

USING THE SUPERVISING TEACHER OPTION

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Supervising teacher and Homeschooling mom

How to find a supervising teacher?

There are several places to start looking. NICHE has a list of supervising teachers available in Iowa . Your local homeschoolers or support group will also know of teachers willing to supervise. You will find that homeschoolers are quite a resourceful bunch of people, and most are willing to share with others. You may also know teachers in your local district who have favorable opinions of homeschooling.

What should I look for in a supervising teacher?

You will want to make sure that your supervising teacher is a good fit for your family. Make sure your potential teacher understands your philosophy of homeschooling and can work with it. Is she someone with whom you are comfortable? Is she knowledgeable of the law? Are your children comfortable with her? Does she seem to possess a working knowledge of resources available?

What can homeschooling families do to best serve supervising teachers?

You will want to understand that although your supervising teacher is a great resource, she doesn't hold all of the answers. You will want to research homeschooling to find what approaches will work best for you and your family. Do understand that you are the one who is responsible for your family's education. Your teacher is there to verify your work and to assist you in your homeschooling endeavor. You will also want to understand that your teacher is very busy. Most are also homeschooling their own children, may be serving other families, and are pressed for time. Do what you can to work with your teacher's schedule. Taking the initiative in scheduling and fulfilling the required number of meetings will be a great help to your supervising teacher. Since your teacher needs to look through your child's work to see that your child is making adequate progress, you will want to be prepared for your meeting by bringing your child's work for the quarter for your teacher to look through.

What can supervising teachers do to best serve homeschooling families?

As supervising teachers, we need to understand there are many concepts of homeschooling, and we need to understand that not everyone does or should adhere to our educational philosophies. We need to be flexible and open to their ideas, taking care that we don't overload our homeschool families with our own personal requirements or our own agendas. It is also good to remember that we are a resource for our homeschooling families, however, we are not the source of all knowledge. We need to understand that the parents we work with are the God-ordained teachers in their home. Although supervising teachers are a necessary part of many homeschoolers' experience, hopefully they can also become a valuable and enjoyable asset.

Perhaps along the way, you will find a great new friend.