

Speed Mentoring Conversation Starters

Time Management

- How do you fit chores into your day?
- How do you get things done with all the interruptions of lunch, the phone, discipline, the baby, etc.?
- Do you use a schedule, a to-do list, a routine, just stick to the lesson plan or something else?
- How do you get it all done and keep your sanity? Is it possible?
- How do you have time to do anything besides school?

Curriculum

- How do you choose curriculum?
- Where is your favorite place to find resources for learning?
- Something's not working...should I change curriculum?
- Do I need to teach every subject? How do I know which ones to teach?
- Can you homeschool on a tight budget?

Schooling

- What's your best piece of advice for a beginning homeschooler?
- How much time do you and your kids spend doing lessons every day?
- How do I know if I'm doing enough?
- Do you do lessons all five days or do you take some time or days off to run errands, etc.?
- How long can you homeschool? What happens when you reach high school? College?
- I'm nervous about standardized testing at the end of the year. What should I do about that?
- Who is going to tell me if I am doing a good job or not in home educating my children?
- What is the best thing about having your kids home with you?
- How do I teach something that I'm not strong in or don't know well?

Discipline

- How can I teach my kids anything if I'm spending all day disciplining them & mediating squabbles?
- How do I deal with a defiant child who does not respect me?

Socialization

- What about socialization? What do I tell people who ask me about socialization?
- Should I do an outside activity (class at the co-op, PE at the Y, art lessons, piano lessons, Boy Scouts) every day? My kids want to plan and hang out with other kids every day.
- Where do homeschool moms and children make friends?

Leadership

- How can we get homeschoolers to participate and volunteer?
- Did you incorporate and why/why not?
- Do you have a board, and how is it set up?
- What's the best thing your group did in the last year or so?
- If you could change something in your group, what would you change?
- How do you overcome the reluctance of homeschoolers to take leadership roles?
- What are you doing to move your group into the 21st century?
- Some groups are becoming e-groups or co-ops. Do you still offer monthly meetings? How?
- What sorts of activities does your group offer?
- How do you involve the dads?
- What do you love most about your group/ being in support group leadership?