



Homeschooling: A Family's Journey

Martine Millman , Gregory J. Millman

Download now

Read Online ➔

Homeschooling: A Family's Journey

Martine Millman , Gregory J. Millman

Homeschooling: A Family's Journey Martine Millman , Gregory J. Millman

This intimate, eminently practical memoir of a successful homeschooled family of six children illuminates today's most exciting choice in education, and shows how it works from cradle to college.

What is it that homeschoolers do that the public schools can't or won't? There are at least as many answers as there are studies. But nothing can capture the homeschooling experience in all its richness like the story of a real family that homeschools its children in middleclass America.

Homeschooling: A Family's Journey is the perfect book for those millions of Americans who may know someone who homeschools, who may have read about it, thought about it, and wondered whether homeschooling is right for them. Sharing the concerns of committed parents everywhere, authors Gregory and Martine Millman are consistently practical, informed, caring, and no-nonsense in their approach. They pay special attention to homeschooling and college, the economics of home-learning, and how a parent can really handle a child's full education.

Homeschooling opens a window on an exciting, important way of education—and, even more, a way of life—that can make all the difference in your family's world.

Homeschooling: A Family's Journey Details

Date : Published August 14th 2008 by Tarcher (first published 2008)

ISBN : 9781585426614

Author : Martine Millman , Gregory J. Millman

Format : Hardcover 304 pages

Genre : Parenting, Education, Nonfiction

 [Download Homeschooling: A Family's Journey ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Homeschooling: A Family's Journey ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Homeschooling: A Family's Journey Martine Millman , Gregory J. Millman

From Reader Review Homeschooling: A Family's Journey for online ebook

Kayla says

Mostly this book offered validation. I found myself nodding through the majority of it, because their perspective and priorities align closely with mine. I would recommend this book to anyone who is thinking of homeschooling, as I feel it offers a realistic and straightforward look at what homeschooling can be. My only real issue (though it didn't come up very often) was that they primarily spoke negatively of public school. I know why I personally disliked public school as a kid, and I am sure there are people in high places who work the school system to their financial benefit, but I think their perspective discounts the thousands of dedicated teachers and staff who pour their energy into providing education at public school.

Brooke says

This was an interesting read for me. I'm glad that I did not start my homeschooling research with this book though as it does not focus on different methods really. This book is about one family who decided to start homeschooling for various reasons back in the early 90's. The authors are very knowledgeable about the history of public education and that of homeschooling. They do talk about some things that worked for them and some that didn't and why. I really enjoyed the section on homeschooling groups and how they can help your child's education and network. There is an awesome chapter on the college admissions process for homeschoolers. Of course I'm a long ways from needing that info and I'm sure it will change again by then but it was good solid information and enlightening on many levels. This book is rich in detail and ideas and after reading it I feel like I could very easily homeschool successfully. One note the family in the end decides to use a technique called unschooling (which for those that don't know much about homeschooling does not mean that they don't educate their children, I liken it to extreme Montessori). I myself couldn't do unschooling as it isn't structured enough for my brain but they don't make you feel like you have to use their method. They are just telling you why it worked for them. They do not spend tons of time talking about it really either so you won't feel like you are getting beaten over the head by the method. It really isn't a book about methods. I would highly recommend this book to current homeschooling families and to those considering homeschooling as an option!

Jenny Taylor says

The Millmans' memoir is a worthwhile read for those interested in homeschooling. The tone can be a little abrasive as these homeschoolers assert that they have it all figured out, but they do admit that it began as a journey of self-doubt and discovery. Read it with a grain of salt, knowing that you can pick and choose the elements of a homeschool education that works for your family.

Jillian says

This book is a wonderful look into the journey a homeschooling family with six children. They talk about the entire experience, from deciding to homeschool, to getting into college. It would be a good read for those

who DON'T plan on homeschooling as well, because it clears up a lot of misconceptions (oh, and might convince you to do it. ha ha). Two points they made (that can be referenced by research, another reason to love this book, they back everything up, it's not purely anecdotal) is that homeschooled children wind up being better socialized adults, with wider ranges of friends and acquaintances than conventionally schooled children; the second being that mom's who homeschool are often LESS stressed (didn't see that coming, did you?) because of the networks they build, and that they can do many things in the off seasons, and travel when they want, and are not on a school's schedule, but their own. I liked that it gave me many studies and reports to prove myself next time some one tells me that if I'm not stressed about schooling, I must not be working hard enough. I must add that it's not to say that mothers who homeschool do not worry about their children's progress, but that ALL mothers worry about that, and the other things are the homeschooling mothers advantage over those who send their kids to school "for a break".

Natalie says

I struggled with this book. There was lots of whining about how they were a single income Fsmily with not a lot of money and then they talk about all the trips to Europe. Also I could have done with out all the bashing of public schools.

Michelle says

If you're thinking about homeschooling, then maybe you should read it. If not, then I wouldn't recommend it at all. It was our book club book for this month and I couldn't even bring myself to finish it. The author comes across as so arrogant, elitist, and self-praising about every area of his life, thought, habits, even down to how his family prepares a meal. I'm not saying I didn't agree with him on some topics, but the way he presented everything drove me nuts! I also feel like he presents his information in a way that is extremely skewed and misleading. He is fundamentally confused on the difference between homeschooling vs public schooling, and different educational philosophies. I had a lot of other issues with the things he said and I could go on and on but I'll leave it at that.

Amy Rogers says

I finished reading Homeschooling: A Family's Journey by Martine and Gregory Millman back in 2010 and wrote this review then. My children are no longer homeschooled, but I pulled this up because I think it gives nicely with Sal Khan's new book, particularly the quote I highlighted in the review. I'll be reviewing Khan's book sometime next week.

The Millman's have homeschooled six children, three of whom are settled into college life, and three still in the chute.

They do a beautiful job of explaining the lifestyle of homeschooling versus a school at home mindset. I thoroughly enjoyed their description of how learning happens just by keeping your eyes open to the possibility of it. I love this gem from the book:

Many things that everyone takes for granted make sense only when you exercise no skepticism and pay no attention, but it's easy to get swept away by the herd.

They were tad rough on public schools, in my opinion. I live in a upper middle class suburban community, so it may have been justified for their locale, but as far as I can tell, much of what they had problems with in their PS system doesn't really apply across the board. Though some of it certainly does. Of course, my kids have never gone to school, so I'm just basing this on what I've heard.

The chapter on the college admissions process is worth the price of the book. Their description of the hoops you need to jump as a homeschooler applying to college is thorough and well-researched. They've done an excellent job explaining what goes on in the minds of admissions officers as well.

I recommend it for any stage of homeschooling, from considering homeschooling all the way through to shopping colleges.

And what are you reading today?

Stephanie says

I am so glad that this family published this book about their homeschooling experiences. My eyes were opened to so many things about homeschooling and public schooling. I almost feel cheated knowing I went to a public school and missed out on some great opportunities. (I feel really cheated that my own parents didn't do some basic college prep and research that these authors have opened my eyes to!)

More than anything, I really enjoyed the section on college admissions. There are great tips in there that I will be using to even find my husband a good grad school for him (if it's possible to sway our choices at all). Being public schooled my whole life, and marrying a homeschooled man, I had all the same negative stereotypes about homeschooling that most people have. The problem is these stereotypes are assumptions made without researching to verify. Most parents don't even stop to consider their educational choices. They just put their children in public schools because that's "just how it's done".

The only thing holding me back from homeschooling is the challenge it presents for me to make personal sacrifices to do it. This book has helped me feel that there is more support out there for it than I thought, and while we still have time to decide, and I still need to read some "anti-homeschooling" literature to do my fair research on both sides, it seems inevitable that we will be homeschooling.

I'm even considering sending a Thank you note to the authors for realizing the need for a book like this. Even if you're against homeschooling, this clears up a lot of misconceptions about it, and the type of people who do it. And a lot of other reviews have said that they found only the college section useful. Everyone should read this book before they make a personal opinion of homeschooling and homeschoolers.

Andrea says

Provides valuable insights into homeschooling through one large Catholic family's homeschooling experiences. I enjoyed reading about their journey and found their curriculum approaches particularly interesting.

This family's educational goal, "to equip our children for the free pursuit of truth through virtue," heavily colors the perspectives they offer in this book and may not line up well with the goals of some families. Despite my differing ideologies, I appreciated the picture of homeschooling that the authors provide. Some of their descriptions of unplanned learning and their discussion of the college application process were especially useful.

I do wish that the authors had been more circumspect in which of their opinions they chose to present in this book. I'm all for sharing your opinions in a useful and persuasive manner, but in several places they just throw controversial opinions out there as if they were gospel without supporting them. There are a few people to whom I would hesitate to recommend this illuminating book for that reason.

Karina Coombs says

Definitely gave me some things to think about as we explore homeschooling this year. I had trouble with a lot of the statements re: public school, however, particularly those that seemed like generalizations or those that started with, "Most teachers..." I am not sure how much they can base this on as their kids never really were in school. I also think that homeschooling is a choice -- not better or worse -- and them seemed to look down their collective noses at those "left behind."

Heather says

This book combines a lot of good information about the reasons for homeschooling and research about homeschooling families, combined with one family's personal experiences. The Millmans decided to homeschool for non-religious reasons, which is why I picked up this book. Although they are Catholic and they integrate their faith into their kids' education, they decided to homeschool for lack of any good, affordable school option.

I really wanted to enjoy this book, but the tone is so annoyingly pompous and self-satisfied throughout that I had to force myself to finish it to get to the good information hidden in here. There is no humor here, just continuous self-back-patting over every single decision the family has made.

The information about public schools is overwhelmingly negative, to put it mildly. I think that anyone not choosing to homeschool their children would be quite offended by the book. The Millmans' experiences with their local Catholic school are, I think, extreme, and certainly not representative of the majority of public or private schools today, no matter how flawed they might be.

Sheila says

I liked this book a lot. Her description of unschooling wasn't accurate. For example, unschooling is NOT just a word to describe secular homeschooling and it's not just another word for relaxed homeschooling.

What they describe in this book is relaxed homeschooling, not unschooling. Still, I enjoyed a lot of what they had to say.

I particularly enjoyed the section on travel. For kids who like travel, I agree with them about how valuable the experience can be, and about traveling the back roads and meandering around yourself instead of just doing very touristy things and looking for the learn-able moments in every situation. (Unfortunately, they didn't mention that some kids don't like to travel, and that that's okay too.)

I agreed about their horror at the attitudes of the school their child was in, and I agree that so many people don't even consider NOT sending their children to school, even when attitudes like that persist. I liked that they considered thoughtfully the decisions they made instead of just doing the default, "This is what everyone around me is doing."

I found the chapter on college admissions helpful for those kids considering college (although they didn't emphasize that some kids might NOT want college, and validate that as an acceptable choice).

In spite of some of their choices being different than my family's, I sensed this was an interesting, thoughtful family whose company I would enjoy.

Megan Mackey says

I would not recommend this book. They seem so arrogant and rude. This is not how I want myself to be seen as a homeschooler.

Stephanie says

It would've been interesting , but for me it seemed to run on and on and wasn't very informative
I felt my interest drop
When they mentioned their views on internet and television ...

Marissa Morrison says

The Miillmans tell about how they decided to teach their six kids at home, how they do it (largely open ended, with much of the education coming from digression), and the ways in which they keep their kids involved with others in their community. The children who are old enough to have gone to college have been National Merit Scholars and attended top-notch schools. Some nice things here: they read Dickens to each other, they worked around one child's late reading onset (at age 8) and didn't focus on "fixing" it, they watch almost no TV but have family movie nights at home, and the mom takes one kid to Italy every few years. Since they don't take summers off, the kids don't waste time reviewing last year's math every fall.

It sort of boggles my mind that the mom left her career not to be with her kids not just for a few years but basically forever, and the family has made that work on the dad's modest income. I wish this book had offered more info on how that has affected the wife's sense of herself.
