

## Home Tutoring

**H**OME SCHOOLING at its simplest means teaching and learning school subjects at home.

Some prefer to call it “**Home Educating**”, to emphasize a total formation of mind and character.

However, there are advantages in calling it “**Home Tutoring**.” This clearly distinguishes the tutoring of a **home-making mother** from the **classroom teacher**.

Home Tutoring is quite distinct from classroom teaching. It a **SPECIALITY**. It is legal in all Australian states and territories, though conditions apply. Its popularity is on the increase.

It is **CHARACTERIZED** by its:

1. **Extra content.**
2. **Distinctive methods.**
3. **Nobler aims.**

In teaching **SCHOOL SUBJECTS**, it utilizes:

1. **One-to-one direct tuition.**
2. **Self-tuition.**
3. **Guided discovery.**
4. **Free discovery.**
5. **Multiple tutoring** of two or three pupils together, benefitting from or allowing for their interaction, i.e. group dynamics.
6. It is a second cousin to **coaching** for ‘catching up’ or ‘boosting’ the teaching given elsewhere.
7. It is a first cousin to the once common **one-teacher primary schools** of 15 to 30 pupils. They were (and still can be) run on family lines for K-6 or even K-8.

### One-teacher Schools

For 170 years, **one-teacher schools** in Australia and the USA developed techniques now used in Home Tutoring, especially in larger families with more than two children:

1. **Vertical streaming:** pupils master each stage, and are not promoted by age. Diverse ages might even be set the same tasks.
2. **Peer mentoring:** some pupils help near-age siblings and, just as in a school, sometimes see the difficulty of another pupil more clearly than the tutor/teacher and explain it more aptly.
3. **Self-tuition** from text books & internet (with safe-guards), getting intellectual skills & disciplines for lifelong learning and tertiary studies.
4. **Cross-age tutoring:** Older pupils regularly tutor younger ones in science, craft and physical exercise etc, or even hear them read aloud, and conduct spelling and tables tests.
5. **Cross-age activities:** Listening/reading aloud, singing, art, sport, exercise: all done together; more is expected of older ones.

### Advantages of Home Tutoring

Proven well-documented advantages of Home Tutoring/Educating/Schooling are:

1. A richer & **different lifestyle** centred on the family.

2. **Socialization** (with ages 0 to 90+) is better without the **peer dependence** engendered from age-grading in schools, and the peer friends outside the home of the home-tutored need not weaken the ‘getting on’ with those at home.

3. **Employability** of its graduates proves its academic and social success.

4. It gives children **inner security** in an insecure world.

5. **No time is wasted on travel** nor money on fees.

6. **Each child sets the pace** (with promptings, of course) which is less likely with the higher pupil-teacher ratios and greater distractions in school classrooms.

7. Further, the home-tutored are **freer to work ahead** of schedule in the various subjects.

8. Family **discipline/manners** disposes children for home-tutoring. By contrast, classroom teachers often battle to teach anything and zealous pupils suffer from the less effective teaching.

### Convictions on Home & Family

Home Tutoring/Schooling/Educating families believe:

1. It is far better that a **child be “home-made”**, and therefore for some, best to be home tutored.

2. Schooling is a **child’s right** and **choice of schooling** is a **mother’s right**, a **father’s right**.

3. Such **private enterprise** is a vital parameter of a free society.

4. **Diversity** shuns the narrowness of a nation of conformists.

5. **Free trade** favours efficiencies like home tutoring.

6. **Manners, morals and religion** depend primarily on home formation.

7. Home formation makes **good or better citizens** for this world (and the next) than school pupils lacking it.

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY** are the God-provided **vital means** for procreating new human beings.

Redefining marriage & family to suit social engineering is theft from those who own them already.

The natural family is normatively made up of the parents and the children of their marriage.

Each child is “the two-in-one-flesh” of the marriage of father and mother.

Father, mother and children are bonded to each other in a truly unique way, not only socially and psychologically, but biologically.

Hence the family is the natural social grouping and foundation of any society.

### Social Philosophy

The tried-&-true social thinking of free societies avoids the horrors of Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* and George Orwell’s *1984*:

1. **People do not exist for the sake of governments.**
2. **But governments do exist for the sake of people.**
3. Governments “**harmonize**” life in society for the common good of all.

4. **Citizens** elect politicians, employ them, employ the public service. and pay the taxes to pay them all
5. **SUBSIDIARITY** requires that governments and their officials **support without usurping** the personal rights and freedoms of citizens, groups of citizens, particularly families. It is not *subsidiary*, which can be its opposite.
6. **SOLIDARITY** requires that citizens, groups and families **co-operate** with governments and their officials.
7. **Parents procreate the children, so governments do not own them.**
8. **Governments** reasonably require **basic schooling for citizens** — 3 Rs plus some civics.
9. Parents have prior rights to **choose schooling.**
10. Home tutor parents are **not government employees.**
11. Government can intervene only if & when parents fail.
12. **Over-rigid rules** are a faulty means of promoting education and actually **hinder it.**
13. **Flexibility, innovation and initiative** contribute to the real purposes of education.
14. **Home-tuition** and private schools are historically the default means of education.
15. Government schools historically were a **last resort**, a 'fail-safe' provision.
16. Western Australia now has **private government schools controlled by parents** and the teachers like it.
17. In justice, home tutored pupils deserve the **privileges** provided to those in schools.

## Parental Competence

Today's home tutoring parents have proven that, through their own upbringing, schooling, self-education and living their marriage, they are well-equipped to **tutor basic content and attitudes for K-10.**

Experience and their unique affection for their children motivate them to become **home tutoring specialists K-12.** The normal qualifications for classroom teachers are not aimed at such tutoring and do not necessarily equip them for it.

Various networks, support groups, camps, phone calls, email, ideas/ideals in text books, libraries and internet, help home-tutors, just as in-service days help classroom teachers.

### **SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT of the children**

The home tutored are not isolates but are usually involved in local society: community sports' groups, Little Athletics, other recreations, hobby groups; service groups, Church groups; friends stay-over weekends; orchestras, bands, music groups, choirs; public speaking/debates/drama groups.

## Education Relating to Sex

The NSW curriculum's sixth Learning Area is **Personal Development, Health, Physical Education.** This includes intimate human relationships which are better taught **individually** by mother/father out of respect for a child's mental privacy and varying readiness: physical, mental, psycho-social, moral and spiritual, because this is a religious matter.

Indeed, it has been to avoid false teaching and attitudes on this subject matter that a considerable number of parents choose home tutoring.

## Human Respect

At school, a child falls so easily into **human respect**, i.e. thinking or speaking or even acting out false or ignoble ideas, lest he lose esteem in the eyes of his peers — like a crowd pressuring its individuals to lower their moral sensitivities. Peer pressure can become a form of psychological bullying.

## A Religious Curriculum

### **Australia officially believes in God:**

1. God is in our Federal Constitution.
2. Parliaments open with the Lord's Prayer.
3. Witnesses in law courts declare, "So help me, God."
5. Criminal codes of the State Government are in large part based on the Judaeo-Christian morality of Ten Commandments, i.e. natural morality of all humans.
6. These are facts, despite the push by self-appointed 'change agents' and 'thought-police' to abolish God.
7. **Natural morality** is common ground for all legitimate religious curricula. Natural morality observes and upholds freedom of religious belief, the rights and duties of parents, and respect for the life, marriage and property of others, and telling the truth about them.
8. In our pluralist democracy, many alternative schoolings accord with civil law and government regulations.

## 7 R-words in Christian Tutoring

1. Religion. 2. Respect. 3. Reason. 4. Responsibility. 5. Reading. 6. 'Riting. 7. 'Rithmetic.

The world-view of a Christian Curriculum is high and noble — Truth, Beauty, Goodness and God. Indeed, Truth, Beauty and Goodness are attributes of God.

It ennobles human being with ideas/ideals quite counter-cultural to the widely promoted politically-correct atheism-agnosticism-amorality-immorality. A Christian Curriculum depends on simple profound truth: **God made us to know, love & serve Him here on earth and to see & enjoy Him for ever in Heaven.**

It includes that vital motive for morality that, after death, **our Creator will also be our Judge.**

It provides a **supreme motive** for all study and living: "Heaven and earth are full of His glory"

It takes cognizance of those effects of **original sin** which remain after Baptism or conversion — Satan's hindrances to clear thinking and virtuous choosing. Today's widely promoted philosophy of individualism tends to engender insensitivity, injustice and even anarchy.

The God-given **dignity, duty and destiny** of human beings is learnt from the natural world and from supernatural revelation. Manners and morals flow out from Christian doctrine and from putting precepts into practice encouraged in a home with family-centred education. Home Tutoring/Educating/Schooling is a very good answer for many more than now.