



## *Managing Time:* Constructing a Schedule

**Everyone needs a schedule. Without a framework from which to operate, home education cannot be productive.**

Of course, the schedule must be held loosely – flexibility is a very important part of homeschooling. But flexibility with no set goals will end in chaos!

Another crucial reason for having a schedule is discipline. Children need discipline – it strengthens them. In a naturally controlled atmosphere, children learn best because of the rigorous academic/behavior training that parents provide. It creates an environment for orderly conduct, and children welcome this as a part of their education.

A schedule is determined based upon a consideration of the uniqueness of the teacher and the child(ren). Core learning is best introduced during the morning hours so that the afternoons are free to pursue creative interests. My schedule was quite early, but it allowed time to enjoy a full day.

*As a note: for children between the ages of three and five, I recommend one hour a day for disciplined study time (this is even suggested for children who are in public school), unless you decide to bring them home altogether; and then I recommend no more than four hours daily/four days weekly of instruction (depending on the age of the child).*

### **Here is a very basic outline of a schedule:**

**8:00 am – 12:30 pm** – Core learning

**12:30 pm – 1:00 pm** – Lunch

**1:00 pm – 3:00pm** – Quiet Time (listening to music, reading a quiet book, sleeping, enjoying a quiet craft... alone)

**3:00 pm – 5:00 pm** – Dinner Preparation/Chore time

**5:00 pm – 6:30 pm** – Dinner time/clean-up

**6:30 pm** – Evening family time, early bed time, reading

Training your children to appreciate the “quiet time” hours will be challenging, but stick with it. The time you spend teaching your children to value this time will prove a worthwhile endeavor.

You may wish to limit the time that you participate in field trips. Usually, families schedule field trips on Fridays. Monday through Thursday can be designed for studying and home-life time. Field trips should supplement your course of study or relate to the interest of your children. In addition to your regular places of socializing such as libraries, church, neighborhoods, recreational activities, and music, dance, sports, etc., field trips should offer positive socialization for both you and the children.

**Here is a more detailed breakdown of the “core learning” time: 8:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

**8:00 AM – 8:15 AM** Mozart Breakfast Café

*I usually play Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in the background. You can play music that is excellent and music that will produce creativity. This is a good time to go through math facts or handwriting sheets while you make breakfast.*

**8:15 AM – 9:00 AM**: Mathematics

**9:00 AM – 9:30 AM**: Spelling/Vocabulary

**9:30 AM – 10:05**: Language

**10:05 AM – 10:15 AM**: Break (suggestive break moments – walking outside in a safe environment; reading quietly; working a puzzle, snack, etc.)

**10:15 AM – 11:00 AM**: History and Science Biographies

**11:00 AM – 11:15 AM**: Schubert’s Brunch Café

*Franz Schubert was a great composer. His music was quiet and imaginative. It will create in children the breeding ground for creativity. Children will become great thinkers and producers when they hear the music of this remarkable man. A quarter of an apple (any small finger vegetable or fruit) for the children to eat is helpful during this study session.*

Practice/Blank United States Map (locating and labeling the states and capitals) and Reading Comprehension Sheets and answering questions

**11:15 AM – 12:30 PM**: Music, Science, Art

After their main school is completed, your children should be responsible for some chores around the house. Here are some suggestions:

- sweep floor or porches
- freshen powder room/small bathroom
- prepare small lunch
- clean all tabletops
- empty wastebaskets in learning center and powder room/bathroom
- clean inside windows
- other learning center room chores

**Other after- school suggestions include:**

- sports
- music
- crafts
- dance
- sewing
- 4H groups

- naptime

A well balanced schedule will include plenty of time for core subject areas, while providing your children with a substantial amount of free time. Note however, that this “free time” should not mean time to simply watch TV or play video games, or watch “screens.” Free time is for constructive play and creativity. Encourage your children to go outside, to build projects, to read good books. Encourage them to pursue hobbies. Allow them to be creative and foster their ingenuity.

Your schedule must also be workable for you as the mom/teacher. You need to make time to spend with each student. Of course, you must also leave time in the afternoon during “quiet time” for planning and grading. Don’t allow the schedule to overwhelm you. If you find that your schedule is too demanding, stop and take the time to rearrange things.

**Don’t let your schedule (or your children) boss you!**

**(This excerpt was taken from Joyce Burges’s book, Teach Me How To Teach My Child, copyright 2017, available at [nbhe.net](http://nbhe.net).)**