

14 Reasons I'm Glad I Homeschooled my Kids


Marilyn Boyer

I am SO glad I homeschooled all of my 14 children. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. It has shaped our family into what it is today. Here are some reasons I'm so glad we did.

- 1. All of my kids are Christians.** They love the Lord and actively serve Him in their local church. This is the most important reason. Being in our home for all of their schooling experience allowed us to focus on God's Word. God's Word had a central role in their education. Even at bedtime they listened to their dad read and explain Scripture and learned so much just from being exposed to it.
- 2. My kids are each other's best friends.** Sure there are ripples. They don't always agree of course, but they are committed to the success of each other and really are each other's friends. That is something I wouldn't trade for anything. I don't think they could have achieved that level of closeness if they weren't with each other for most of their waking hours. My son Matt once said one of the things he appreciated about homeschooling was that he got to really know his brothers and sisters instead of just meeting up with them in the evening.
- 3. My kids are others-focused.** Sure, they have interests and things they love to do, but they aren't absorbed in selfish pursuits. A part of my kids' growing up experience was ministering to others. They learned how to find others' needs and took action to meet them when they could. They weren't so busy with school activities that they didn't have time for others.
- 4. My kids have a Biblical worldview.** They realize that God's Word has the answers for effectively living their lives. God's Word is their standard for right and wrong. God's Word was in their schoolbooks, in our home decor, in recordings they listened to and we talked about it. Government schools don't allow God's Word to be a part of their education at all. It was the center of ours.
- 5. My kids are servant-hearted.** They look for ways to be a blessing to others. With the flexibility we've had in our schedule we've been able to schedule projects to teach them to be servants in the lives of others. We had the flexibility to reach out to others and not be bound by school schedules.
- 6. Our family isn't perfect, but it is close.** We get together once a week even though many are married and have families of their own. It's the highlight of our week. The grandkids LOVE getting together with their cousins. Our delight was in our kids and they knew it. We tried to teach them to help make each other successful, not to compete but cooperate with each other.
- 7. My kids have a strong work ethic.** They've had to pitch in and work as a team to accomplish what needs to be done. This has been great training and has paid off now that they are older and have families of their own. Chores were a part of every day. My kids are thankful for it and I couldn't have done all the chores and spent any profitable time with each of them.

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- 8. My kids aren't slaves to peer pressure.** I suppose we're all tempted at times to succumb to peer pressure, but being able to be at home as they were growing up has given them stronger confidence in their values. When kids are young is not the time to test their beliefs. They need the freedom to become solid in what they believe before they head out to face the world.
- 9. My kids have had the opportunities to explore many interests** beyond a basic high school education. They are well-rounded. Textbooks are only the beginning of an education. Oh boy, exploring their own interests WAS a huge part of their education. We were able to cut down on busy work and thereby have the freedom for them to learn about their own areas of interest. Home education is the best way to go!
- 10. I was present to see and help them work on character weaknesses** and individualize their learning. Having the kids around all day, you couldn't ignore problems. You had to deal with them. Dealing with them was how we developed all our character curriculum from addressing the problems in our kids' character.
- 11. My kids know a lot of Scripture.** We were able to make it a priority in their education. We made it a priority from the time they were little to fill their minds with God's Word, and God's Word never returns void. It comes back to them at times of temptation.
- 12. We were able to teach our kids truth** and not have to undo historical revisionism, tolerance training, exposure to ungodly theories taught in the government schools. I think this is why so many of my kids have a passion for freedom. We were able to find and teach our godly heritage in America and it inspired by kids to protect that freedom.
- 13. My kids learned to stand alone and stand up for truth.** Being homeschooled gave them more opportunities for this. We faced lots of opposition especially in the early years, but it only made us all evaluate what we were doing and why and it made everyone stronger.
- 14. Their time wasn't wasted** with learning things for which they will never have any use. This is the beauty of homeschooling. If it's something your kids need to know, teach it to them. If it's not, don't. You are the master of the books, not the other way around. You are free to follow God's leading on how to teach each individual child. What works for one may not work at all for another. You are free to decide what is best for them.

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20 Ways to Delight in Your Preschooler

Marilyn Boyer



So first of all, just what does it mean to delight in your preschooler? Delighting in them means you communicate that there is nothing you'd rather be doing than spending time with them. It means you focus on all the positive ways God made them unique. It means to communicate to their little heart that you are delighted to be their mom or dad and you enjoy spending time with them. It means intentionally focusing on what is really important and learning to step into their shoes. It means that you believe the best of them and are their biggest cheerleader. The world won't do it. It's up to you!

So, here's a little list of 20 ways you can show your little one that they are special to you:

1. Stoop down to look them in the eye when they speak to you whenever possible.
2. Stop what you are doing when they are all excited about something—like the ants on the front porch carrying the cracker crumbs away.
3. When you can't stop what you are doing, look them in the eye and tell them you'd much rather be watching the ants with them than cooking dinner, but as soon as you pop it in the oven, you'll come out and watch with them.
4. Give them at least 5-10 minutes of uninterrupted time each day, either reading to them or doing something they love to do. (When I had 4 and 5 little ones, I would put them down at naptime and call each one out separately to "spend time" with them.)
5. Hug them often.
6. Snuggle with them each night as you pray with them in bed. Their hearts seem super receptive at nighttime (maybe because they don't want to go to sleep) so take advantage of the opportunity to communicate with them.
7. Mention their name in prayer to God each night thanking God for things they have done right during the day.
8. Show excitement over the little things that excite them.
9. Read to them often.
10. Hang their special papers they make you in a prominent place. I used to frame them often. I just found a frame recently that has a door that opens to place papers inside. Holds up to 20 papers! I also once had a magnetic frame to put on fridge door.





20 Ways to Delight in Your Preschooler



11. Use the gifts they make you. I still have a pencil holder made from a soup can that my fourth child gave me one year for Christmas.
12. Be easy to please. Don't make your kids feel like they never measure up.
13. Refrain from raising your voice to your little ones. If you are struggling with your attitude, tell them, "Mommy is going to her room to talk with God and get my attitude right. You sit quietly and look at a book till I get back."
14. Don't laugh at your kids. They are so cute, it's hard not to, but they don't understand how cute they are. They need to be able to trust you with their heart.
15. Get down on the floor and play doll house or matchboxes or farm with them.
16. Sing to them. Each of my kids had their own "special song" I would sing to them.
17. Tell them often how glad you are the God gave them to you.
18. Include them whenever you can in what you are doing—putting dishes in dishwasher, dusting, sweeping. I got kid-sized brooms, etc., so they could really help. Let them know you couldn't do it without them. (Even if you have to go back later to touch up their work!)
19. Tell them how glad you are to see them every morning—enthusiastically!
20. Tell them God made them in a special way for a special purpose and no one in all the world can do what God made them to do.

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AGE-APPROPRIATE CHORES

Chores 2–5 year olds can do:

- wall washing
- cleaning base boards
- cleaning door knobs
- feed animals
- dusting louvered doors with feather duster
- clean leather furniture with leather wipes

Chores for 6 years and older

- dusting
- vacuuming
- sweeping
- mopping
- wipe table and counters
- wash dishes or load dishwasher
- dry dishes or unload dishwasher and put away
- empty trash
- organize bookcases
- clean up after the dog
- clean cobwebs
- vacuum furniture
- dust blinds
- wash windows
- clean fireplace doors
- organize telephone book drawer
- straighten cabinets
- straighten linen closet
- fold laundry—put away
- pick up yard
- upkeep of flower beds—pick dead heads off flowers, water, weed, etc.
- clean car

Chores for 8 years and up

- clean car
- mow
- clean shed
- clean ashes out of wood stove
- bring wood to wood pile
- bake bread
- make breakfast muffins
- make lunch
- plan meals
- watch baby while you are busy in the house
- do fun projects with little ones

Character Qualities to Teach our Children

Obedience-Doing what is expected of me cheerfully, immediately, and thoroughly-Colossians 3:20

Attentiveness-Listening with the ears, eyes and heart-Proverbs 15:31

Honor-Viewing and treating others as a special creation of God- I Peter 2:17

Kindness-Treating others as you would like to be treated by them-Ephesians 4:32

Courage-Standing alone for righteousness and yielding my fears to God-Joshua 1:9

Joyfulness-Is choosing to have a good attitude even when circumstances are tough to bear-Philippians 4:4

Initiative-Seeing a need and taking responsibility to meet it without being asked-Ephesians 2:10, Ecclesiastes 9:10

Alertness-Being keenly aware of what is taking place around me so I can be prepared with a right response -I Peter 5:8

Deference-To hold others in esteem and give them first choice-Philippians 2:3

Gratefulness-Realizing that God has given me all I need and being appreciative to God and others-Ephesians 5:20, Philippians 4:6

Dependability-Honoring your word and responsibilities even if it means unexpected sacrifice-Psalm 15:3

Gentleness-Responding to others in a kind, understanding manner-Galatians 5:22, 2 Timothy 2:24

Decisiveness-The ability to make wise deliberate decisions based on God's standards-James 1:6

Discernment-Ability to identify subtle untruths or motives-Hebrews 4:12

Self-Control-Subjecting my own desire to the control of the Holy Spirit-Proverbs 25:28

Truthfulness-Trustworthiness by accurately reporting the facts-Proverbs 8:6,7

Humility-Acknowledging that any good I have achieved is a gift from God and my life is to be used as an instrument in His hand-Micah 6:8

Diligence-Viewing each task given to me as a special duty and putting forth the effort to do my very best-Colossians 3:17

Loyalty-Committed to the welfare of those I serve even to the detriment of my own comforts-Proverbs 20:6

Orderliness-Managing my life and my belongings in order to reach maximum potential-I Corinthians 14:40

Flexibility-Cheerfully being willing to change my plans when circumstances beyond my control require it-Philippians 4:6-7

Boldness-Facing confrontations with the assurance that God will bless the outcome if I'm standing firm for truth-Proverbs 28:1

Generosity-Giving unselfishly to the needs of others-Luke 6:38

Meekness-Yielding my expectations (rights) to God without getting angry-Psalm 25:9

Patience-Waiting for God's timing with a happy heart-Hebrews 12:1

Persuasiveness-Skillfully handling truths to lead others in a right path-Acts 28:23

Resourcefulness-Using things which others might discard in a creative way-Colossians 3:23-24

Sensitivity-The ability of putting yourself in another's shoes and trying to see life from his point of view-Colossians 3:12

Forgiveness-Picturing how Jesus died on the cross for my sins so that God's love can flow through me to others who have wronged me-Colossians 3:13

Enthusiasm-Expressing joy in each job I am given to do-Colossians 3:23, Philippians 4:4

Hospitality-Making those who visit our home feel comfortable-Romans 12:13, Hebrews 13:2

Discretion-Avoid any words, actions or attitudes that could give the appearance of evil-Proverbs 1:11.12

Honesty-Speaking the truth in all situations-Colossians 3:9

Love-Giving unselfishly of myself to the needs of others-I John 3:18

Prudence-Exercising caution in all situations; foreseeing the consequences of my actions-Proverbs 22:3

Punctuality-Being prompt in all commitments, honoring the time of others-Colossians 4:5

Respectfulness-Treating others with honor and esteem-Philippians 2:3

Thoroughness-Bringing to completion each task I do with excellence-Ecclesiastes 7:8

Tolerance-Giving others room to grow at different rates as God leads them-I Corinthians 8:12-13

Virtue-Maintaining moral excellence and setting godly standards-II Peter 1:5

Wisdom-Learning to see life from God's point of view-Psalm 90:12

Endurance-The inward strength to endure tribulation with determination -
I Peter 2:20-21, Philippians 4:5

Availability-Being willing to attend to a need when I am called to help-
Isaiah 6:8


Contentment-Realizing that God has given me all I need for my present
happiness-Philippians 4:11-12

Compassion-Being willing to expend effort to help alleviate the suffering of
those in need-Proverbs 3:27

A character study based on this list of 45 essential character qualities is
available at CharacterConceptsCurriculum.com

Delighting in Your Children— The Key to Keeping Their Hearts

Marilyn & Nate Boyer

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1. Learning to View Life from Our Child's Point of View

- "Step into the shoes of another"
- correcting and guiding them from your heart

2. Learn to Delight in Your Children as God Delights in Us.

- We are a picture of God to our children
- A principle we stumbled across
- Proverbs 8:30, Psalm 18:19, Proverbs 8:31, Isaiah 62:4, Psalm 22:8, Proverbs 3:12, Psalm 37:23
- When we delight in our children - it generates correct responses in them
- Isaiah 42:1- just, full of spirit, patient, faithful, encouraged, productive, useful
- Rick's testimony
- I believe delighting in your kids is the key to your kids giving you their heart
- It takes time to get to know each child, their passions, interests, stumbling blocks, what motivates them, discourages them
- Kids must know we are dedicated to their success
- Consideration for their input
- Psalm 40:8- "I delight to do Thy will"
- Delight is a matter of the heart


3. What Does it Mean, Practically, to Delight in Your Child?

DELIGHT— to be pleased; to satisfy a debt, be acceptable, accomplish, set affection on, approve, enjoy, have favor, etc.

- Delight is a more permanent pleasure than joy and not dependent on sudden excitement.

Delighting in Your Children— The Key to Keeping Their Hearts



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- A. Concrete examples
 - B. How does this affect our kids growing up?
 - C. Things We're Tempted to Put About Our Children
 - D. Beware of Bitterness

4. Building Strong Family Ties

- Family Traditions
- Holidays
- Birthdays

5. Strengthened by Family Fun Times

- Specific Ideas

6. Learning Together

7. Inspire Your Child to Greatness

8. God's Word is the Basis

- Isaiah 55:8-9

9. Impart Vision to Them

- Pray with Vision
- Speaking vision into their lives
- Learning vision as a family
- Blessing their efforts

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Getting It All Done

Marilyn Boyer

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A. Prioritize

1. Streamline your schedule
2. Streamline your child's schedule:
 - spiritual pursuits must be top priority
 - schedule time for Scripture
 - saturate home with Scripture
3. Streamline your child's curriculum:
 - Master the books. Don't let them master you.
 - Don't require too much from younger children
 - Enrich your home
 - Remove counter-productive influences: be careful of TV, movies; screen reading materials; limit but not isolate contact with worldly kids

B. Organize your home

1. Organize living space.
 - *Helpful hint:* Remove clutter, create a place for everything (as much as possible), list organizational projects
2. Organize yourself
 - notebook
3. Train your kids in organization
 - weekly schedule
 - train kids to do chores: weekly, daily, extra
 - train kids how to do the job **thoroughly**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.

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C. Discipline

1. Yourself
2. Children
 - Basic principles of discipline:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - Spank for:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - Prepare and train kids how to act in different situations

D. Disciple your kids

1. The purpose of living
2. A large family provides conducive environment for developing a servant's heart
3. How is this accomplished?
4. Siblings as teachers (a study; in our home)

E. Classroom Practices

1. Be in the classroom
2. Assign work
3. How to introduce new concepts
4. Math
5. Unit Studies
6. How to handle preschoolers
7. Quiet classroom?

Getting It All Done



F. Finances and shopping for a large family

G. Dealing with your emotions

1. When everyone thinks you're crazy: I Peter 4:13, 16, 19
2. When you're sick of being pregnant
3. When you need a break
4. Do you need to be extremely patient to have a large family?
5. Blessings of a large family

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Identifying and Dealing with Offenses

OFFENSE	VERSE	POSITIVE QUALITY	INSIGHT IN GOD’S WORD
Anger	Prov. 15:1, 16:32	Self-Control	Give a Soft Answer
Tattling	Prov. 17:9, 11:13	Love	Friends Separated
Unkindness	Prov. 19:22, Eph. 4:32	Kindness	Kindness Is Desirable
Laziness	Prov. 12:24	Diligent	Diligent Shall Rule
Jealousy	Prov. 14:30	Contentment	Envy Rots Bones
Mocking	Prov. 17:5	Respectfulness	Causes Physical Disease
Disobedience	Prov. 6:20-23, 15:32	Obedience	Refuse Instruction–Hates Own Soul
Not Listening	Prov. 4:10	Attentiveness	Long Life
Selfishness	Prov. 22:9	Generosity	Blessing to Him Who Gives
Arguing	Prov. 17:14	Peacemaker	Leave off Contention
Boasting	Prov. 27:2	Humility	Let Another Praise Thee
Complaining	Prov. 17:22	Cheerfulness	Merry Heart–Medicine/ Complaining Spirit Dries Bones
Lying	Prov. 12:22	Truthfulness	God Delights in One Who Tells Truth
Teasing	Prov. 10:23	Wisdom	Delight in Wisdom
Bad Words	Prov. 13:3	Discretion	Do You Want Your Life Extended?
Pride	Prov. 16:18	Humility	Pride Leads to Destruction
Fearfulness	Prov. 3:25,26	Confidence	The LORD Is Our Confidence
Stealing	Prov. 29:24	Contentment	A Thief Hates His Own Soul
Cheating	Prov. 16:8	Honesty	Better Is a Little with Righteousness than Much with Dishonesty
Cruelty	Prov. 11:17, 12:10	Merciful	Cruelty Troubles Your Own Flesh
Mischievous	Prov. 11:27	Goodness	Mischief Comes Upon the Mischievous
Scornfulness	Prov. 3:34	Meekness	God Gives Grace to Lowly
Vengefulness	Prov. 20:22	Righteousness	The LORD Will Fight for You
Rejoicing When Others Get in Trouble	Prov. 24:17,18	Wisdom	Rejoice in the Truth
Bribing	Prov. 15:27	Justice	Troubleth Own House
Planning Wickedness	Prov. 3:29	Righteousness	This Is Disobedience to God
Greediness	Prov. 15:27	Contentedness	Trouble Comes to the Family of the Greedy
Gossiping	Prov. 16:28	Truthfulness	Preserve Friendships
Flattery	Prov. 29:5	Sincerity	Flattering Others Will Trip You Up
Deceitfulness	Prov. 12:20	Transparency	No Deceit = Joy
Arrogance	Prov. 8:13	Humility	God Hates the Arrogant
Not Admitting Wrongdoing	Prov. 28:13	Humility/ Truthfulness	Won’t Prosper if You Cover Sins

To assist you in instructing your children, ***Growing in Wisdom*** Bible study is based on this list. This is Level 5 of our ***Character Concepts Curriculum***. For more information visit us at www.CharacterConceptsCurriculum.com.

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My Kids Hate School:

Setting Them Free with Passion-Driven Learning

Marilyn Boyer

1. Get to Really Know Your Child
2. Master the Books
 - Handwriting
 - Math
 - Language skills
 - Spelling/Vocabulary
 - Reading
 - Have different expectations for each child
 - HIStory
 - Science
 - Preschool
3. Teach to Their Passions
4. Develop Servant-hearted Focus in Your Kids
5. Involve Your Child in Real Experiences
 - World is the classroom
6. Cultivate Heroes in Your Child's Life
7. Make Scripture and Character Training the Foundation of Your Curriculum
8. What It Takes to be Truly Successful in Your Homeschooling Adventure