would try to make the field trip relate to something that we were doing or learning.

So then we still were, we're still covering what we needed to, you know, and so there are just days that you need that we all need that, you know, or if it was nice weather, you know, like the five days a year that we have perfect weather here in Texas, we would take those days and we would take our school work to The Park and I would let them go play, set a timer and then when the timer came went off, they would come back.

We would do some more school work, but I was set a timer for their schoolwork to so that they would know this is how much time I need to focus before I can go back and play and they would and it it, it did help most of the time because you were outside, you were doing something different.

Sometimes we would put up a tent in our backyard and we would go to the school tent because it was a different change of environment and another thing that I did was I would Yeah, I was like Vicky, I was so worried that I was going to miss something and I would make sure that everybody, you know, box was checked and all those things.

And I was like, oh, I have to make sure I get everything in.

But I kept.

Going back to what are the Texas home school laws, it says that we are to teach math, spelling, grammar, reading and good citizenship.

So on those days that things went crazy or we needed to catch up, that's what I focused on.

I didn't focus on anything else.

I didn't focus on our nature walk or our history or art project or something like that.

I would just focus on those things and I would know, Okay, we're good because then I know I had followed what I needed to follow.

So it was kind of like my accountability checklist.

So that's just kind of a way that we've, you know, helped get back on track when things got off track.

But the one, another thing that I did was, you know, we've talked about schedules and what it looked like for older kids.

But one thing that I did a lot with my younger ones is I would have a visual schedule and I took that visual schedule from just my background with working with kids with special needs.

You know, I utilize visual schedules with them.

Just because the child has special needs or doesn't have special needs doesn't mean that you can't use the same like a visual schedules.

Great for anybody.

So I would use that and they would know and I use the same kind of a thing at we had, you know, kind of a, I don't know, piece of laminated construction paper and it had all the different, you know, things that we were going to do, math, science, whatever, and they would take that off we were done and they would discard it somehow some way that I decided that we were going to do that by putting it in a bucket or just moving it to the finished side or whatnot just depends on how you want to do it and that helps them understand what was happening, what's next, those kinds of things.

So it, you know, that's another way of doing it, scheduling and teaching your kids how schedules are beneficial.

But then also there's a book by Master Books called Thrive.

I tell this all the time, this book because it has example visual schedules in their templates, those kinds of things.

It is specifically geared for families who have kids with special needs because it also has like data collection sheets and those kinds of things in there.

But it's just another great resource that I wanted to throw out and talking about motivation and all those things, you know, when you're looking at, you know, school and getting your stuff done, I mean, because naturally kids are going to, you know, gravitate towards what they prefer and what their interests are vs math unless they like math or something like that.

But get it, you know, having a set goal, you know, like, Okay, today we're going to go bowling, you know, you need to get all your stuff done or whatever the case is.

But we also would do, I would make these boards.

Now, granted this is the biggest one I've made.

Okay, so don't get scared.

Usually it was just like a piece of construction paper.

But I decided this time I'm going to do something different and behind all the sticky notes is something that they're working for.

And yes, my kids are older, but we, I'm still doing something like this because it motivates them to do stuff because I would do things like a half a day off, a full day off a field trip, ice cream, something that they really, really, you know, motivated them.

So just another way to kind of, you know, throw in some motivation in your schedule.

I think that's, I think that's all I have anybody else want to throw in some closing remarks on scheduling, definitely schedule in snack time.

That was always priority for my kids.

So you know, you have like breakfast, snack, lunch snack.

I mean, if you're not already doing that, snacks are great.

Yeah, yeah, breakfast one, breakfast two.

Yeah.

So yep, yep.

Absolutely.

That keeps some fuel to so yes, yes.

And another thing too with your scheduling that just came to mind is to alternate.

Charlotte Main was huge in keeping lessons to a link that was appropriate to the attention of the child's developmental age.

And so you know, of course it grows as they get older, but keeping your schedule, you know, the time that you're spending on a subject to, you know, that developmental time frame is helpful, but then also switching out right brain, left brain type of activity.

So math and then art.

Yes, whatever.

Just something so that the side of the brain that was really being used gets a like a break and then they use the other side.

So it's just something to think about there.

I want to close with just a an encouragement from Proverbs 35 through six.

This one has always been something that or these scriptures have always been something that I have gone back to when things were kind of a ray and gone kind of crazy.

And so I just leave you with this trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding and all your ways, acknowledge him and he will make your path straight.

And so every time I would go back to him because sometimes as humans, yes, we try to take that control into our own hands.

But whenever I've given that up into his hands, things have.

Maybe things aren't perfect because this world is not perfect, but we are able to better walk that path that he has laid before us.

He will guide us.

We will see these little things throughout the day.

And so I just want to encourage everybody with that as we close, lean on him, that's he wants you to.

So Okay, really quick.

I just wanted to close with just a couple of things.

Here we have some.

Our next monthly Q and A is October 29 at eleven.

We have October's Coaches Corner newsletter coming out mid-October.

We have for those that are premium members or if you are an advanced member and would like to have a one-on-one coaching call, you can upgrade to a premium, but that would be you could schedule the schedule those in your member portal.

We also have October webinar that's coming up through our events team and that is focus please, what to do when your child won't pay attention.

That would be at 01:00 on October 16.

So you can register for that as well through the website, go to events, those kinds of things to find that link.

But I think we're also putting it in out.

Yeah, put in Okay, awesome.

And we have our November webinar coming up, Candy from the Sky, A history lesson in generosity.

This will be an interactive, a more more interactive type of labanar.

And that's also in the chat.

And lastly we would love your feedback and we want to know what you need.

We want to be bringing resources and materials that you need to help encourage you on your, you know, home school journey.

So please when you have a second in our crazy busy day, I know we're very busy, so leave us some quick feedback.

We would greatly appreciate that.

But with that we will be closing our webinar for today and I hope you all have a blessed rest of your day by everybody coming.