



Homeschool Is . . .

by Christine Diller

HOMEMADE. From cakes to clothing, homemade is different. It may take a little getting used to, but the quality can be terrific. Homeschool is definitely homemade.

OBJECTS. From our math and reading schoolbooks, we write goals for what we want our students to learn. More important, we must draw spiritual goals from God's Word to direct us in living for the Lord.

MESSES. Yes, my children were home all day. They worked and played right here. It shows! Messes are part of homeschool life. While they may be a result of creativity and learning, it's good to keep them temporary. It helps to teach children to clean up after themselves.

EXTRA WORK. Share the work with the children and watch them become responsible. This doesn't happen quickly or easily, but the rewards have lasting value for us and our children.

SMALL. Homeschools may be small in number compared to schools, but be encouraged. The most important learning isn't dependent on large numbers. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge" (Proverbs 1:7). While the world's expansive educational system ignores God, we can make Him the centerpiece of our smaller homeschool. And that's of very *big* importance.

CHARITY. All together, all day, anybody can rub someone the wrong way. Charity is the best gift and is first learned at home.

HELP FROM ABOVE. Homeschooling is a lot of work. Don't try to be a super mom! No one can do it all, and neither does our Father expect us to. He is only waiting for us to ask Him for help.

ORGANIZATION. Is there a place for everything? Is everything in its place? Is there a schedule? Yes, these help, but remember that our first goal isn't keeping a perfect house. Orderliness is important as it contributes to meeting other significant goals for our children.

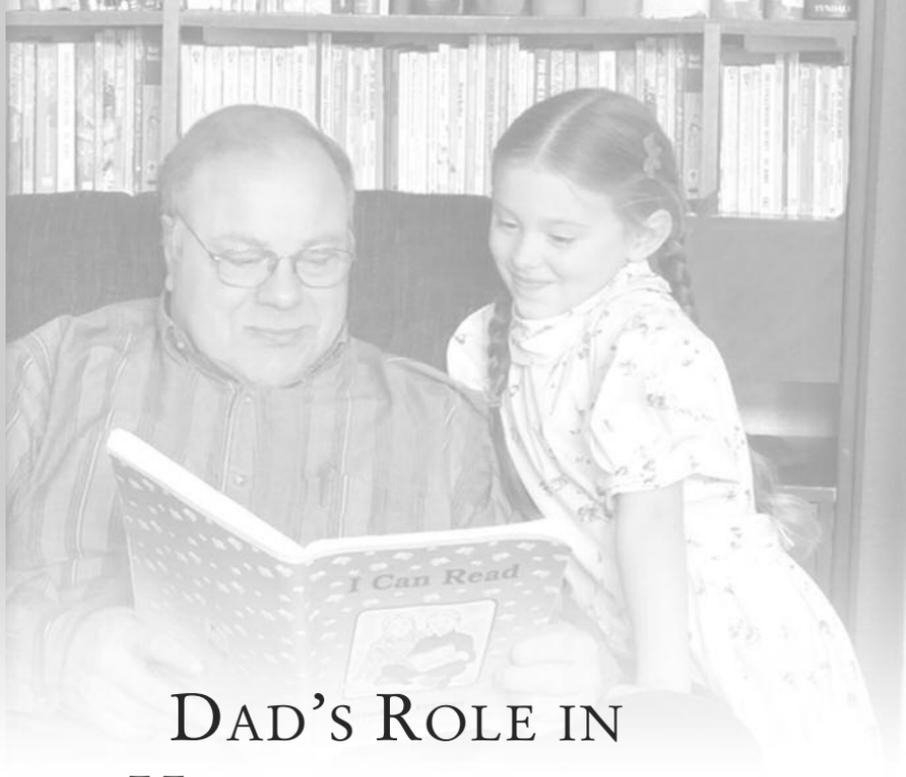
ORDINARY. No, we're not an extraordinary family. We're ordinary people with temptations and failures. We need to seek God's forgiveness and help every day.

LEARNING TOGETHER. Homeschool life is challenging, forcing us all to grow in many ways. We learn about His world and His Word. We have to learn to choose our most important priorities. That's a real-life school. All of us are learning together.

Daddy Helps

*I like to hear my daddy say,
“Well, tell me what you learned today.”
So while we eat our apple tarts,
I tell about the harder parts
Of math facts and science books.
Then after supper Daddy looks.
Sometimes he tells me, “Very nice.”
Sometimes he says, “Be more precise,”
Or else he tells me more about
The things I couldn’t figure out.
Tomorrow when we both return—
He to his work and I to learn—
I’ll do my work especially fine
And think how Daddy’s face will shine.*

—Lucy A. Martin



DAD'S ROLE IN HOMESCHOOLING

by Ken Kauffman

A BUMBLING ADDITIVE OR AT THE HELM?

Nancy enters our display booth at a homeschool convention. Three of her eight children accompany her as she browses and inquires about social studies. *Where's her husband?*

Carla ambles in with two primary-age children. Her husband, Bill, is ten steps behind. I try to engage him in conversation. "How long have you been homeschooling?" I ask.