

Homeschooling

In Germany, all children have to go to school – whether they want to or not. However, in some countries – for example in America and Great Britain – parents don't have to send their kids to school. They can teach them at home. This is called "homeschooling". Of course homeschooled kids have to take tests, too, but they are free to decide when, where, and how they study. We have asked four teenagers what they think about homeschooling.

Sarah (13): I think homeschooling is a bad idea! Homeschooled kids are always with their family. They never get to meet other people and they can't make friends. Also, they don't learn to work in a team, and that's very important.

Jeff (12): I'm homeschooled and I like it a lot. I was bullied in school; the other students made fun of me all the time and they even stole my things. I was so scared that I didn't say anything in class, and I couldn't concentrate. I just wanted to go home. Now my dad teaches me, and I find it much easier to learn.

Mike (15): I couldn't imagine being homeschooled! I think some things are good – you don't have to get up early in the morning, for example, and you can study things that interest you. But I'm not really sure that all parents are good teachers. My mum could never teach me Math – she's too bad at it!

Haley (14): I used to be homeschooled when I was younger. My mum taught me. It was lots of fun. We did many projects and went on trips to museums or to the zoo. I wasn't lonely because my brothers and sisters were homeschooled, too, and I had many friends at church and at the soccer club. I go to a normal school now because my mum had to get a job, so she doesn't have time to teach us anymore. It's ok, but it's also a bit boring because all the lessons are the same, and the teachers at our school aren't very good.

EXERCISE 1 True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
a) Sarah was homeschooled.			
b) Sarah thinks that homeschooled kids don't have friends.			
c) Sarah thinks that kids must learn to work in a team.			
d) Jeff likes homeschooling because he was bullied in school.			
e) Jeff has many friends outside school.			
f) Mike knows somebody who is homeschooled.			
g) Mike thinks it's good that homeschoolers don't have to get up early.			
h) Mike's mum is good at Maths.			
i) Haley's brothers and sisters were homeschooled, too.			
j) Haley goes to a normal school now because her dad had to get a job.			

Lösungen:

EXERCISE 1 True, wrong or not in the text?	T	W	NT
Sarah was homeschooled.			x
Sarah thinks that homeschooled kids don't have friends.	x		
Sarah thinks that kids must learn to work in a team.	x		
Jeff likes homeschooling because he was bullied in school.	x		
Jeff has many friends outside school.			x
Mike knows somebody who is homeschooled.			x
Mike thinks it's good that homeschoolers don't have to get up early.	x		
Mike's mum is good at Maths.		x	
Haley's brothers and sisters were homeschooled, too.	x		
Haley goes to a normal school now because her dad had to get a job.		x	

EXERCISE 2 Pro or con? Write down the arguments for and against homeschooling from the text.

Pro:

- decide where, when and how you study
- no bullying
- you needn't get up early
- study things that interest you
- classes at public schools aren't good
- you can have friends even if you're homeschooled (e.g. at church, clubs ...)
- time for projects and trips

Con:

- kids are always with their family
- can't make friends
- don't learn to work with other people
- not all parents are good teachers