

# STRESS LESS WITH THE MESS of homeschooling

PRACTICAL TIPS AND TRICKS FROM A LONG TERM HOMESCHOOLER

## WHAT IF I CAN'T JUST 'ACCEPT THE MESS'

I've been told that you can't have your cake and eat it too when it comes to homeschooling: you can't have a tidy home and homeschool kids.

And perhaps that is true to an extent.

But try living in a small home with seven people constantly eating, learning, bathing, dining, creating and sleeping in the same spaces and tell me if you don't start needing to find ways to somehow 'tame the beast'.

Now, I'm NOT talking about having an immaculate, Pinterest or magazine-worthy-style home.

I'm talking about having a home in which everything has a place (even if it's not always in its place) that is comfy, welcoming and orderly enough to be able to be a productive space rather than a cluttered and stressful space!

I couldn't just accept that the house was always going to be messy yet I am **NOT** by nature a person to whom organisation and order comes easy. Nope! I've had to learn to develop tips and tricks that work practically for our family that are **MAINTAINABLE!**

### THAT HOMESCHOOL LIFE TOP TIPS:

- *CREATE DAILY RHYTHMS*
- *TEAM MENTALITY*
- *CREATE ZONES*
- *USE TASK CARDS*
- *LAUNDRY BASKET BUNDLE*
- *TEA TIME INCENTIVE*
- *CREATE RHYTHMS*
- *MAKE SURE RHYTHMS ARE MAINTAINABLE*





## SO HOW DO YOU DO IT?!

What do you **ACTUALLY** do when you come from a family of hoarders (yep my parents and I were featured on an episode of [Selling Houses Australia once - legit!](#)) but you need to keep some semblance of order? You **CREATE RHYTHMS** that work for you and your family. We aren't bound to a **TIME SCHEDULE**, rather, our days revolve around certain things we do. We wake up. We have breakfast. We do personal tasks (get dressed, brush teeth etc). We complete tasks that we need to do each day as part of our **TEAM MENTALITY**. Then we get in to whatever the day holds next.

If things are a bit out of whack at home, a little on the untidy side, we stop what we are doing and everyone is given a little 'zone'.

**CREATING ZONES** has been one of the best things we have done to all contribute to keeping our home together, together! We split off and take care of one area/zone/room each.

When our kiddos were little and didn't always remember what was required of them, I created **TASK CARDS**. These were laminated cards that sat on the table in a little jug. When it came time to 'do our zones' I'd have the tasks outlined on each card in bullet points so a child knew what was required. This helped avoid meltdowns and saved confusion.

As they got older, I found that our children needed less reminding and guidance about the zones but if they did, I'd just remind them what was required in order to do the job properly.

Even now with only two kiddos left homeschooling (but all 5 still living at home), I often use the **LAUNDRY BASKET** to go from room to room and gather up all 'loose and lost' items that need rehoming. I call everyone in and remind them that these items need to be returned to their homes. Everyone pitches in. Afterwards, I often prepare a little **TEA TIME SNACK** for us all to have (some crackers, cheese, fruit, nuts, some chocolate buttons) or a movie and popcorn.

We talk **LOTS** at home about doing what we need to do together to help our **TEAM** function well: we clean, have fun and learn **TOGETHER**.

This helps us to keep it sustainable too through seasons of hardships, injury and illness.

***Ps: I'd love to hear from you if you think any of this is helpful for your home too! x***



**Stress less with the mess of homeschooling by taking the time out you need to regain order, tackling a zone at a time.**

**All stop.**

**All pitch in.**

**All celebrate with a movie or a snack.**

**Make it maintainable for your family.**