

Listening (Script)

A Talk about Education

In most countries, education is compulsory for children of school age. However, even when education is compulsory, children do not always have to go to school. In some countries, such as the UK and the USA, it is legal for parents to educate their children at home if they want to. Parents who choose this path say there are many benefits and I must say I'm inclined to agree with them. One of the most popular reasons they give is that home schooling allows children to follow their own interests. So for example if a child loves animals, they can develop their reading with books about animals, and they can focus on animals in their science lessons. People who prefer home education say children make more progress this way and are more likely to enjoy their lessons.

Another way that home-schooling helps learning is that children can learn at their own speed. This is beneficial because fast learners do not get bored in lessons. And of equal importance, slow learners do not lose their self-confidence. Another advantage is that every child can have a lot of one-to-one attention, which is just not possible in a busy classroom.

In addition, it is not necessary to have a fixed timetable. Parents can arrange lessons at different times. Also, many parents who educate their children at home can easily take them outside when the weather's good. This allows them to get exercise and learn from the natural world. They can catch up on more formal lessons when the weather's bad!

However, home education is a big commitment and there are some potential problems. It can be an expensive choice, as one parent always needs to be at home instead of working, and the family also has to pay for books, paper, pens and other items that are provided free in schools. Many parents find it tiring to be with their children all day long.

There is also the issue of the children's social lives. Some people worry that children who are home educated do not get enough opportunities to make friends outside the home. However, I don't think this is necessarily true. Parents can overcome the problem by meeting up with other home-schooling families.

Home education has been increasing in popularity recently and it's easy to see why. However, it will always be important for parents to think very carefully before deciding not to send their children to school.