

Homeschool and Public school

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In today's culture education is an important key to becoming successful. The quality of a person's education is what gives him or her an advantage in the job market. The majority of American children receive their education through government run public schools or privately funded schools. A more time honored tradition that many great leaders throughout history enjoyed is receiving their education at home. "From the founding of the first colonies until well into the 19th century, young children in America were often taught at home by parents or tutors, and formal schooling constituted a far smaller part of a child's education than it does today" (Shortt, 2004, p. 294). The two options for educating a child, government public school or homeschool offer completely different opportunities to the student. Homeschooled children receive a more superior education than their public schooled counterparts based on their academic achievements and socialization skills.

There has been much research and scrutiny involved in determining if homeschool offers an equal to or better education than government run public schools. Many people are shocked to find that homeschooled children out perform their public school counterparts on all standardized tests. "From coast to coast, and from border to border, homeschooled students in the United States surpass the national averages on both of the major college entrance tests, the ACT and the SAT" (Shortt, 2004, p. 343). This is most likely due to the fact that homeschool curriculums can be tailored to the individual student's needs. Within the government run public school system, if a student falls behind it is more difficult for the student to receive the attention he or she needs in order to catch back up. A homeschooled child does not compete with 30 other students for the teacher's attention which results in the student excelling quicker than a public school child. The average homeschooled 8th grade student performs on the same level as the average 12th grade student, and their academic performance increases with the amount of time he or she is schooled at home (Shortt, 2004).

Socialization is another major difference between homeschooled and public schooled children. Students who attend government public schools are more likely to acquire and use negative social skills with their peers, teachers, and other adults. In 1997 it was reported that "Persons institutionalized in the urban American

government middle schools and high schools suffered serious violent crimes (e.g., rape, sexual assault, aggravated assault) at a rate of approximately 12 per 1000.” (Shortt, 2004, p. 177) Children within the public schools system are far more likely to be victims of violent crimes and assaults or being the perpetrator of these things. This is not the case with children who are schooled at home. These children are able to participate in productive and healthy social activities overseen and protected by their parents. Public school children spend six to eight hours a day in an environment saturated with their peers, and this may be a contributing factor to their stunted social skills. Homeschooled children are trained by their parents and can be disciplined immediately for unacceptable behavior.

In light of academic performance and teaching environment homeschooled children have more of an advantage than their public school counterparts. It is the parents’ choice where their children receive the tools necessary for proper development. The tradition of schooling children at home has withstood the test of time and has produced some of the greatest minds and leaders of America. President Theodore Roosevelt, a homeschool alumni himself, offers this bit of wisdom on the subject of education, “To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

References

Shortt, B. (2004). *The Harsh Truth About Public Schools*. Vallecito, CA: Chalcedon Foundation