

## **Homeschooling 101 – How to Prepare for the Fall**

### **Transcript of Episode 375**

**Julie Walker:** Hello, and welcome to the Arts of Language Podcast with Andrew Pudewa, founder of the Institute for Excellence in Writing or as many like to say, “IEW.” My name is Julie Walker, and I’m honored to serve Andrew and IEW as the chief marketing officer. Our goal is to equip teachers and teaching parents with methods and materials, which will aid them in students to become confident and competent communicators and thinkers.

So we have a couple traditions, Andrew, with our podcast.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, I know a couple. Okay, but what are they?

**Julie Walker:** So one is every 10 episodes we do an Ask Andrew anything.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah, and you know, my favorite one ever was when we just did questions from kids.

**Julie Walker:** Oh yeah,

**Andrew Pudewa:** We should do that again.

**Julie Walker:** We should do that. We actually are getting close to, uh, what do you call a century?

**Andrew Pudewa:** A 100th?

**Julie Walker:** Yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And what will it be? The next hundredth?

**Julie Walker:** Well what I’m hoping we haven’t quite figured this out, so dear listener, if we don’t actually pull this off, well, we could pull it off with your help, but I’m hoping that we can do a live call in show.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Oh, we could do it on video and we could, you know, have a big party too.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah. Yeah. Do a big party. So I think it’s number 400 that we’re approaching.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Wow.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. But I should mention that we also are doing the Exploding Ladder, and I know some of our listeners do not like this, but it is just for you and time management and efficiency, because you don’t have to go back to episode one.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You mean? Not me, but the listeners,

**Julie Walker:** listeners don't have to go back to episode one and start at the very beginning because we've exploded that rung on the ladder. You just need to keep climbing up. Higher up.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I see. So how many episodes are on the ladder at any given time, like total number available.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah, a couple hundred.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, that's gotta be enough

**Julie Walker:** Exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I mean, you can't listen to more than that

**Julie Walker:** And, and we circle around and we talk about some of the same things. You know, we, we space it out, but there's some new information that comes up. And so this is the other tradition that we started in 2020, and that was every ten episodes on the fives, we give an opportunity for you and I, or you and I and a guest to have a conversation about how to start homeschooling, if that's what you wanna do. We call them homeschool 1-0-1 podcasts.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, okay, and that's where we are today.

**Julie Walker:** That is where we are today. We don't have a guest. It's just you and me and our sound tech in the room.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Uh, you know, I'll start, can people actually homeschool?

**Julie Walker:** Did you ever hear that question?

**Andrew Pudewa:** No, not anymore.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, there are people who don't quite know where to begin to get information, but I would say almost everyone has now an acquaintance or a friend or someone at their church or someone in their community who homeschools.

**Julie Walker:** Right, exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So it's become very common, almost ubiquitous, that everyone knows someone who homeschools.

**Julie Walker:** Exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So if you want to do it, that's probably where you would start.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, and we who have homeschooled, cuz you and I are in the “have homeschooled” camp and those that are currently homeschooling, we're pretty emphatic about what we believe to be a really great way to homeschool. So I would say absolutely talk to your friend, but take it with a grain of salt, because it may be that they're going to convince you to do something that will not work necessarily for your family.

And I think that's one of the benefits of homeschooling. You really can customize the education for your children in your setting.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Everybody, when they start a new thing,. You know, they kind of have to, I don't know, feel it out.

**Julie Walker:** Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I was gonna say flounder a bit

**Julie Walker:** Yeah. Well, maybe that's true.

**Andrew Pudewa:** have to feel out. See, okay, what are the options?

**Andrew Pudewa:** and how do I, uh, leverage my time?

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** And, you know, I think there's basically two categories of people coming into homeschooling now. One is people who intended to homeschool from the time their children were young

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** and who knows why or how they got that idea.

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** There's a lot, a lot I'm meeting many people everyday at convention. We're in the middle of convention season, who are second generation.

**Julie Walker:** Yes, they were homeschooled,

**Andrew Pudewa:** Either one or both of the parents were homeschooled. It's weird for me, Julie, Because I, you know, someone will walk up and they'll say, oh, I was in your class when I was in high school.

**Julie Walker:** Wow.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, and now they're, you know, 28 with three kids or something. You know, well, okay.

**Juliw Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** And then, um, the others are, We are planning to, or have just left a school or school system,

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** And now we're trying to navigate this with children who could be, you know, actually into teen years.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Um, and so that it's new in that way. Right. And so you kind of look at those as a little bit different circumstances.

**Julie Walker:** Well, I like, I like that Andrew, and I think that's going to inform our conversation today. Let's look at kind of maybe age ranges and how to start homeschooling a preschool or primary student that would probably fall into the camp of Yep. Was planning to homeschool or have recently been convinced, but my kids have never been in school. So what do you recommend for those kids, those parents?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well you know preschool should mean what it means. It's before.

**Julie Walker:** Right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You do school. So, you know, preschool I think is a fancy word for a daycare you hope has an enriching effect on the mind of the child.

**Andrew Pudewa:** If you're not sending your child to a daycare for preschool, then that means you're just at home.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So you would do all the normal things that everyone used to do with children at home before there was such a thing as preschool or daycare. And that is just live. Just read story books to them and sing songs, and play games, and give them quiet time every afternoon, whether they sleep or not. You're in your room for an hour ago. Do whatever you can.

**Julie Walker:** yep. That's a gem right there, Andrew. I don't know that parents know about the value of quiet time. My child is too old to take a nap. Oh, great. Now what do I do?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah, I, I love what, um, Jesse Bauer. Susan Weiss, Bauer's mother.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, great.

**Andrew Pudewa:** she gave a talk years ago I heard this talk. She said 10 things I did right. Cuz you know, you go to a thing and little 10 things I messed up, who cares, you know? But 10 things I did right. And one of them, she says, I never let my children know that just because they didn't sleep, they didn't need nap time. So they would always go into their room at the same time for a certain period of time, even when they became teenagers.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, I love that! Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** so, of course, you know, after a while you don't sleep, but what do you do? You have quiet time and you can read, you can draw, you can play, you can listen to music, whatever. But it gives mom a break, too.

**Julie Walker:.** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** uh, so actually, uh, one of my daughters does this really well and she just, uh, left after spending a couple weeks with us.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay. Great.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So I get to observe, you know, how the kids are growing and what she's doing, and it's really delightful for everyone in the house when the kids just go away For an hour. and they're having quiet time and they actually kind of look forward to it.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, nice. Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And then after quiet time, they get a snack or whatever. But, uh, you know, the older one doesn't

**Andrew Pudewa:** He pretty much just listens to audiobooks and plays with Legos, but it's quiet time. And then the younger one sleeps and then the middle one, I don't know, he's, he sometimes does or not. So that would be, you know, one really great thing to go is don't give up on nap time. Just change it to quiet time.

**Julie Walker:** time. Well, and Andrew, you mentioned listening to books and playing with Legos. Listen to audiobooks. What about electronics during this time as as in the preschool years?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah. I think, you know, the, all the research is in. Screens are not good. They're not good for circadian rhythms and sleep cycles. They are not good for, uh, language and auditory development. The stuff that's available tends to be created to be addictive by nature. Uh, which is why a lot of the, you know, Silicon Valley execs don't let their kids have pads or pods

**Julie Walker:** Oh interesting. Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** or Phones.but, um, audiobooks are very different. They are not a screen per se, although you might access your library through a screen.

**Julie Walker:** Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And, um, you know, what's, what's great about kids who grow up with audiobooks is they just have this very enriched vocabulary. Mm-hmm. And, uh, it's been fun to hang out with these grandsons who do listen to a lot of audiobooks because even the youngest who's just three, he asked me the meaning of a word.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, interesting.

**Andrew Pudewa:** the other day. And I thought, how could he possibly have heard this word? I can't remember what it was, but it was one, it's not a daily conversation word.

**Julie Walker:** Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** But then I realized, oh, he heard that from the audiobook. And so kids are just constantly enriching their vocabulary and imagination through audiobooks. And of course, you know, we supplement. With carefully selected movies and videos. But I would caution everyone against screen-based education software for young children. Things that are going to purport to teach things like reading and spelling on a screen.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, I'm sure there's people who've used it and it's been fine, but I think it creates a relationship with a screen that has a lot of potential to go sideways.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah. Okay. So preschool, just read, have them listen to book

**Andrew Pudewa:** Ok so in my talk, Cultivating Language Arts; Preschool through High School

**Julie Walker:** Oh, great.

**Andrew Pudewa:** through high school, which I think is one of the best overviews that I have ever done

**Andrew Pudewa:** And I, I wish everyone would have access to it.

**Julie Walker:** link in the show notes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I do talk about the relationship between listening to music And language development.

**Julie Walker:** I love that. Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** lot of people don't understand language is tonal. Right? To discern, uh, and differentiate words, you have to have good tonal sensitivity. And that is cultivated by music

**Julie Walker:** Right, right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** from the very youngest age.

**Julie Walker:** Right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And I think one of the, one of the weak points for a lot of people is they just kind of put on music randomly, whatever things might be fun right now, or they put on music as a distraction or they put on music to create a more pleasant environment. But what children most benefit from is hearing the same smaller little piece of music with high repetition.

**Julie Walker:** Okay.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And this is the same reason that young children, you know, watching your grandchildren, why they want to hear that same book you read it earlier today. You've read it a few times every day for a week, and they wanna hear that again. Why? So what repetition does for children is it creates in them better attentiveness. Why? Well, they're anticipating something. We do this as well.

**Julie Walker:** Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, we notice, okay, something's coming. I believe I know what's coming. I think I remember what's coming, and now it's here.

**Julie Walker:** Yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** And isn't that exciting

**Julie Walker:** Yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** that I knew what was happening?

**Julie Walker:** Yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** And so, you know, we kind of have that spark of joy that happens when we have the recognition

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** of what we are expecting.

**Julie Walker:** And there it is.

**Andrew Pudewa:** and so I remember. You know, very clearly my, um, grandchildren, the two boys had been listening to the 1812 Overture.

**Julie Walker:** Yes. With the cannons..

**Andrew Pudewa:** With the cannons. And so they basically had this piece pretty well memorized. Like they knew when those cannons were gonna go.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And they just were so happy.

**Julie Walker:** Yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** When that happened.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And I don't know if she played the whole piece for them

**Julie Walker:** yeah

**Andrew Pudewa:** or a, a piece of the piece,

**Julie Walker:** sure

**Andrew Pudewa:** but I'm encouraging parents of young children to just take a few minutes of a great piece of music. And you don't need to know a lot. You know, Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Handel, Vivaldi. That's all you need, you know, and stick with that to create the higher aesthetic appreciation. There's nothing wrong with, you know, Piano Guys or whatever, but if you want to tune the mind and soul to the higher aesthetic artistic standard, then use the great composers and then use a small section and play it again and again.

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** So, you know, I explained that in a little more detail. And then reading those same books again and again,

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** and, and then you'll notice a child will be done with a book. They, they got it.

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** They, they don't have a desire to hear that again right now. They want to move probably up a little bit in sophistication,

**Julie Walker:** right



**Andrew Pudewa:** and then you can supplement that of course, with audiobooks. You know, some people have this question, what if my young child doesn't understand everything?

**Julie Walker:** Right. Good question.

**Andrew Pudewa:** My answer is, young children don't understand everything anyway,

**Julie Walker:** It's true.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I mean we don't censor the environment because they don't understand every conversation. We're more likely to worry they do understand things

**Julie Walker:** It's true

**Andrew Pudewa:** and spell out words in secret code

**Julie Walker:** yes,

**Andrew Pudewa:** So that they don't. You know, of course that's how a lot of kids, you know, they learn to spell

**Julie Walker:** Ice cream.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Ice cream, Yeah. So, you know, at, at that young age, very basic. And then, you know, as kids get a little bit older, I think one of the most important things for all home schoolers and all parents really

Julie Walker: Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** To realize is that children's neurology is all different, their genetics are different. They, they're going to acquire more maturity in brain function and basic sensory motor processing

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** at different speeds

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** and the whole world just is pathologically disordered in that we have this idea that every kid, because they are a certain age,

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** has to be doing a certain thing.

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** And if then they can't do that, then they're somehow behind.

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** And it's just, it's so fundamentally disordering to a, to a family and a mother's mind

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** and a relationship like, oh no, my six year old is not reading at level. Well, nobody knows what a six year old reading level is. Because every six year old is at a different level.

**Julie Walker:** sure

**Andrew Pudewa:** So the schools have, you know, maybe in a well-meaning way have tried to create these standards and then said, because you're a certain age, you should be in a certain grade

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** because you're in a certain grade you should have a certain level of skill

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** or ability or, and, and that's just never gonna happen.

**Julie Walker:** Well, and I would just say to those families, those parents that are considering homeschooling that have never put their kids in school, you're probably going to get some feedback from the grandparents who ask the question, are your children falling behind? And your pat answer can be

**Andrew Pudewa:** Behind whom?

**Julie Walker:** Yes, with a whom?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yes. It's an object of a preposition.

**Julie Walker:** And then you sound, yeah, and you're, you sound so sophisticated, and then they will trust you and stop bothering you. No, probably not. But the whole point is, is that you know your children best. You are not going to neglect their education. You're just going to provide what they need when they need it. And so when they're ready to start reading, it's almost like, it's almost like flipping a switch. I taught first and second grade in a school for a couple years. And it was very much like that. It was just like flipping a switch and the kid one day couldn't read and

the next day they could what? And, and of course, teaching first and second grade, I got the credit for teaching them to read, but now it had nothing to do with me. They were just ready.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well there are better and worse ways to teach reading

**Julie Walker:** sure

**Andrew Pudewa:** and the, all the research is in, even, even the progressives have admitted now that you need a phonics-based approach,

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** but they're not willing to call it phonics. They call it a science-based approach to reading.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, okay. Well

**Andrew Pudewa:** newest, uh, euphemism for the traditional phonics instruction.

**Julie Walker:** insert plug here for our, *Primary Arts of Language*. It is a, what's the word? Science-based. It's phonics.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I don't even want to go

**Julie Walker:** yeah. Yeah,

**Andrew Pudewa:** but it is fun, you know, cuz I will meet people at convention who say, oh, we used this. My kid love it and it worked so well.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. yep. Games and stickers and all kinds of things that will have that motivation, you know, maybe

**Andrew Pudewa:** you know, the other thing is, you know, I, I was talking to this mom and she has a kid in third grade and she said, I just, I feel like he's behind all the other third graders. And I said, how do you know what other third graders do?

**Julie Walker:** Right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, she couldn't answer that question. I said, are you imagining what is happening in third grade classrooms based on when you were in third? When was the last time you were in an actual third grade classroom? In an actual school?

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** Well, basically not for, you know, 30 years,

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** so, okay. What are you imagining?

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** you know, nobody can, can even know. And you know, there's better schools and worse schools. There's schools that are very scientific, very focused on reading instruction

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** and not, so, anyway, that seems to be a big, you know, that's, that's a big burden for parents. It's like I have to teach this kid to read. And I think our experience reinforces that if you just teach and don't worry, all the information you give them, all the phonics, whatever. It's gonna just one day click and it may click at six.

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** It may not click till eight or nine.

**Julie Walker:** That's right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And that's okay.

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** That is perfectly okay. And you have to remember that it is extremely unlikely, if impossible for a teacher in a school to teach your child to read better than you can. They don't know. They don't have more information than is available to a mom. They don't, they certainly don't have as much quality time. They certainly don't have as much individual instruction opportunity,

**Julie Walker:** right, sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** and the only possible thing that could be a benefit would be kind of a positive peer pressure, but that really doesn't, that really doesn't click on kids until they're much older, like 9, 10,

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** Years old

**Julie Walker:** right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So the danger of having a child in first or second grade and them not being ready to read is that you, and they will start to think they're dumb or, you know, somehow failing. And it's just not true. So that I think is the biggest thing. And of course this is our year of talking about things like dyslexia and dysgraphia and all that

**Julie Walker:** Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, and then writing comes from that.

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, again, in the Cultivating language Arts talk, I, I point out that people say, what do you do for writing in first grade? Copy work.

**Julie Walker:** copy work

**Andrew Pudewa:** That's it. Just letter formation, basic spelling. Do it in the air, do it through the ear, in the mouth, and, and then just, you know, copying a certain number of words a day. You can use poetry, scripture, story. You know, when my kids were young, I used to write a story about them.

**Julie Walker:** Oh, fun.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And give it to them. And say, here, copy this today. You know, and

**Julie Walker:** That's really fun. I love that idea.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Try to make something fun or silly.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah, yeah, of course.

**Andrew Pudewa:** um, but kids don't actually even have to read well enough to read every word of the thing that they're copying,

**Julie Walker:** right

**Anrew Pudewa:** To still gain benefit outta building the stamina and

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** all that. So, you know, there's music. There's, there's life. Just do life. Uh, people are worried like, well, if I put my child in school for first grade, they'd be there from nine till three or longer,

**Julie Walker:** earlier,

**Andrew Pudewa:** you know, 8:30 to 3:30 or,

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So that means if I homeschool them, I have to somehow spend six hours a day “doing school.” No.

**Julie Walker:** It's very different. Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Absolutely not. Most of classroom time is just logistics and kid management and dealing with problems and I mean, I've literally watched it take five minutes to get everyone a single piece of paper in a classroom. You know, it's just so much downtime.

**Julie Walker:** Right. Exactly.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So, you know, I often am saying to new homeschooling parents, if you get one good hour of just learning and teaching and positive experience

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You, you're ahead of the game.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, and, and the rest of the time you can just do life and

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Get out of the house. Especially, you know, it's spring. Get out in the parks, get to museums, get to the zoo, buy the membership. You know, go, go somewhere while everybody else is in school. You can go to the zoo

**Julie Walker:** Yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** and you know, it's not crowded and.

**Julie Walker:** Yes. We call it car schooling, right? There's some activities that you can do while you're out and about. Okay. Let, let's, let's transition now to an older student who may have been in school and now you're gonna bring him home. What are some of the things that you need to consider?

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah, depending on the age and, and the personality. One of the biggest transitions for the child is social experience. If you're 11 years old and you go to school and you've gone to school every day, you're used to being with a bunch of other. Kids generally, you know, hanging out with kids the same sex and the same age.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And so coming home that leaves a little bit of a, you know, a, a, a gap in the daily emotional social experience of the child.

**Julie Walker:** Sure. Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So you know, fortunately, today, almost anywhere you live, unless you live way out in the boonies, you can find other homeschoolers

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** that have things like communities and co-ops and classes and, and if not, start something

**Julie Walker:** Yep. Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** and you don't need dozens and dozens of families to start a little group.

**Julie Walker:** Right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** All you need is a few families.

**Julie Walker:** yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You say, let's get together on name your day and a few hours, you know. Tuesday mornings

**Julie Walker:** yeah

**Andrew Pudewa:** or whatever, and then we'll do some classes.

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** And that makes a huge difference because then that child gets to have some time, but not all day, every day time.

**Julie Walker:** Right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** With other children.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** The odds are that the age group is gonna be much more mixed.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Which is overall a much superior social environment, language, environment. And so, you know, I've taught classes where, you know, the age range was like 8 to 12 years old.

**Andrew Pudewa:** or 9 to 13, and that's fine. They all get along and nobody cares about what grade you're in and whether, you know, you just find something that you want to teach. And maybe it's a foreign language, maybe it's art, maybe it's kind of one of those, um, enrichment

**Julie Walker:** Sure.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Ideas.

**Julie Walker:** and we have some friends at H S L D A. You know, you've been homeschooling a long time if you can say H S L D A really quickly, but H S L D A stands for Homeschool Legal Defense Association, and they do so much more than just basically protect your right to home educate your children.

**Andrew Pudewa:** network and connect. Almost every state

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** has a state homeschool organization,

**Julie Walker:** and H S L D A will link to that

**Andrew Pudewa:** I'm sad because I'm meeting more and more homeschoolers that don't even know their state has a state org.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah. Yes,

**Andrew Pudewa:** even in big places. Well, I was talking to someone from North Carolina. I said, oh, I'm gonna be at your state convention.

**Julie Walker:** Right?

**Andrew Pudewa:** And they said, what state Convention? I said, well you're, you know, North Carolina Home Educators Convention. It's a big deal and Winston Salem. I didn't know.

**Julie Walker:** I didn't know. Wow. Yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So, you know, we are seeing, I think, you know, a lot of people aren't aware of all the resources available

**Julie Walker:** Right, right,

**Andrew Pudewa:** And so the more we can work to help people,



**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** but you know, everyone out there, if you are even thinking about it, that, look for your state organization. They're gonna have all the information from what are the legal requirements to homeschool in each particular state

**Julie Walker:** Yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** Cuz it differs state to state to what are some great resources,

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** where are the local groups? And how can you network.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And also very important things state legislatures do or state organizations do is they monitor legislation

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** so that there's any little bit of any law that comes up that could affect homeschool freedoms

**Julie Walker:** Yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** And parental rights, they'll be right on it. Let you know so you can contact your.

**Julie Walker:** yep. That might be a homeschool 2 0 1 conversation

**Andrew Pudewa:** yeah, yeah

**Julie Walker:** that we should have.

**Andrew Pudewa:** so I would say, you know, look at replacing the social thing. With something that is probably, you know, not every day, but it's gonna meet that need.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Make new friends who are in the homeschool world look for opportunities for a, a greater variety, you know, greater age integration, age diversity activities, and then you can supplement that with other stuff. You know, if it's teenagers, you can get speech and you know, drama and choir. I mean, you know, people worry about socialization, which is the dumbest thing to even think about because right now you meet, most homeschoolers are far superior in their social skills because they spend a lot more time with kids of older and younger age,

**Julie Walker:** right, right

**Andrew Pudewa:** and other people's parents and other adults, and with you.

**Julie Walker:** Right. Well, we just have a few minutes left, but I wanna spend just a couple minutes talking about my experience with homeschooling teens. And this is now I homeschooled all the way through. I taught in a classroom and went, Hmm, I think I'm gonna homeschool my kids. Hmm.

Kinda like what you were saying about screens and those that are professionally making screens, and so, But I shouldn't say, and so I should say, but if you are bringing your teen home for the first time, that really needs to be a conversation with them. Yeah. They need to be involved in deciding what their curriculum is.

I think anytime that you are taking responsibility for your child's education, you need a plan. And that includes things as something as you know, mundane as a schedule, uh, weekly and daily. You need a curriculum. You also need support. We talked about that and I'm just gonna throw this out there right now. You mentioned state organizations. We have someone on our staff, a couple people on our staff that actually are a part of the Homeschool Oklahoma State Organization and they are happy to provide that type of support, not just for people that are in Oklahoma, but if you are considering homeschooling and just want to talk to someone, call us. We'll put a link. We have our, our phone numbers everywhere.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah,

**Julie Walker:** ubiquitous. Call us. We'll be happy to help you answer some of these questions. And then an opportunity to evaluate. And I think that evaluating with your teen, what are some goals that we want to accomplish? You know, my middle son, is a musician, as you know, and that was a big thing that was important to him when he was in high school in particular. So we wrote into his curriculum basically mastering and you know, creating and mastering his own acoustic guitar program. Now, he also did the math and the writing and all these other things, but that was just really great for him to be able to say, yeah, this is what I wanna do. And that was motivating.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah

**Julie Walker:** If you're bringing a teen home that is basically crossing their arms and saying, you ain't gonna make me do nothing, mom. Well, there's a problem right there. Both with her well in

**Andrew Pudewa:** well you know, we could do that for another podcast because there is a word. People pretty much everyone's heard it, unschooling.

**Julie Walker:** Oh yes,

**Andrew Pudewa:** And you know, I have a particular way of thinking about the correct use of that word.

**Julie Walker:** yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Um, most people assume that it means something that it doesn't. So we could actually probably do an episode on.

**Julie Walker:** homeschool 1 0 1 next time. Unschooling.

**Andrew Pudewa:** What is unschooling?

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** and when would it be

**Julie Walker:** right

**Andrew Pudewa:** useful or helpful?

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** The other thing is I've been doing this season on the, uh, convention circuit.

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** A talk called Hacking High School.

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** Rethinking the teenagers.

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** So we should, uh, kind of do a summary of that.

**Julie Walker:** Okay, great.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Uh, until we have a nice studio recording available for everyone.

**Julie Walker:** Yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** but, uh, yeah, so, so much anxiety. Parents tend to cling to when they have teenagers

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** or when their kids start to become teenagers

**Julie Walker:** yep

**Andrew Pudewa:** And so, you know, helping them realize, you know, the things they think are the most important may not actually be the most important. And because we are old.

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** And all our kids are grown.

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** We have a certain perspective.

**Julie Walker:** yes

**Andrew Pudewa:** That I think, and I've been told by people, you completely got rid of all of my biggest worries

**Julie Walker:** yeah

**Andrew Pudewa:** in talk you just did.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah, we're at the end of this journey.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You changed my life.

**Julie Walker:**., yeah.

**Andrew Pudewa:** I was about to give up and now I, I see.

**Julie Walker:** yeah

**Andrew Pudewa:** So, um, yeah. We'll work on that little by little.

**Julie Walker:** Okay. Sounds great. Thank you, Andrew.

**Andrew Pudewa:** So, um, anyone can call us

**Julie Walker:** Yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Whether they want to use any of our materials or not.

**Julie Walker:** Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** If they just want to call and say,

**Julie Walker:** right.

**Andrew Pudewa:** You know, I'm thinking about homeschooling and I live in wherever. We'll just have someone point you in the right direction.

**Julie Walker:** Yeah, exactly. And I just wanna say one more thing before we kind of wrap up this episode, which we probably should have done a couple minutes ago, and it's almost too late to see this, but if you have listened all the way to the end and you're thinking no how no way could I ever homeschool my children. The truth is, if you are a parent, you are still homeschooling your children. You may not just be able to do it full-time.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah. And so everybody homeschools.

**Julie Walker:** Yep. Yep.

**Andrew Pudewa:** If you have children in your house, you are teaching them.

**Julie Walker:** Yes.

**Andrew Pudewa:** It's just some people, you know. Do it more than others, I guess.

**Julie Walker:** yes, yes, yeah.

**Julie Walker:** Sounds great.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Yeah.

**Julie Walker:** All right, well thank you Andrew.

**Andrew Pudewa:** Thank you.

**Julie Walker:** Thanks so much for joining us. If you enjoyed this episode and want to hear more, please subscribe to our podcast in iTunes, Google podcasts, Stitcher, or Spotify. Or just visit us each week at [IEW.com/podcast](http://IEW.com/podcast). Here you can also find show notes and relevant links from today's broadcast. One last thing: would you mind going to iTunes to rate and review our podcast? This really helps other smart, caring listeners like you find us. Thanks so much.

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