



# Different Paths Same Destination

*Four women share their transition from “Mom” to “Homeschool Mom”*

## Homeschooling: a Family Adventure

BY KELLI KRUID

**W**e are entering our 11th year of this Homeschool Adventure, and I can tell you there are highs and lows. The biggest thing I can relate to you, though, is that the relationship you develop with your family is all so worth it! However, new homeschoolers are starting to ask, and I hope to help you answer:

***What can kids possibly learn by being home with their parents and siblings all day?***

I can say that we’ve learned a lot, whether it is visual/spatial relations, physical education, character training, home economics, safety, and even life skills. Join me as I show you how these can all be learned together as a family.

My children love to sit on the counter and help out in the kitchen. Usually it is to help bake cookies or make smoothies, but sometimes they help cook supper. One night while making supper, Kendon, then age 3, decided to see how far up his nose he could shove a pea. While he laughed and laughed, the older children were able to join me in trying to retrieve the pea. We were able to talk about what size and length object could be used to perform the retrieval, along with utensils that would not be safe to stick up someone’s nose. After a successful removal, Kendon went on in the next few weeks to continue sticking various objects up his nose, including legos and sticky tack. Think of the visual/spatial relations my older children learned as we discussed the sizes of the objects placed into such a small orifice and the force needed to blow them out! Imagine all they learned as we then took a field trip to the medical clinic in order to meet our family physician who they watched remove a particularly lodged bead from Kendon’s nose! Family learning at its best!

Physical education has been one area that has included the whole family, as my children have all been more likely to jump off the top of the refrigerator and stick a landing before they could even talk. One morning I came out of my bedroom to start the day. I saw that the freezer door was open. I sighed and reminded myself to give the kids another lesson on saving en-

ergy by keeping the freezer and fridge doors closed. As I went to close it, it wouldn’t close. I came around the edge of the door, and there I saw my youngest, Kaleb, then 3 at the time, sitting in the freezer eating ice cream!

*“What are you doing!” I exclaimed.*

“Eating breakfast!” he replied with an adorable smile. He was obviously quite happy with himself. I gathered all the kids and asked if anyone saw him perform this rascally deed, and why they wouldn’t have stopped him.

“He’s been doing that all week, Mom. He grabs a spoon, shimmies up the refrigerator handle, opens the freezer door, climbs in, sits and eats ice cream for breakfast. It’s pretty cool!” they explained. Kids! Obviously, we needed a sit-down where we discussed saving energy by not eating while sitting in the freezer, but we also discussed the other things we learned, including Kaleb’s perseverance, life skills (how to climb, hold a spoon, and open a door all at the same time), and nutrition (why we don’t eat ice cream for breakfast!).

One thing every mom hopes to pass on to her children is home economics. Whether cooking or cleaning, it is important to learn how to take care of your home. Many people know how to wipe a counter off or clean dishes, but how about cleaning up the big messes?

I think it is best for them to learn the joy involved in these big cleanups while they are young. I was able to give them this opportunity one night. I was cooking supper, and it had been a hard day. It was time for dinner, so I called the troops to the table. For some reason Kendon, age 2 at the time, was not coming. I went on a hunt throughout the house looking for him, and the older kids joined in.

“Mom, Mom! We found him! And you better hurry up!” they cried. I went running to the rarely used basement bathroom where I found my two-year-old roaring with laughter as water ran all around him. He had clogged the sink, turned on the water, and made his own waterfall! Water filled the sink, ran over the counters, down the cabinets, and all over the bathroom floor. After the initial shock, I laughed! I must admit that his laughter was contagious. And though he was flooding my bathroom, I couldn’t help but laugh too! As I turned off the water and surveyed the damage, I figured we might as well turn this into another homeschool les-

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