



# Helpful Hints for Managing Your Home Days With Multiple Children

Written by Legacy parents based on our experiences!



## Start With Prayer

This is the most important thing you can do on your home days!

## Stock Your School Room

A well-stocked supply of school and craft essentials will keep you from having to load up and run everyone to the store. See the Getting Ready Guide for a list of suggested supplies for home days.

## Stock Your Pantry

Think ahead to ensure that you have ingredients on hand for quick snacks and meals. Assign jobs to older students, such as preparing meals, lunches, and helping with laundry and clean-up.

## Prepare for Preschoolers

Have activities for your preschoolers on hand at all times. It never fails that they suddenly lose any ability to self-entertain on home days. Crayons, coloring pages, computer games, Kindergarten prep workbooks, or a special box of toys that only come out on home days are helpful. Plan ahead!

## Check Praxi on Sunday Evenings

Praxi lesson plans for the week are available after 5pm on Sunday evenings. Look through the week's assignments to see if there are any special supplies you will need for the week that you can pick up while the kids are at school.

## Print Out Praxi Lesson Plans

It's WAY TOO HARD to flip back and forth on the computer. Print out a copy of each child's lesson plans and let children as young as 1<sup>st</sup> grade try and work through it on their own. They can do it!

## Protect Your Time on Home Days

Block out your home days as school days. You are the teacher on these days. If you're too busy working on other things (laundry, phone calls, church or work projects, appointments), you will find your kids off task and you will be frustrated. Accept that you need to be fully available to your kids on these days. Only schedule necessary doctor's appointments during school hours (not workout times, haircuts, grocery store runs, etc.). Block out the time just like you would for any other commitment and let friends and family know that you'll get back to them when the school day is over.

## **Enlist Help From Older Kids**

Allow big kids to help with younger kids. Sometimes they do a better job of explaining something than we do!

## **Use Tools**

Computers, iPhone apps, web sites, and games are all great ways to practice math facts and spelling words.

## **Build Relationships**

Reach out to other families at Legacy. It's so good to have a friend who you can take a lunch break with or simply ask questions on a hard day!

## **Be Flexible**

Keep a routine, but allow yourself to be flexible. That's the beauty of this school! Although it is good for everyone to know what to expect as far as your home day schedule goes, sometimes we can do things out of order or even stop to do something fun! Relax, and allow your home to take a break when it's necessary. Know that it will all get done, even if it doesn't feel like it at noon when everyone is hungry, the babies are crying, math seems to have totally overwhelmed your 5<sup>th</sup> grader, your 3<sup>rd</sup> grader forgot how to spell, the phone is ringing (don't answer it!), your email inbox is full (resist the temptation to respond to non-school emails!), you have four projects due that you should have started weeks ago, your child lost his journal, and you have reading logs for days that need to be filled in. RELAX!!! It really will get done and, if it doesn't, there are times that's OK, too. Praise God for grace and understanding from our Legacy teachers!

## **Ask for Help**

When you need help, contact your child's teacher. Sometimes the best thing you can do is sit down, face to face, and explain what's going on in your home. You also can get help from:

Kristie Dunn, Dean of Family Ministry, [kdunn@legacypca.org](mailto:kdunn@legacypca.org)

Lisa Bontrager, Elementary School Principal, [lbonttrager@legacypca.org](mailto:lbonttrager@legacypca.org)



**You can do it, and your kids are worth it!!**

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13)