

## **Help! My Kids are Schooling at Home, and I Don't Know What to Do!**

One of the biggest changes that the Covid19 pandemic has brought is changes to the way our kids are educated. Most students spent all day at school, in a classroom, surrounded by other students, and with a teacher leading their learning. As schools around the country shut down, parents were forced into a variety of distance-learning situations; trying to keep on top of their children's learning while juggling their own work responsibilities on top of everyone's stress of these sudden changes. So, my first tip is to give yourself permission to be stressed and uncertain. You are dealing with a lot! Over the next few weeks, we'll talk about different tips for schooling at home to help boost your confidence and reduce the stress.

Let's start with the difference between homeschooling and "distance learning" or "schooling at home", which is what most of the country is now doing. The biggest difference between what is happening with most families and with true homeschooling, is that homeschooling families consciously chose to homeschool typically after a lot of research and planning versus the very sudden, unplanned, and forced distance learning situation. Another big difference between distance learning and true homeschooling is that, generally speaking, homeschoolers make all the decisions related to their children's education, whereas with distance learning through your school district you are following what the school has instructed.

As your school district decides their plan for the coming year and as you try to figure out what you want to do, the first question will be: Do I want to follow my school district's distance learning plan, or do I actually want to homeschool my children? As you are pondering this question, look at what the rules are for homeschooling in your state as each state has different regulations. You can also join the discussion on this Facebook group started by a fellow veteran homeschool mom to help other PWS families or sign up for this online Special Needs Homeschooling Conference launching on July 21st.

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