

# PARENT PERCEPTIONS OF HOME-SCHOOLING

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Start of Block: Introduction

## Parent Perceptions of Home Schooling

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Home Schooling The aim of this study is to investigate home-schooling. It seeks to identify parental reasons for this choice, implementation processes and practices, support available, and the impact on the child and the family. We are keen to receive responses from families with different reasons for home-schooling and for children with a range of learning backgrounds.

This project is being conducted by Professor Chris Forlin and Associate Professor Dianne Chambers at The School of Education, The University of Notre Dame Australia, and Dr Joanne Banks, School of Education, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. Ethical clearance to conduct this research has been obtained through both universities: UNDA (Number 2022-088F), Trinity (

By completing this survey, you give your consent to participate. All surveys will remain anonymous so please do not include your name anywhere.

Based on a pilot study undertaken by home-schooling parents, the average time taken to complete the survey is between 15-20mins.

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Q1 I have read the information provided and consent to undertaking the survey.

Yes (1)

No (2)

*Skip To: End of Survey If I have read the information provided and consent to undertaking the survey. = No*

End of Block: Introduction

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Start of Block: A. Background Information - Parent/Guardian

Q1 What state (region) do you live in?

ADD DROP DOWN BOX FOR

Western Australia

Leinster

Munster

Ulster

Connaught

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Q2 Do you live in an urban, rural, or remote area?

Urban (1)

Rural (2)

Remote (3)

Q3 How many children aged 0-4 years are in your family?

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Q4 How many children aged 5-17 years are in your family?

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Q5 How many children in your family are home schooled?

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Q6 Were you home-schooled yourself?

Yes (1)

No (2)

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Q7 What is your religious affiliation?

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Q8 What is your highest level of education?

Secondary (2)

Undergraduate (3)

Postgraduate (4)

Doctorate (6)

End of Block: A. Background Information - Parent/Guardian

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Start of Block: B. Your child

**Q19 As you may be home-schooling more than one child, please complete the following survey for ONE child:** A child with a formal diagnosed disability **OR** if this does not apply to you, a child with additional learning needs, **OR** if this does not apply to you, then your eldest child being home schooled.

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Q9 Why have you selected this child?

Formal diagnosed disability (please click below to specify) (1)

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Additional learning needs (please click below to specify) (2)

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Eldest child being home schooled (3)

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Q10 What is your relationship to this child?

Mother (1)

Father (2)

Other (please specify) (3)

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Q11 How old is the child that you are completing the survey on now?

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Q12 Where was this child being educated at the time the decision to home-school was made?

Mainstream school (1)

Education Support Centre/School (2)

Always educated at home (3)

Other (please specify) (4)

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Q13 At what age was this child when you started home-schooling them?

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Q14 What is this child's gender?

- Male (1)
- Female (2)
- Non-binary (3)

Q15 Do any of this child's siblings have a formal diagnosed disability?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q16 Is this child identified by a professional as being gifted and/or talented?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

Q17 Do you receive government funding for this child?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)

**End of Block: B. Your child**

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**Start of Block: C. Attending School**

Q18 Has this child attended school previously?

Yes (1)

No (2)

*Skip To: End of Block If Has this child attended school previously? = No*

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Q19 Did this child attend a Government, Catholic or Independent school?

Government (1)

Catholic (2)

Independent or Church school (3)

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Q20 How many years was this child attending a primary school?

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Q21 How many years was this child attending a secondary school?

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Q22 School Factors To what degree did the following school factors impact your decision to home-school this child?

	0 = Not Applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2= Somewhat (3)	3 =Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
Distance of school from home (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The school was inflexible about what I felt my child needed (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General negative attitude of teachers/staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of resources (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of support (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of opportunity to be included in a mainstream class (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
School is inappropriate for our family's way of life (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dissatisfaction with academic instruction (15)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Concern about school environment (safety, drugs, negative peer pressure) (16)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please  
specify) (17)



Q23 Child Factors To what degree did the following child factors impact your decision to home-school this child?

	0 = Not Applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2= Somewhat (3)	3 =Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
My child was being bullied at school (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was becoming very upset while attending school (17)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was refusing to go to school (18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was exhibiting behavioural issues such as tempers, isolating, stimming, bed wetting at home. (19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was regularly leaving school without permission (20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was always getting in trouble with staff (21)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child was always having difficulties with other children (22)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

My child was not making sufficient progress (23)

My child wanted to be home-schooled (24)

Other (please specify) (25)



Q24 Parent Factors To what degree did the following parent factors impact your decision to home-school this child?

	0 = Not Applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2= Somewhat (3)	3 =Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
I was not involved in decision-making at school regarding my child's education (24)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was choosing to home-school another child (25)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was becoming very stressed in making my child go to school (26)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's difficulties at school were impacting negatively on the family (27)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My child's school difficulties were impacting negatively on my personal relationships (28)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify) (29)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: C. Attending School

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Start of Block: D. Reasons for Home-Schooling

Q25 Philosophical To what degree did the following philosophical reasons impact on your decision to home-school this child?

	0 = N/A – not applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2 = Somewhat (3)	3= Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
I was home-schooled myself (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family and / or friends home-school their children (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is cheaper to home-school (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was not happy with mainstream schools (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family learns together about things that matter / a way of life. (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There was no suitable school nearby (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religious reasons (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I always wanted to home-school my child (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My family wanted to travel (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I wanted my child to learn in their own	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

style and  
develop  
naturally (13)

I wanted  
greater  
parental  
involvement  
(14)

Ideological  
reasons (15)

I wanted to  
spend more  
time with my  
child (16)

My own  
schooling  
was a bad  
experience  
(17)

I wanted  
freedom and  
flexibility to  
do what I  
wanted when  
I wanted to  
(18)

Other (please  
specify) (19)



Q26 Needs of Child To what degree did the following needs of this child impact on your decision to home-school?

	0 = N/A – not applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2 = Somewhat (3)	3= Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
Spends a lot of time in hospital (18)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has a degenerative disability (19)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has multiple seizures (20)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requires constant medical supervision (21)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Requires monitoring for an eating disorder (22)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Needs to be constantly moving (23)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feels anxious (25)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has depression (26)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has experienced trauma (27)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has difficulty with controlling emotion (28)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Involved in drug or alcohol abuse (29)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Has attention issues (32)	<input type="radio"/>				
Needs one on one support (34)	<input type="radio"/>				
Requires a different pace of learning (35)	<input type="radio"/>				
Needs additional academic support (36)	<input type="radio"/>				
Requires an accessible curriculum (37)	<input type="radio"/>				
Requires alternative forms of assessment (38)	<input type="radio"/>				
Requires a non-academic focus (39)	<input type="radio"/>				
Requires a life-skills curriculum (40)	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please specify) (41)	<input type="radio"/>				

End of Block: D. Reasons for Home-Schooling

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Start of Block: E. Implementation of Home Schooling

Q27 How many hours per week is spent on average by this child on the following aspects of home-schooling?

Structured formal work (4)

\_\_\_\_\_

Unstructured informal work (10)

\_\_\_\_\_

Outside play/activity (11)

\_\_\_\_\_

Excursions (12)

\_\_\_\_\_

Group instruction e.g., participating in home-schooling groups (13)

\_\_\_\_\_

Peer interaction / play dates (14)

\_\_\_\_\_

Working using a computer (15)

\_\_\_\_\_

Using online curriculum /resources / courses / videos etc. (16)

\_\_\_\_\_

Others – please list (17)

\_\_\_\_\_

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Q28 Does this child participate in NAPLAN?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Not applicable (3)

**End of Block: E. Implementation of Home Schooling**

**Start of Block: F. Daily Practice**

Q29 How much time do you spend preparing for home-schooling?

Please respond to the following aspects of home-schooling regarding your involvement approximately each week

	0 = N/A – not applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2 = Somewhat (3)	3= Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
How much time do you spend preparing for home-schooling? (40)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How structured is your home-schooling day? (42)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To what extent do you follow the government curriculum? (43)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To what extent are you involved with a home-schooling group? (44)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To what extent do you access external courses? (45)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How much time do you spend directly working with this child? (46)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Researching for curriculum resources (47)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Gathering resources (48)	<input type="radio"/>				
Other (please specify) (41)	<input type="radio"/>				

End of Block: F. Daily Practice

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Start of Block: G. Use of Support

Q30 How frequently would you use the following sources of support for home schooling?

	0 = N/A – not applicable to me (1)	1 = Very little (2)	2 = Somewhat (3)	3= Quite a lot (4)	4 = A lot (5)
Extended family (48)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Friends (50)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National or state based home-school support organisations (51)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Local home-school groups (52)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Specific needs home-school group (e.g., ASD) (53)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Libraries (54)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community groups (55)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General online resources (56)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Home Education websites (57)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Museums (58)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Additional support by specialists e.g., OT, Physio, Speech,	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Psychology,  
etc. (59)

Online  
classes (60)

Other (please  
specify) (41)

End of Block: G. Use of Support

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Start of Block: H. Satisfying the Government Requirements for Home-Schooling

Q31 How easy has it been to satisfy the government requirements for home schooling?

	0 = N/A – not applicable to me (1)	1 = not easy (2)	2 = somewhat easy (3)	3= quite easy (4)	4 = very easy (5)
Accessing information about home-schooling (48)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding the government requirements for home-schooling (72)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meeting the administrative requirements for home-schooling (73)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Process for registering to home-school your child (74)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing for moderation meetings (75)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Providing an acceptable learning environment (76)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Understanding your child's current level of working (77)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measuring progress (78)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reporting on progress (79)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentation of evidence (80)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Developing your curriculum (81)	<input type="radio"/>				
Others – please list (82)	<input type="radio"/>				

End of Block: H. Satisfying the Government Requirements for Home-Schooling

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Start of Block: I. Receiving Support from the Government

Q32 How satisfied are you with the following support from your government nominated moderator?

	0 = N/A – not applicable to me (1)	1 = not satisfied (2)	2 = somewhat satisfied (3)	3= quite satisfied (4)	4 = very satisfied (5)
The role of your moderator (48)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General support of your moderator (87)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frequency of contact by your moderator (88)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Frequency of moderator meetings (89)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Support with developing a curriculum (90)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The encouragement they give me (91)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Practical help and guidance with implementing the curriculum (92)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of support throughout the year (93)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Information provided on your state/territory School Education Act (94)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others – please list (95)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: I. Receiving Support from the Government

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Start of Block: J. Feelings about Home-Schooling

Q33 How positive overall, has home-schooling been for you and your family?

	0 = N/A – not applicable (1)	1 = A little positive (2)	2 = Somewhat positive (3)	3= Quite positive (4)	4 = Very positive (5)
How positive do you feel about your home-schooling experience? (48)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How do you think this child feels about it? (96)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How does this child’s siblings feel about it? (97)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How does your wider family feel about you home-schooling? (98)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How positive are you about the degree of social interaction your child gets? (99)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How positive are you in being able to meet the needs of this child (100)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How positive are you about continuing to home-school this child? (101)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How capable do you feel with home-schooling your child as they get older? (102)

Others – please list (103)

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH HOMESCHOOLING. YOUR TIME IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED\_\_

Do you have anything else you would like to share about home schooling? (optional)

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Online Focus Groups **We are going to conduct some online focus groups sessions for parents who are home-schooling a child. If you would like to consider participating in this click here to be redirected to a different survey page which will explain this in more detail (this will ensure that the survey data remains confidential).**

**Please do not forget to click on the submit button!**

End of Block: J. Feelings about Home-Schooling

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