



Homeschooling and Socialization



How many of you get asked by family members, friends, or even complete strangers about homeschooling and socialization?

Who, what, where, when, and why questions about socialization.

What does socialization even mean?

What are your socialization goals for your children?

Do you want or need the public school system to help you meet your goals?

What if your child is an introvert? What if YOU are an introvert?

How should you respond when you're questioned about homeschooling and socialization?

Let's Get to Know Each
Other

Questions

How many of you have been questioned by friends, family members, or even complete and total strangers about homeschooling and socialization?



Who?

Who asks you about
socialization?



What?

What questions do they
ask about socialization?

Why do
people even
think there's a
socialization
problem?

- ▶ Lack of socialization among homeschooled students is an imaginary problem!
- ▶ People may misunderstand the nature and inner workings of homeschooling.
- ▶ People may be concerned that homeschoolers miss out on things like the prom, yearbook, honors societies, etc.

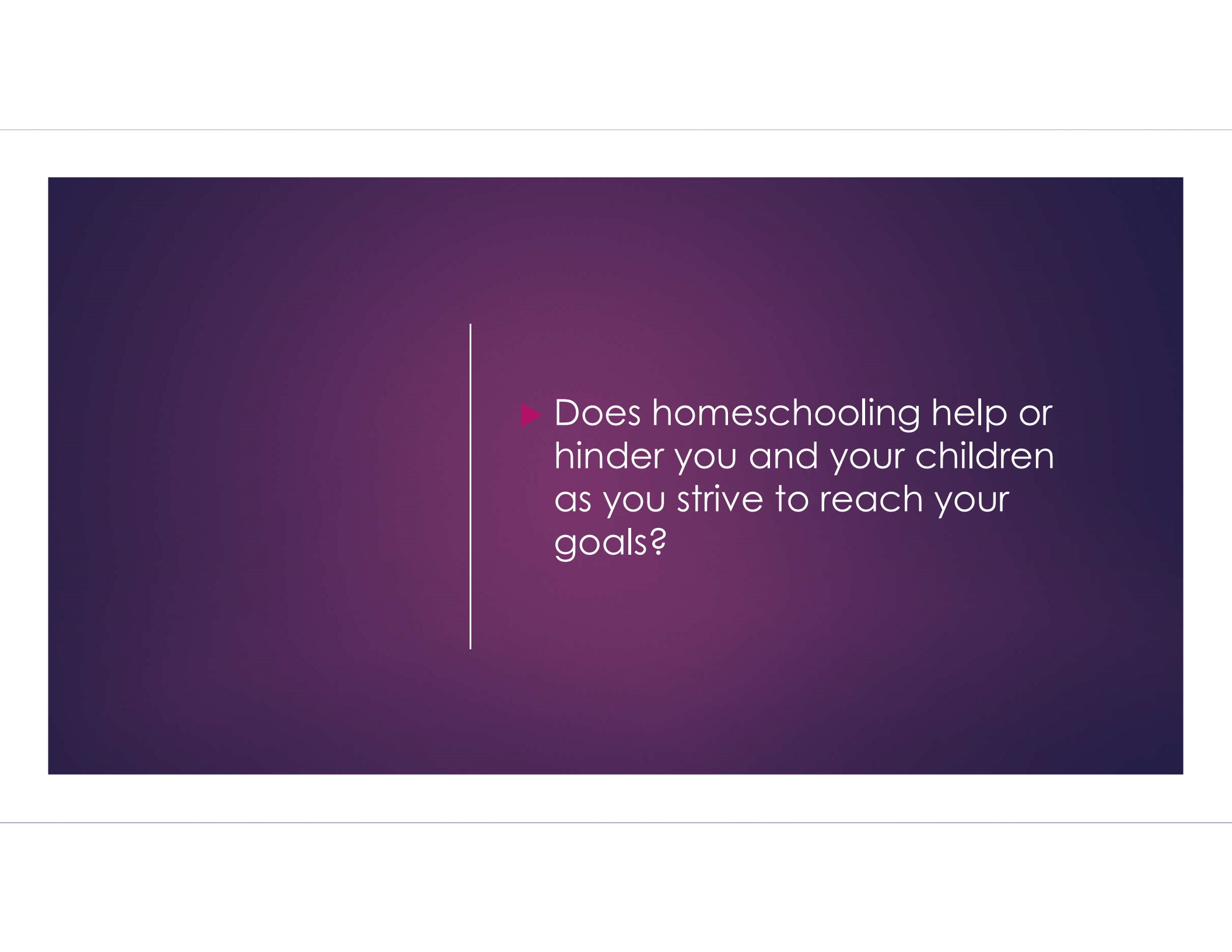


What does
socialization
even
mean?

Webster's Definition of Socialization

A: THE PROCESS BEGINNING DURING CHILDHOOD BY WHICH INDIVIDUALS ACQUIRE THE VALUES, HABITS, AND ATTITUDES OF A SOCIETY

B: SOCIAL INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

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- ▶ Does homeschooling help or hinder you and your children as you strive to reach your goals?

Which of these is a better representation of socialization? Why?



forced
Association is **NOT**

Socialization
Hip Homeschool Moms





These Aspects of
Socialization Must Also Be
Considered



Worldview



Peer Pressure/Influence



Conformity



Bullying



Violence



Is there anything
wrong with
protecting/sheltering
our children?



Socialization Challenges

Homeschooling an Introvert

- ▶ How many of you are homeschooling an introvert?
- ▶ Would public school cause your child not to be an introvert?
- ▶ How might you help your introvert socialize?





1

Don't make a big deal about his/her shyness.



2

Find something your child really loves and help him/her get involved in it.



3

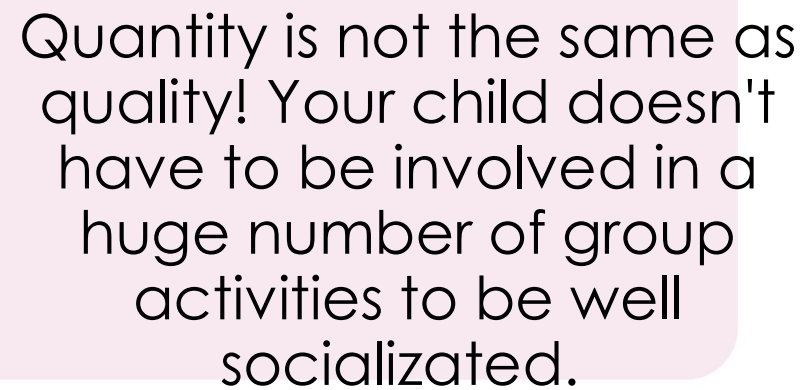
Prepare your child for social situations.

What If I Am the Introvert?

- ▶ If you, the parent/teacher are the introvert, how can you provide your child with opportunities for socialization?
 - ▶ There are lots of opportunities for extra curricular activities such as dance lessons, music lessons, art lessons, summer camps, clubs, etc.
 - ▶ You may have to step out of your comfort zone!
 - ▶ Co-ops, homeschool days at museums or the zoo, Vacation Bible School, Scouts, play days, field trips.
 - ▶ Look for smaller groups for play days and field trips so you get the benefit of socialization without being overwhelmed.
 - ▶ Find another homeschooling mom who can make the homeschool journey with you.



Think
About This

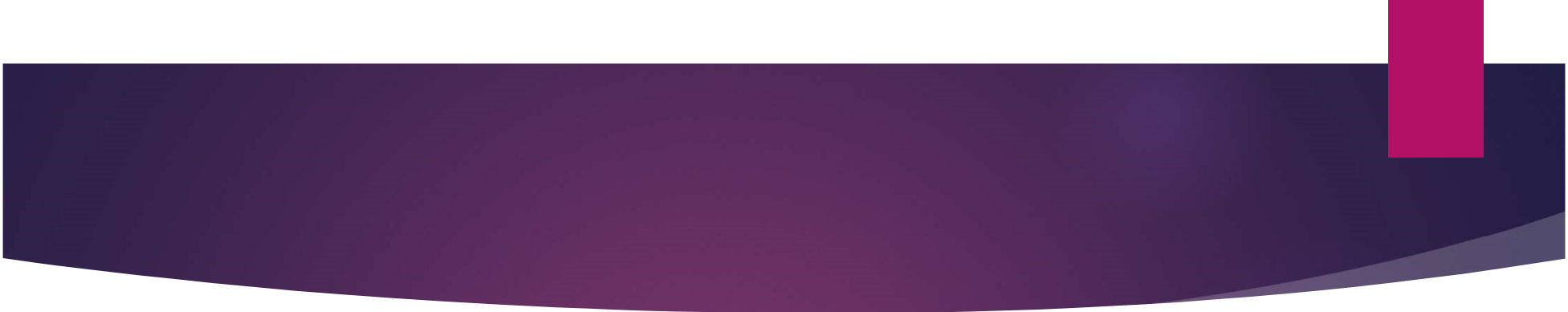


Quantity is not the same as
quality! Your child doesn't
have to be involved in a
huge number of group
activities to be well
socialized.



How should you respond to the socialization question?

- ▶ It's true that those who firmly believe only the public school system can teach your child to be properly socialized will not be swayed by much of anything you can say to them.
- ▶ Here is what you need to consider:
 - ▶ Did God call you to homeschool your children?
 - ▶ Are you obligated to “prove” that your children are well socialized?
 - ▶ Remember your "why."

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- ▶ If you find that someone is truly curious or that the person wants more information about homeschooling and the social opportunities that our children have, you may want to share some of these things:
 - ▶ Your own reasons and goals for homeschooling.
 - ▶ Your children's social experiences/outlets.
 - ▶ Your own observations about the socialization of the majority of homeschoolers.



Looking for Socialization Opportunities?

- ▶ If you're looking for more socialization opportunities for yourself and your children, we would love to share with you about our Homeschool Road Trips!
- ▶ Come see us at our booth!