



Homeschool Co-Op Part 2

- ◇ **Video: Day in the Life of a Homeschool Co-Op in Atlanta**
- ◇ History: Co-Op started 5 years ago in her dining room, but now in a designated space with close to 30 students.
- ◇ ***How do you start homeschooling and what is the procedure?***
 - Just start! Fill out a “declaration of intent” to homeschool with your state so they know you are homeschooling your child/ren.
 - Decide on your curriculum.
 - Recommendation: Abeka
 - 1,000 for one child’s curriculum but payments can be spread out over 10 months (\$100/mo.)
 - Dedicated space:
 - I started in my dining room with permission from my lord. Choose a dedicated space and create a classroom. Purchase the necessary items to make it a classroom. Make a schedule and learn the curriculum to build confidence while teaching.
- ◇ ***Can you recommend different ways to schedule homeschooling?***
 - We meet Monday – Thursday every week from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. We opted out of doing Friday so we can prep for the sabbath. The children are required by the state to do 170 school days for the year, so taking off on Fridays is not an option,

but we send home the packets for Fridays work on Thursday, so it is still counted as a full day of school. The state of Georgia requires 4 ½ hours of classroom time a day, 5 days of week, but we do 5 ½ hours because of our 30-minute lunch and 30-minute recess.

- ◇ ***What do you think about working remotely from home and homeschooling?***
 - I don't work remotely, but I am self-employed. My store is next door to the school, so sometimes I go to work. Working remotely and homeschooling would be difficult because homeschooling requires for you to teach. An alternative could be having another person do the teaching and you manage the administrative things so you can work remotely.
- ◇ ***How do you navigate homeschool and working?***
 - Homeschooling is a job for me and is working for me. My lord allows me to work 2-days a week for my business, so two afternoons a week I work, but outside of that I am dedicated to the homeschooling. None of the other sister's work.
- ◇ ***Is there a way to get teaching discounts for being a homeschool teacher?***
 - A lot of businesses offer discounts for being a homeschool teacher.
- ◇ ***Could a social worker in the body be beneficial in a co-op?***
 - Yes! It depends on the level of the co-op and how many students you have. Admin is always beneficial to a co-op. This could be another option. Depending on where you are in your co-op many positions will be needed eventually, such as, nurse, lunch aid, librarian, etc.
- ◇ ***What are some of the disadvantages of a co-op from your experiences?***
 - There are not many disadvantages, but I can think of two.
 - 1: If you're not doing a co-op and just homeschooling on your own, your child may be negatively affected by the lack of socialization. However, by doing co-op this is solved.
 - 2: You can't control how other parents are with their children
 - For example, when a parent isn't as involved in their child's education, you may feel that certain things are your fault. Especially if they are not doing their homework or are not showing up to school.
 - *List of advantages:*
 - My children are happy and are around law keepers all day, every day.
 - The curriculum we use is an award-winning curriculum.
 - It's a family and we have become friends.
 - My lord sees how happy his children are and how they are flourishing.
 - We've become a community. For example, if a mom needs to go to the doctors, grocery shop, get her hair done, we all help and she can manage her needs while her child is educated.
 - I have an incredible sense of purpose and doing a good work. Especially watching the young prophets and how they are growing and learning.
- ◇ ***What time span would you recommend for someone to start a co-op?***
 - Start tonight and start your co-op tomorrow. If you have all your supplies start now.
- ◇ ***How do you manage working, homeschooling, and managing the house? Time wise, do you clean at night?***
 - I clean all the time.

- In the morning, I always make sure I do something, such as laundry, making my bed, lighting an incense. We are gone all day, so the kids don't have an opportunity to mess the house up. So, my cleaning is less than it used to be.
- ◇ ***Where should I start when building a curriculum?***
 - Sis, why would you want to build your own curriculum? Use a curriculum that is already developed and tweak it to your needs. Abeka is a bible-based curriculum using the King James bible, but they don't have the visuals or the history, so I change these areas to fit our needs. Abeka.com
- ◇ ***Must the child finish the school year, or can you take them out any time?***
 - You can take them out any time and let them know what your plan is. Submit the "declaration of intent" so Esau knows where your child is.
- ◇ ***What is the participation requirement for each parent? Does it rotate or change month to month?***
 - Our teachers don't rotate. We have 3 dedicated teachers including myself. We have teaching assistants who are Young Daughters of Sarah who come in and assist. The parents' responsibility is to pay their tuition, be on time, and in uniform. Some parents give us gifts, help clean, watch the children while the teachers grab something to eat.
- ◇ ***What is a good place to purchase discount supplies such as desks?***
 - classroomessentialsonline.com
 - amazon.com
- ◇ ***How do you get your toddler to start pronouncing words?***
 - Keep talking to them and have them around other children.
- ◇ ***How do you successfully transition a child to homeschooling if they are in high school?***
 - It may be difficult for the child, but I don't have experience with this. Try to find a co-op so the adjustment isn't difficult, and they can still socialize.
- ◇ ***In part 1 you mentioned several business loans you took out to begin the Atlanta homeschooling co-op. Please share with us some recommendations of how to do this.***
 - Girl, where that money at? I didn't receive any business loans, but I did go to the bank of Officer Elisha, my lord. He helped and supported me not a bank loan. You are building your business credit so purchase things with business credit with net 30 accounts which can be found online. Create an LLC for about \$200 and the EIN is free. Don't pay a company to do it for you because it is super easy. Start using your EIN instead of your social security number to purchase things and set up utilities. Take into consideration taxes. Set up a non-profit. It's not as simple but important. When you start charging tuition, you will have to pay taxes for receiving tuition.
- ◇ ***I have a special needs child that I want to take out of the public school system. However, to receive the services she needs it is only offered by attending the public school system. Is there an IUIC school that she can take classes online that would offer these services?***
 - I don't believe there is any IUIC school that has an online accredited school for any child including special needs.
- ◇ ***What are the most important elements to focus on as you plan to start a co-op?***

- Curriculum and the dedication are the first things to focus on. Make sure you have the time especially when teaching other people's children. Start first inside the home because it takes money. Wait until you have enough students to maintain the rent and utilities.
- ◇ ***Are there any books you recommend reading to establish and start a homeschool co-op?***
 - No, I identified a need and looked for solutions. I recommend that you read the materials that Abeka provides. They give you all the information and it is important to read those. Don't overthink this. If you are a mother, then you are a teacher. IT's not as complex as you think. There are 5 main steps: deciding what you will do, curriculum, schedule, space, and filling that space.
 - **Philippians 1:6**
 - he that does a good work in you will fulfill it.
 - This is one of my favorite scriptures when I start feeling that I can't do this. Allow the scriptures to speak to you.
- ◇ ***As a homeschool co-op how do teachers allow for various types of learning to make sure all students need are met?***
 - There are 7 main learning styles but 4 will occur often kinetic, visual, auditory, and logical. This curriculum has incorporated all these learning styles within the curriculum.
- ◇ ***What types of enrichment can be offered with students who are struggling?***
 - The curriculum has a main curriculum, then a scale back to teach the child in a different way as well as an advanced version for students who are becoming bored.
- ◇ ***Video: tour of the homeschool co-op in Atlanta***
- ◇ ***How much do you recommend charging?***
 - You must factor in the cost of living where you are and what you need.
- ◇ ***Ideally what would be the tuition per students for sustainability of the co-op? How do you keep it affordable for those with multiple children?***
 - The first child is full price, and each additional child is a discount.
- ◇ ***What is the enrollment process?***
 - A simple form which includes parents' information, insurance, information, emergency contact info, allergies, etc. I charge an enrollment fee.
- ◇ ***Pre-K schedule?***
 - We start at 9:00 am and do music and movement. They take a lot of breaks and do a lot of kinetics with touch and sensory. Everyone takes snack at 10:15 am, prayer and lunch at 12:00. They use the same curriculum (Abeka).
- ◇ ***Are you taking new students?***
 - Yes, we just opened enrollment for new students for 2023/2024. Email me at thegcea@gmail.com and in the subject section put "enrollment".
- ◇ ***How do you substitute for the high holy days when submitting your days to the state?***
 - We don't celebrate Esau's holidays, so we are in school and instead take off for our high holy days. Our spring break is during Passover, our fall break is during Tabernacles, and our winter break is during Hanukkah. We get the same brakes as Esau but just take them at different times and it doesn't affect the 170-day requirement.

- ◇ ***Where do you purchase uniforms?***
 - frenchtoast.com
 - My lord designed our crest, and we use a local embroidery company to put the embroidery on the shirts.
- ◇ ***Does Abeka also have the math and health or just the biblical curriculum?***
 - They have everything, but we do omit their history and biblical visuals. Other than that, they have the full curriculum.
- ◇ ***Do you order all the books from Abeka?***
 - You can order them individually, but we order the teacher kit, but the parents are responsible for ordering the student kit.
- ◇ ***Have you ever run into a lesson that you had trouble explaining to the kids even with an answer guide?***
 - No, not yet. I understand how Abeka works, so look at the curriculum before you teach it. Abeka is detailed and gives you everything.
- ◇ ***Did you create your own enrollment form?***
 - Yes, I subscribe to a document creator and just tweaked some things.
- ◇ ***What questions do you ask Abeka when purchasing the curriculum?***
 - I didn't speak to a representative, I just ordered what I needed online.
- ◇ ***Homeschooling different age groups, what type of schedule would you recommend?***
 - We have different teachers to teach each grade level. Do everything in blocks. Teach one child, then they work on their assignment independently, then teach the other child.
- ◇ ***Which package do you purchase on Abeka?***
 - I purchase the most expensive one which gives you all the books and materials.
- ◇ ***How do you find people to co-op with you if your child is not in the body, but still learning to keep the commandments and lives with you?***
 - Not sure because all our children are in the body, and we don't allow any children who are not in IUIC to study with us.
- ◇ ***How do you keep records?***
 - Abeka has progress reports where you can update test scores. Keep them in a box just in case you are audited. Abeka has accredited and unaccredited in which unaccredited we store all the records. Once the children transition to high school and if IUIC doesn't have its own accredited school by then, we will switch to the Abeka accredited where they will store all records for them for college.
- ◇ ***Did you register copyright your school's name and logo?***
 - We didn't need to trademark the school's name.
- ◇ ***Does the Abeka curriculum need to be purchased each school year?***
 - Yes, the teachers aid materials does not need to be purchased each year, but the student's curriculum needs to be purchased yearly.
- ◇ ***Do you have any tips for starting a co-op with multiple sisters?***
 - I would get counsel to make sure you have proved a friend. If you are married, counsel with your lord and make sure the sisters have a like-minded vision and work ethic.
- ◇ ***How often do you update the lessons?***
 - I've had the same teachers aids for several years, but get the students books each year.

- ◇ ***Would this fall under IUIC regarding field trips and events?***
 - No, it is a separate entity. We set up a telegram and my lord is there to monitor, but it is not IUIC at all.
- ◇ ***What grade do you go up to?***
 - The highest grade currently is 4th grade.
- ◇ ***Would you ever consider online schooling along with in-person schooling?***
 - Yes, we are currently talking about it now.
- ◇ ***If Abeka is not affordable, do you recommend another resource?***
 - I haven't used any other curriculum, but I've heard of "a time for learning".
- ◇ ***How long does it take to plan out a whole school year?***
 - The work is already planned out for you with Abeka. Just plan your space, your time management, etc.
- ◇ ***What was the timeframe from the time you decided to create a co-op to when you started?***
 - Not long at all. I decided, talked to my lord for approval, order the curriculum, and started.
- ◇ ***Can you use Abeka curriculum if you are international?***
 - I don't know. Please check with Abeka.
- ◇ ***Do you seek out grants or fundraisers for school supplies and field trips?***
 - No, not yet and I'm not considered a private school yet, so there is not a lot of support that the state offers. We do fundraisers in house and have an Amazon wish list.
- ◇ ***Do you incorporate life skills?***
 - Abeka gives some real-life scenarios. We don't have any major life-skills activities.
- ◇ ***Do you and the teachers have scheduled meetings with other co-ops?***
 - Send me an email.
- ◇ ***Do you incorporate any outside field trips?***
 - Yes. We always do an end of the year trip. Last year we did six flags. Some other things are going to the park, library, to get ice cream, etc. This year we will go to a safari park.
- ◇ ***Can we preview grade level work before purchasing?***
 - Yes, Abeka has sample classes to view.
- ◇ ***Do you do year-round classes or stop when the summer is off?***
 - We take summers off.
- ◇ ***How do you learn to teach multiple children and different ways of learning?***
 - The curriculum incorporates all this effortlessly.
- ◇ ***If you don't have the space for in-person, do you recommend zoom in the beginning?***
 - Yes, most importantly is having a schedule and being committed.
- ◇ ***Does the teacher's aided curriculum go from pre-k to 12th grade?***
 - Yes, you receive all materials for teaching your child up to 12th grade. If your child is studying trigonometry and you are not confident to teach it, you can opt to buy the streaming, which is a teacher from Abeka prerecorded videos teaching trigonometry and still teach the other subjects yourself.

◇ **Mother Naamah House of Deacon Asaph**

- Has been doing Abeka since her daughter was in 8th grade and she is now 23 years old. It's a great option to avoid your children being around peer pressure, drugs, sex, etc. because you can avoid these temptations by homeschooling. Abeka is 2 – 2 ½ years ahead of the public school system. It is advanced! I still have a 6th and 8th grader at the same time. It's amazing and you can structure it how you like by incorporating a parent day or a field trip. If your child is advanced, for example, a four-year-old who knows letter sounds, then start them with the 5-year-old curriculum. My daughter just turned 11 years old and she's in the 6th grade curriculum. One of my children went to college with Abeka. Abeka will provide the transcript and is accredited in all states. You can make your own schedule 8:00 – 2:00, but kids like to do 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm. My kids double up Monday – Thursday so they can have off on Friday. Science, social studies, writing, and health can be taught for multiple age groups together. instead of each child having an individual lesson. Abeka has an option for kids to call and a teacher will answer and help them live understand the page of the book they are struggling with. Find a teacher in the body to do private tutoring with your child if they struggle in a certain area or use zoom.