

Homeschooling: Discovering How and Why It Works

by Dr. Jay L. Wile, Ph.D.

Qualifications

- As a university professor, helped develop Indiana's Only Residential High School for Gifted and Talented Students
- NSF-Sponsored Scientist with More Than \$200,000 In Research Grants
- Became Interested in Homeschooling Because of Excellent University Students Who Were Homeschooled
- Currently writes homeschooling courses and is an adjunct professor at Memoria College

Homeschooling Works

- According to studies, the average homeschooled student is better educated and socialized than his peers.
- Homeschool graduates do well at university
- Homeschool graduates are actively involved in their communities

Academically, Homeschooled Students Excel

According to the Fraser Institute:

“Many studies, Canadian, American, and international, have found that home schooled students outperform students in both public and independent (private) schools.”

The largest study in Canada found that home schooling students score at the 80th percentile in reading, the 76th percentile in language, and the 79th percentile in mathematics.

In a 2003 study of more than 1,600 Canadian homeschoolers, researchers found that the students “perform above the Canadian norm for their levels.”

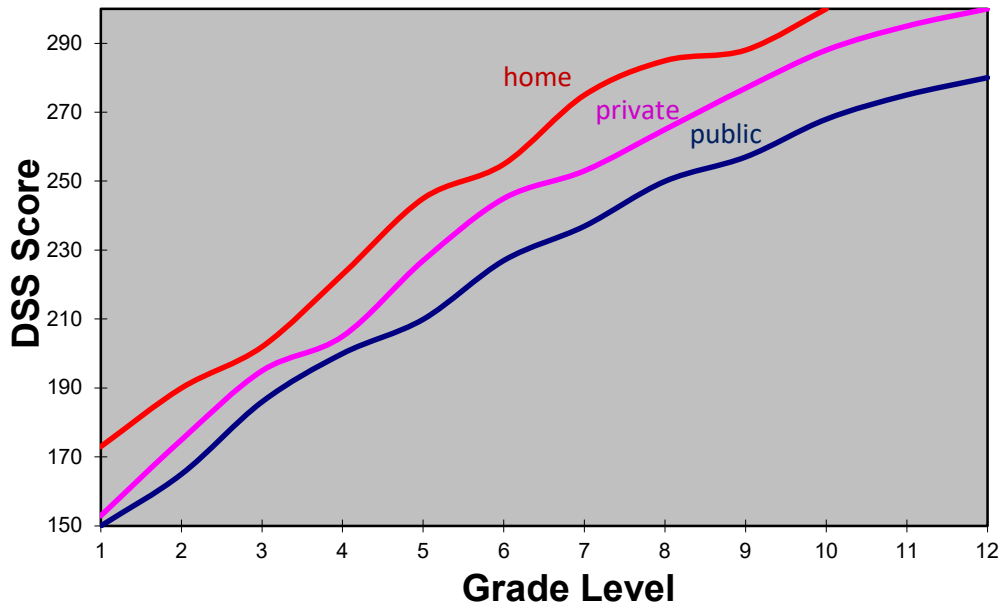
-Home-Based Education in Canada

“Several studies have found that home education may help eliminate the potential negative effects of certain socio-economic factors. For example, one study found that students taught at home by mothers who had never finished high school scored a full 55 percentile points higher than public school students from families with comparable education levels.”

-Claudia Rebanks Hepburn, Canadian education researcher

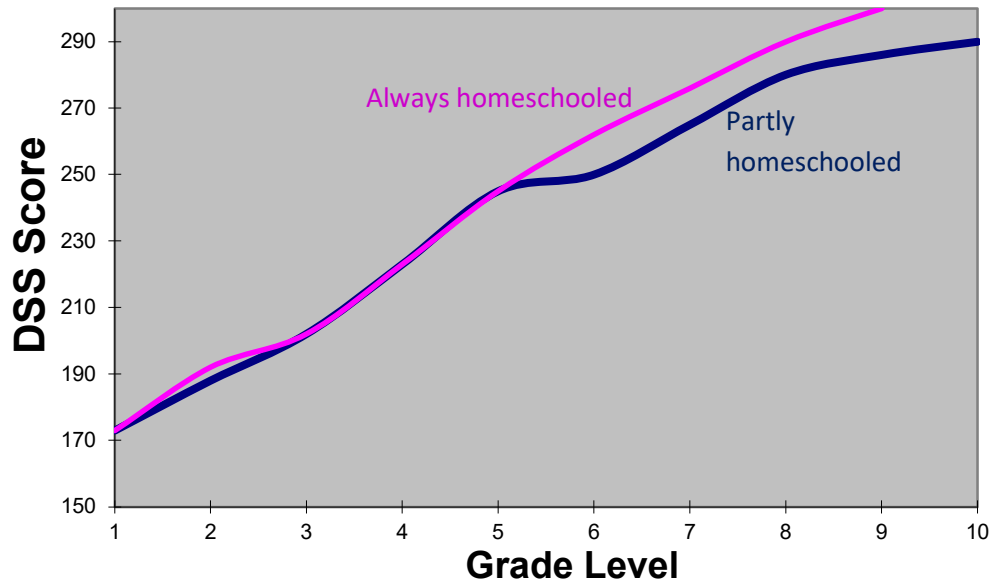
In the U.S.:

Median Composite Scores



(“The Scholastic Achievement and Demographic Characteristics of Home School Students in 1998,” Lawrence M. Rudner, Ph.D., *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, Vol 7, March 23, 1999, ISSN 1068-2341)

It gets better the longer you homeschool:



Homeschool Graduates at University

<u>Institution</u>	<u>HS GPA</u>	<u>EVERYONE ELSE</u>
Boston University:	3.30	2.90
Baylor University:	3.36	3.04
University of Toronto:	2.74-3.96	2.20
York Technical:	2.99	2.67

Stanford admissions officer Jonathan Reider says:

“The distinguishing factor is intellectual vitality. [Homeschooled] kids have it, and everything they do is responding to it.”

Why Do Homeschoolers Excel?

- ☆ The Love of Learning is not socialized out of them.

“Public schools are great places of business of salaried teachers, unions, administrators, janitors, bus drivers, textbook corporations, cafeteria workers, etc., but no place for bright, curious children.”

-Home-Based Education in Canada

- ☆ Learning is generally more interesting for students when the curriculum is tailored directly to them.

“About half utilize an eclectic mix of various traditional textbooks and workbooks, another 17% use a comprehensive textbook approach, while the rest report following a more child-initiated approach.”

-Home Education in Canada

- ☆ You can't beat the teacher/student ratio!
- ☆ Homeschooling teaches independent learning.
- ☆ Homeschooling parents impart *by example* that education is important.

Why That Last Point is Important

“Children sent to government school are told that their education is important but are then packed off to get that experience from strangers. Home schooled children are told that their education is important and then see that it is important by having their parents take a central role in the obtaining of that education. That reinforces the importance of the educational experience and strengthens the familial relationships”

-Dr. Fred Worth

A Study of the Childhoods of Geniuses

Dr. Harold McCurdy studied the childhoods of 20 geniuses, such as Blaise Pascal. He saw three commonalities:

- (1) A high degree of attention focused on the child by parents and other adults, expressed in intensive educational measures and usually, abundant love
- (2) Isolation from other children, especially outside the family
- (3) A large amount of imaginative play

“It might be remarked that the mass education of our public school system is, in its way, a vast experiment on the effect of reducing all three of the above factors to minimal values, and should, accordingly, tend to suppress the occurrence of genius.”

(Harold McCurdy, “The Childhood Pattern of Genius,” *Journal of the Elisha Mitchell Scientific Society* 73(2):448-462, 1957)

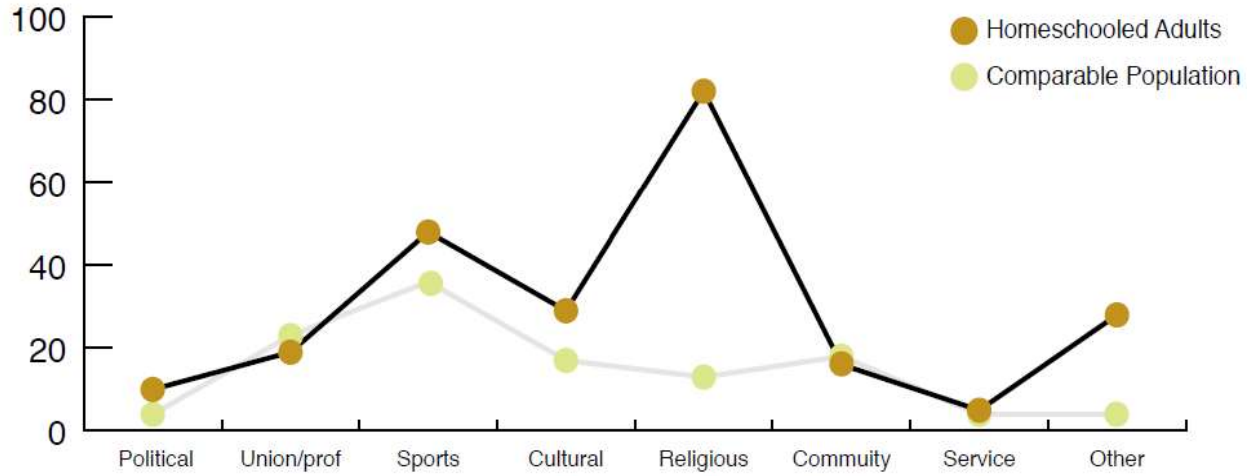
What About “Socialization”?

From *A Nationwide Study of Home Education in Canada*:

- ☺ “...home educated children...are involved in a wide variety of activities with peers and adults outside of their homes. For example, 60% are involved in group sports, 82% in Sunday School, 48% in music classes...” 45% even take classes with other children outside of the home
- ☺ “On average [home educated] children spend 12 hours per week with non-sibling children”
- ☺ "Popular belief holds that home schooled children are socially backward and deprived, but research shows the opposite: that home schooled children are actually better socialized than their peers."
- Claudia Rebanks Hepburn, Canadian education researcher
- ☺ Dr. Gary Knowles (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) studied Michigan adults who had been homeschooled. None were unemployed or on welfare. 94% said that homeschool helped prepare them to be independent persons, and 79% said that it helped them to interact with those from other levels of society.
- ☺ Deani Van Pelt did a long-term study of more than 1,600 Canadian homeschooling families. The data indicate that homeschooled students have a **life satisfaction** score significantly above those in government schools.
- ☺ “The average Canadian home schooled student is regularly involved in eight social activities outside the home. Canadian home schooled children watch less television than other children, and they show significantly fewer problems than public school children when observed in free play.” -**The Fraser Institute**

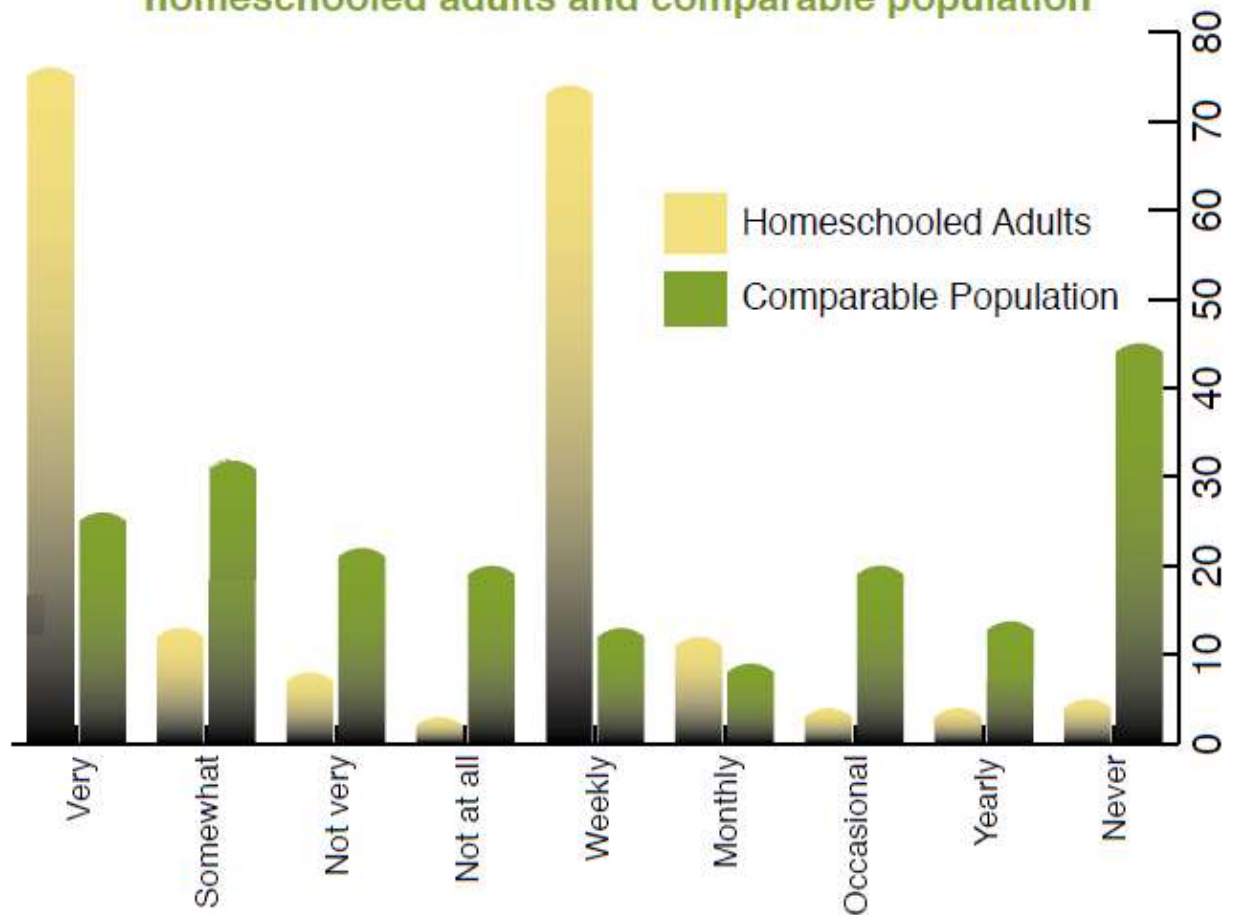
Canadian Homeschool Graduates are Active in Their Communities

CIVIC PARTICIPATION: homeschooled adults and comparable population



IMPORTANCE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND ATTENDANCE AT SERVICES:

homeschooled adults and comparable population



“Overall, very few home education graduates would have preferred a different education, and most of them are happier and more satisfied with their work and life than similarly aged Canadians, and, indeed, young citizens of other countries.”

“None of our respondents were primarily supported by government payments, whereas 11% of the comparable population did receive such payments.”

Why Are Homeschoolers So Well Socialized?

- ☺ They are forced to interact with multiple ages groups regularly.
- ☺ They avoid many of the negative role models you find in schools.
- ☺ They are supervised much more closely.
- ☺ They are taught morals.
- ☺ Their role models demonstrate sacrificial love on a daily basis.

Canadian Graduates' Reflections on Homeschooling

- 👍 Prepared me well for life: 98%
- 👍 Prepared me well for further education: 58%
- 👍 Gave me an advantage: 62%
- 👍 I am glad I was homeschooled: 85%
- 👍 Limited my Educational Opportunities: 4%
- 👍 Limited my Employment Opportunities: 2%