7CS OF HOMESCHOOLING

by:

Kristal I. Landicho
Teachers III, Sumalo Integrated School

Homeschooling is an open-minded program around the country and the world, in which children learn outside of a school setting under the supervision of their parents at home.

Homeschooling isn't new. It is a movement that began emergent in the 1970s when John Holt and Dorothy and Raymond Moore started writing about educational reform (Martin, 2020). In the early times, citizens in which education was respected, for example in prehistoric Greece, most education was done through tutoring and other much focused avenues. Likewise, the Philippine National Hero Jose Rizal, in his early childhood, was “homeschooled” by his mother.

In the Philippines, the idea of homeschooling is not as common as it is like in the US or Australia but is not an unknown one. In fact, Department of Education Memorandum No. 216 s. 1997 also known as DECS Home Education Program states that the Family Code of the Philippines (Article 209) and Articles XIV & XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognize that parents have the primary responsibility to raise, rear, care, train and educate children especially in their formative years.

While there are numerous benefits homeschooling could give, whether just curious or want to learn about homeschooling, it is important to remember the 7Cs such as commitment, child-centeredness, certification, curriculum, conditions, connection, and challenges.
Committed. As a parent, you should be firmly committed on the rationale of your decision that no matter how the going gets rough and tough, you will stay committed on your “why.” It is important that both the parents and the child is committed to the idea and journey of homeschooling.

Child-Centeredness. The center of preference is the child’s needs, interests, gifts, conditions, which calls for contextualize curriculum. The parent or the homeschool teacher should learn the basics of child development and pedagogy.

Certification. Parents should ensure that the child’s homeschooling curriculum is tied up with DepEd to best meet the needs and interest. Parents may opt to design their own curriculum and learning activities for their child, integrating some DepEd curriculum into it, so when the child transitions to a formal schooling, he / she takes the DepEd examinations for placement and equivalency.

Curriculum. Choose or design curriculum that includes expected learning outcomes, activities and assessment, that reflects commitment as parents and in consideration of the child’s learning styles, competencies, conditions and challenges.

Conditions. It is important to set up a learning location appropriate for the child to learn such as educational resources, playgrounds, museums and the like.

Connection. Homeschooling must be well-rounded that the child connects to the world. Optimize the homeschooling curriculum with the healthy learning activities that would develop mental, physical, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of the child. Academic learning should be translated to relational skills.

Challenges. It could be related to time, resources, parent-child relationship, burnout and comparison with children in formal schooling. Parents should anticipate these challenges so they can minimize it.
With cases of COVID-19 surging in the country and schools unsure of what fall will look like, momentary homeschooling may be a right alternative for your family. But make sure to do your exploration so as to learn the rules in state, what your kids will bring about, and to contemplate the pros and cons of homeschooling before you decide for it.

References:


The Family Code of the Philippines. Available at https://www.chanrobles.com/executiveorderno209.htm#.YKSDnqERXDc

DECS Memorandum No. 216, s. 1997. Available at https://www.teacherph.com/home-education-program/
