

5 Ways a Homeschool Co-op Can Benefit Your Child



By Carol Topp, CPA
Author of
Homeschool Co-ops: How to Start Them, Run Them and Not Burn Out



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What is a Homeschool Co-op?

- Co-operation of homeschool parents
- Shared teaching
- Usually once or twice a week
- Usually parents teach

Variations:

- Stand alone classes
- University model
- Drop-off classes



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Watch Your Expectations!

A homeschool co-op cannot replace:

- Your child's education at home
- You, as parent
- You, as guidance counselor
- Your family, as a major influence



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Benefit #1: Socialization

- A chance to make friends
- Cross-age friends
- Not overwhelming emphasis on peers



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Benefit #2: Group Learning

- Group classes
 - Gym, drama, speech, etc.
 - Hard to do at home
- Dynamics of group interaction
 - Class discussion
 - Leader/follower



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Benefit #3: Other Adults

- Mentors & role models
 - Good for college and job recommendations
- Experienced & skilled teachers
 - Foreign language, art, advanced math & science
- Child accountable to another adult
 - Follow through on homework
 - Respect



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Benefit #4: Encouragement

- Homeschooling is not weird
- Sense of belonging
- Exchange information
- Sense of self



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Benefit #5: Fun

- Field trips
- Special events
 - Graduation ceremony
 - Parties
- Family fun together



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Disadvantages

- Negative socialization
 - Bad habits, attitudes, behaviors
- Time
- School-like
 - Grades
 - Schedules



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How to find a local co-op

A to Z Home's Cool

<http://homeschooling.gomilpitas.com/regional/Region.htm>

Go to your state page and put "co-op" in the browser search

Local Homeschool.com

<http://localhs.com/>

Search by "Type" for "Co-op" or "Cooperative." Narrow the search by including your state and/or county.



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Start your own co-op

1. Gather like-minded parents
2. Decide on
Who, What, When, Where and How much
3. Start small and defined time period
6 weeks for a first time



Homeschool Co-ops: How to Start Them, Run Them and Not Burn Out
Sample chapter "Your First Planning Meeting" at HomeschoolCPA.com



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