



Choosing My Child's School

Parents today have to choose between public schools, Christian schools, and home schooling. Each choice has its own advantages and disadvantages. It is our desire to help parents and children make the most of their chosen educational option. We recognize that no schooling option is best for every child. We believe that each family should make the schooling choice that they believe is best for their family.

We believe that children can and do thrive educationally and spiritually in each of these schooling options. Each family should choose the option they believe best honors God in their family. Once the choice is made with right motives, attention can be given to how to thrive in that setting.

In each option is the opportunity for spiritual growth and development. When making their decision, parents must consider certain biblical values that relate to the schooling of their children. We desire to help you minimize the areas of difficulty and maximize areas of opportunity with each schooling option.

Making a wise decision

There are three primary areas of concern related to the schooling options: evangelism, edification, and education.

Evangelism is the first area of consideration because of its central nature on the Christian life and because it is often overlooked when the topic of schooling options is discussed. The emphasis is on relational evangelism, since we believe that through our individual connections to people we are uniquely positioned to present the message of the Gospel. This then encompasses the aspect of social maturity.

Edification involves the spiritual development of the child and other Christians with whom they come in contact. Our children should be growing in their ability to serve their fellow believers in Christ. They should be learning how to become a positive encouragement for spiritual good in the lives of their Christian peers. Parents also have the opportunity to edify fellow Christians in a schooling context.

Education of the third component of the schooling decision. since school is intended for the purpose of education.

Public School

At first glance, it is apparent that the public school option is the most abundant field for non-Christian relationships. Because of the larger proportion of Christian families using the Christian school and home school options, the public schools have become even more predominately non-Christian than our society as a whole. This provides Christians a chance to build many relationships for the sake of Christ.

Some Christians have serious concerns about putting their children into a public school. Certainly, we cannot expect that God will be exalted and truth will abound in a public school. There may be instances where the spiritual truth is attacked. This should be viewed as an opportunity to instruct and guide our child, instead of a threat to our child's faith. It is the truth that sets us free (John 8:32), not the elimination of error, which is impossible short of heaven. If we have a close involvement with our children and if they are involved with a church that teaches truth, the child will be in a good position to know the truth.

Christian School

If we choose a Christian school option, we must give attention to finding non-Christian relationships for our children. This is where much of the good of Christian schooling is offset, when parents look to withdraw their children from relationships with the unsaved. Those who select a Christian school option should involve their children in some form of extracurricular activity that brings them into contact with unbelievers.

Some parents send their child to a Christian school for spiritual nurturing. While a Christian school can help, it is no replacement for the role of the parents in spiritual leadership of children. Just as public school children can be negatively influenced by the worldly values of their peers, so we must be aware that the spiritual apathy of some Christian school classmates is also infectious.

Home School

Parents who choose the home school option must give substantial attention to finding non-Christian relationships for their children. Some parents who home school can be particularly susceptible to withdrawing their children from relationships with the unsaved—this is the primary motivation of some homeschooling parents. Parents must understand that their desire to protect their children can negate the command of Christ to minister to those who don't know Jesus Christ.

Homeschooling is hard work. It takes a long-term commitment to educating and training. Parents who choose the home school option often do so without understanding their own educational limits.

Long Hollow affirms and supports parents' right to choose the best schooling option for their children. God is at work in every context and our church is here to equip you to lead your family according to its needs and your personal convictions.

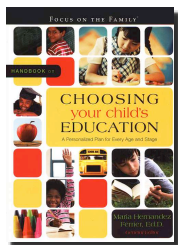
RELATED SCRIPTURE

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one (John 17:15).

You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6).

RELATED RESOURCES



Handbook on Choosing Your Child's Education: A Personalized Plan for Every Age and Stage

Edited by Maria Hernandez Ferrier, EdD
ISBN 9781589973411

This book is the compass parents need to navigate through the many school choices available. Find out which type of schooling is better for your child: public, private, Christian or home schooling. Featuring charts, tips and concise sidebars, you'll find solid, sensible information to narrow down the wide range of choices to the best option that fits the unique needs of your child.

Small Groups for Parents at Long Hollow

Hendersonville Campus

For parents of middle school students

Sundays @ 10:00 - Conor Smith - Room 236

iMom

Wednesdays @ 6:15 - Wendy Taylor - Little TreeHouse

You can find ongoing support for every challenge in life in a small group. Visit longhollow.com/grow and then click the button to Launch Group Finder Now.