

Highlights of ALI Homeschooling webinar January 28, 2024

Zahra Canani

Getting started and simple steps

- 1) Know your purpose and make your Intention
- 2) Communicate with the children on how it will be and what to expect. Come up with a schedule
- 3) Look for the resource that will work for you (ALI website has many)
- <https://academyofislam.com/homeschooling/>
- 4) Fix your own timetable and know what and when you would like to teach. Remember homeschooling doesn't require 6 hours of teaching a day. It requires much less time as it is one to one attention.
- 5) Start in the name of Allah and believe in yourself that you can do it, and InshaAllah all will work out.

Avoid burnouts

We all need break and a chance to rejuvenate, so work with your spouse to accommodate this or It maybe possible to meet friends with a similar age group of children so it can be an outing for you and for them.

Homeschooling has great advantages

These include;

- 1) Islamic environment of teaching - Can schedule around Salah time, can pray together and can also incorporate Islam into many of the topics
- 2) Controlling the friends circle of the children
- 3) Flexible timing
- 4) Helps you increase the bond with your child and you do not have to just go by the book. There is no obligation to follow everything.

Sakina Kermali

Balancing Home and School Life

- 1) Create boundaries.
- 2) Designate a learning area in your home, if possible.
- 3) Set a routine. No need to be rigid about it, flexibility is key in homeschooling.

Teaching Multiple Children

- 1) Tailor your approach to each child's needs.
- 2) Integrate younger siblings into learning with simple tasks and their own age-appropriate activities. Have a busy bag or busy basket with activities for them to work on while you school the older child/children.
- 3) Teach independence and try to spend time connecting with each child.

Parent/Child Relationship

- 1) Approach homeschooling with patience. Adapt when needed.
- 2) A nurturing environment impacts your child's love for learning.
- 3) The roles of teacher and mom coexist seamlessly. Moms are educators in various settings, formal or informal.

Socialization in Homeschooling

- 1) Homeschooled children interact with people of all ages through activities, field trips, and community programs.
- 2) Many opportunities are available through the mosque and the larger community.

Sajida Somji

Curriculum and Teaching Approach

- 1) Unschooling is when it is completely child-led or led by the environment. E.g. Child is a soccer fan, then learn math through soccer statistics, write about soccer, read soccer mags. Social studies would be how to solve team conflicts, etc. There are no long-term studies on the efficacy of such a thing.

Schooling at home is when you basically replicate school at home – hard to do if you have a few kids, or if you don't have kids of the same age.

Then there is in-between, which is balancing between the above two.

Coming up with curriculum resources

- 1) Ontario curriculum is online.
- 2) You can follow most of the curriculum from the west; UK (higher), USA (lower), Australia (lower) -but overall if you homeschool for lets say 8 or 12 years, they will catch up on different topics but not in the same order as Canada.
- 3) There are plenty of options – textbook, online, hybrid Eg. Miacademy, ctc math, textbooks, VES/ VHS
- 4) While one is doing independent work, the other is given one-on-one work. One child can read to another to one, while the mother teaches the little one. Prodigy math game or codespark coding or typing or art are all useful options while the other one is being taught reading.

Making curriculum Islam-oriented

Two ways of doing it: either incorporate Islam throughout the day or actually teach as a unit – so example if you are doing metaphors, teach metaphors in Quran; water cycle from quran; Islamic stories.

Ensuring effective teaching of material

Most people worry about this the most. Take a 2 year approach or a 4 year approach. Be flexible to your own lifestyle/ how many kids you have, how your family works. DO NOT COMPARE.

Recommendations for engaging curriculums

Include stories, poetry, art and craft, ensure you take into consideration your child's personality, likes.

Addressing learning disabilities

You are able to use the York region's services. Eg. Speech therapy.