

Scheduling the School Day

I want my children to learn all twelve of the subjects discussed for each stage. But there is only so many hours in the day. How do I **SCHEDULE** the school day, without overloading myself or my kids, while still doing justice to the subject matter?

Before trying to establish a schedule, consider that homeschools are not locked into doing things as they are done in institutionalized school. Much of the institutionalized system comes from the Prussian model of schooling, which was established, not to give children the best education, but to mold children into the best citizens, who will do as the state wishes without causing the state too much aggravation. [John Taylor Gatto](#), a past New York State Teacher of the Year and author of [Dumbing Us Down](#), explores the roots of institutionalized schooling and what it means for a child trying to get an education in his excellent article [The Public School Nightmare](#).

Since a school day with many short subjects has been designed, not to encourage a child to develop independent or sustained individual thought, but to condition a child to accept outside influences without question, then establishing a homeschool with a schedule similar to the public school's model is undesirable. However, there are many subjects that deserve attention for each stage. So, a compromise is necessary which will give attention to the subjects while maintaining a relatively uncluttered daily study time.

Remember the [core subject](#) for each stage: Grammar in the grammar stage, logic in the dialectic stage, and rhetoric in the rhetoric stage. This is the subject that teaches the tool of learning for each stage, and is the subject around which all other work should be built. It is the one subject to which daily attention must be given, for the greatest amount of time in the day. Other subjects can be added as the homeschool parent is required by state homeschooling laws or as desired, but nothing less than attention to these three can constitute a classical education.

In general, in our homeschool I have designated four days out of every school week as core work days. The fifth day we have used as catch-up day, field trip day, and a day to pursue other interests within the classical model that we do not take time for on the other four days.

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