

For children in the UK,  
education is  
compulsory.

School is not.

In more and more  
families, children are  
learning at home.

- ✓ You don't have to be a teacher
- ✓ You don't have to be wealthy
- ✓ You don't need special equipment
- ✓ You don't need to follow the national curriculum
- ✓ You just need a genuine interest in promoting your child's learning

### Home education and the Law

Section 7 of the Education Act 1996 expects the parents of every child of compulsory school age to cause him/her to receive efficient full-time education suitable to his/her age, ability, aptitude and to any special needs, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise.

Home based education is the 'otherwise bit' and all parents have the right to educate their children at home.

Organisations offering support, advice and information to parents who are practising or considering education at home.

Education Otherwise  
Helpline 0845 478 6345  
[www.education-otherwise.org](http://www.education-otherwise.org)

Home education in the Southwest  
[www.homeeducationsw.org.uk](http://www.homeeducationsw.org.uk)



Home or school?  
It's up to you!



The most common reasons for home education are:

- for the parents to be able to provide a learning environment that is perfect for their child
- because some parents object to the National Curriculum and the testing in schools
- because often parents feel that their young child is not ready for the formal rigour of school
- so that the family can spend more time together

- as an expression of the family's philosophical or religious beliefs
- because issues haven't been resolved in school e.g. because of bullying
- because school is not meeting the child's special educational needs
- because you always know that your child is safe
- as a short term basis or permanently, for a practical and compassionate solution to the problem of school refusal.

Home educating families cover a very wide range of social, economic and community backgrounds. Every kind of family you can imagine is found in the home education community. Anyone can do it. Here are some quotes from families who home educate - you will see that some follow a structured timetable whilst others favour autonomous learning.

The point is - you do it the way you want to!

My child is mature and independent. She relates to people of all ages and interacts easily with adults free of peer group pressures due to an education in a secure environment at home.

Our typical week includes a visit to the local museum and library, to the park, to our local group of home educators. At home we use the internet, watch really good TV programmes, cook, garden and read.

We like structure in our house - so we follow the National Curriculum - there are plenty of sites on the internet which cover every subject. We do 'school' work from 9.30 - 12.00 and 2.00 - 3.30 every week day. Evenings and weekends we catch up with friends and family.

We believe in child-led learning - our child is interested in Astronomy at the moment so we watch the night sky, visit observatories, craft the planets out of paper mache, check facts on the internet and read books.

My teenager gets up at 9.30 most mornings and walks the dog! We have a fantastic relationship that is not spoiled by moaning about homework and school. He knows what he wants to do with his life and we are working, as a team, towards his goal.

We spend several hours a week in our community - we volunteer on Mondays at a local charity shop; we use the local swimming pool on Tuesdays; Wednesdays and Thursdays is the local orchestra and youth group and Fridays we go to our Home Education Group.