

Advice for effective home schooling

(NU) — With mounting concerns about overcrowding and the quality of public education, parents are increasingly considering the home schooling alternative. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the number of students being home-schooled is about 1 million and growing.

While there are many philosophies and approaches to home schooling, all parents want to see their children reach their full potential. Here are some tips from SFK Media Specially for Kids Corp., the company that developed the Read-Ent at-home learning program.

- Learn about local regulations governing home schooling. Education laws vary by state and town.

- Involve children in the curriculum. Parents can let kids choose some of the workbooks for each subject, but steer them to the appropriate grade level. The more a child is involved in the process, the more excited they will be about the subject matter.

- Designate a separate area of the home to serve as the “classroom.” It should be someplace that is comfortable and free of distractions.

- Connect with other home schooling families through community groups online. Such groups often organize field trips, discuss approaches to home schooling and share stories and advice.

- Keep children active. It is important that home-schooled children socialize with others. Encourage children to become active in sports, music or clubs, just as any child attending school.

- Look for “teaching moments.” For example, while baking cookies at home, ask the child how many were baked. Taking a walk in the park? Turn it into a lesson in science and nature.

- Use unique learning tools to keep a student interested. SFK’s Reading Movies, for example, improve reading comprehension and vocabulary skills and are entertaining at the same time.

These interactive movies use a patented technology called Action Captions in which each spoken word appears on the screen in real time, without interfering with the flow of entertainment of the movie. As a result, reading and spoken language skills develop naturally. The movies are available in a set of three DVDs featuring such classics as “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,” “Gulliver’s Travels” and “The Trojan Horse.”

For more information, visit readingmovies.com or call (866) 735-7323.