

SOCIALIZATION

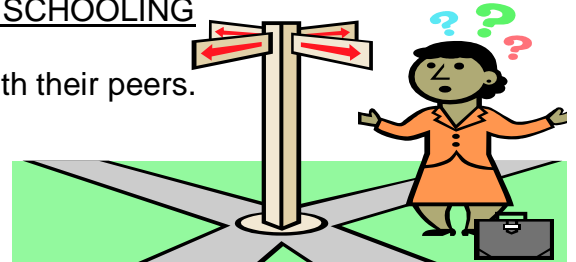
People will say that children taught at home will miss time learning to cope with their peers, claiming that homeschooled children may eventually grow up to be social misfits. The “Socialization” argument is often used to confuse & intimidate parents of homeschooled children. This is completely unfounded. The opposite is actually true. Homeschooled students are creative, independent, personally secure, and socially very well adjusted. A documented study done at the University of Florida found that homeschooled children fair as well or better than traditionally schooled children since socialization depends more upon parental role modeling than peer to peer interaction. In reality, it is misplaced to think that a student must learn substantial formative social skills from a peer, that generally has the same amount of experience.

Due to the nature of homeschooling, homeschooled students mingle in society a lot more than traditionally schooled children including in the business world. Students who are homeschooled with a Biblical World View are especially at an advantage when they benefit from a family atmosphere which supports strong, Biblical values. I would not only defend, but be proud to say that I deprive my children of dysfunctional social situations in a secular, government school setting!

This argument against homeschooling that it provides a weak social experience, is false, & illogical. The Bible gives us just the opposite conclusion in I Cor. 15.33, that “Evil company corrupts good morals”.

I. FREQUENT MYTHS CONCERNING HOMESCHOOLING

- A. Children are missing the benefits of being with their peers.
- B. Children are being over sheltered.
- C. Children will be unable to cope later in life.



II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE, SECULAR SOCIALIZATION

- A. Learning situational ethics. (That morality changes as the group dictates.)
- B. Absolutes are disregarded.
- C. Children learn to conform to the current morality by pressure from peers.
- D. Children’s security comes from the approval of the group.
- E. Individualism & leadership potential are stifled by “cliques”, & the need to conform to group morality to “belong”.

SOCIALIZATION

- F. The group psychologically disarms personal values & goals.
- G. Disrespect for authority is bred as another means of pleasing the “group”.
- H. The value is learned that worth is determined by peers. All those that are perceived not to possess worth from the peer group, are ridiculed, & become the butt of jokes.
- I. Children can become animalistic when their morals & values are transmitted primarily by peers rather than by parents, teachers, or authorities. There is no foundation to expect youth to indoctrinate each other with good character.

III. POSITIVE EFFECTS OF HOMESCHOOLING

- A. Positive examples & reinforcement by parents. (A study done at the University of Florida concludes that parental role modeling is more valuable than peer contact to develop social skills.
- B. Consistently balanced & goal oriented discipline, chosen and maintained by parents.
- C. The children’s training is daily & on-going resulting in positive self-worth, purpose & vision for life, and individuality channeled for constructive, not destructive activities.
- D. More individual time ratio between student & teacher.
- E. Healthy environment in which to grow, and from which to respect diversity.
- F. The majority of time spent by the children is spent with people that love him or her, & are concerned for the immediate & the future good of the children.



The points above show in part, that secular “socialization” is negative in nature and almost totally disregards Biblical principles and the Godly benefits of obedience. Though exceptions to sound homeschooling practices and abuses may occur, this does not invalidate the strengths of homeschooling in general!

[Psalm 127:1](#)

[*A song of ascents. Of Solomon.*] Unless the LORD **builds** the **house**, its **builders labor** in **vain**.