

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of teaching children at home or at school. Give your reasons and examples to support your answer.

There are several, obvious advantages of home schooling for children; children are in a familiar environment where they feel comfortable. There are no school fees to be paid, no travel costs. Parents are free to adjust the pace of the lessons, their children don't have to keep up with other children. Parents can give much more personalized, individual attention to their children's needs.

However, studying at home does have significant disadvantages for both parents and children. Firstly, parents have to know the teaching curriculum very well, and have all the necessary, up to date books and be able to teach. Another problem is that these children don't get to interact with other children nearly as much as they would in school.

At school children have access to sports facilities, educational facilities and support from staff. At school children learn to be independent from their parents. The school can organize music lessons and trips to museums, art galleries and to other countries. Schools can help children decide on a future career and help them get a place at university.

On the downside, children can hate the school they're at, but are afraid to tell their parents, so they keep silent. They can be homesick, or bullied or both; the teachers may not all be good either and can give children a hard time. Lastly, school fees can be very expensive.

In short, which method you choose, depends on your child, your home circumstances and the quality of the school you choose. The correct decision ultimately depends on what is best for the child.

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