



NOT A MEMBER OF THE PESTALOZZI TRUST YET?

You are more than welcome to use our guidelines! Just note that we have created these guidelines with the assumption that you have access to the top-class legal support the Trust provides. We therefore strongly recommend you join the Trust, renew your membership, or get your own legal support to enforce your rights.

A Rights-Based Approach to the Home Education Motivation Letter

A. Preparation to write the motivation

Read through the questions below. If you answer “yes” to any of them, make a tick next to the question or write it down so that you can easily refer to it.

1. Individualized needs

- Does the learner have unique and individualized educational needs that will not be catered for in a school environment? Explain what these needs are.
- Will home education allow for the learner’s unique and individualized educational needs to be catered for? Explain how these needs will be met.

2. Suitability of home education

- Will going to school stop your children from learning in the way that is most suitable and comfortable for them?
- Will home education allow your children to learn in the way that is most suitable and comfortable for them?

3. Age, maturity and stage of development

- Will the education your child will receive at school be inappropriate for your child’s age, maturity, and/or stage of development?
- Will the education your child will receive at home be more appropriate for your child’s age, maturity, and/or stage of development?

4. Education in the learners’ culture and/or traditions

- Will going to school be detrimental for the learners’ education in their culture and/or traditions?
- Will receiving home education be good for the learners’ education in their culture and/or traditions?

5. Mother-tongue education

- Will the learner have a lesser degree of mother-tongue instruction when going to school?
- Will the learner have a greater degree of mother-tongue instruction in home education?

6. Freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion

- Will going to school stop your children from fully developing their freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion?
- Will home education allow your children to fully develop their freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion?

7. Freedom of expression

- Will going to school stop your children from freely expressing themselves with regards to appearance, dress, speech, or artistic expression?
- Will home education allow your child to freely express themselves with regards to appearance, dress, speech, or artistic expression?

8. Emotional connections and relationships

- Will going to school be bad for the emotional connections and relationships between your children and their parents, siblings, and other family members?
- Will home education be good for the emotional connections and relationships between your children and their parents, siblings, and other family members?
- Are there other siblings that are already doing well in home education?

9. Socialization

- Will the learner experience or learn bad social behaviour at school?
- Will home education allow the learner to develop good social skills and be exposed to good social behaviour?

10. Disability or condition

(This is applicable where a learner has a mental or physical disability, or is diagnosed with any condition, such as being on a recognized developmental spectrum or having any form of anxiety.)

- Will the school provide a less-than-ideal environment for your child to reach their full potential?
- Will the home provide a better environment for your child to reach their full potential?
- Would the disability or condition stop your child from reaching the “normal” grade and phase achievements?

11. Chronic illness

(This is applicable where your child suffers from a chronic illness.)

- Will the school provide a less-than-ideal environment for the treatment, health, mental well-being, and dignity of your child and/or will it increase the burden of care for the learner?
- Will home education provide a better environment for the treatment, health, mental well-being, and dignity of your child, and/or will it decrease the burden of care for the learner?

12. Physical safety and welfare

(Think about things like medical concerns, bullying, victimisation, safety going to or from school, etc.)

- Will going to school be bad for your child’s physical safety or welfare, or will they be exposed to harm?
- Will staying at home be better for your child’s physical safety or welfare, or will they be protected from harm?

13. Mental welfare and happiness

- Will going to school be bad for your child’s mental welfare or happiness?
- Will home education be good for your child’s welfare or happiness?

14. Protection from physical or psychological harm

(Think of things such as pornography, prejudice, bullying, victimization, violence, etc.)

- Will your child be exposed at school to violence, exploitation, maltreatment, abuse, degradation, ill-treatment, or other harmful behaviour towards the child or another person?
 - Will your child at home be protected from violence, exploitation, maltreatment, abuse, degradation, ill-treatment, or other harmful behaviour towards the child or another person?
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B. Write the motivation

1. OPTION 1

Some applications have been approved with a motivation similar to the one below. It is conceivable that an official may ask for additional information, however, it is up to the parent whether they want to attempt this format or not. **Remove or replace all words in brackets.**

If both parents are employed, add a short explanation of how they will have sufficient time to attend to the education of the learner.

HOME EDUCATION MOTIVATION

I take full responsibility for [CHILD'S NAME]'s education, which happens primarily at home, and for the selection and delivery of his/her curriculum and other resources.

Having given thorough consideration to the:

- a. learner's unique and individualized educational needs;*
- b. way the learner learns that is most suitable and comfortable for him/her;*
- c. age, maturity, and stage of development of the learner;*
- d. need for the learner to maintain a connection to their culture or tradition;*
- e. need for the learner to receive mother-tongue education;*
- f. freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief, and opinion of the learner;*
- g. freedom of expression of the learner;*
- h. emotional connections and relationships between the learner and the parents, siblings, and other family members;*
- i. impact on the learner's social life;*
- j. any disability that the learner may have;*
- k. any chronic illness the learner may have;*
- l. learner's physical safety and welfare, and his/her safety from harm;*
- m. learner's mental welfare and happiness; and*
- n. the need to protect the learner from any physical or psychological harm that the learner may experience*

I am of the opinion that home education is in the best interest of my child.

2. OPTION 2

This motivation is more robust and allows for more thorough and personalized motivation for home education.

Follow the guidelines below to complete the motivation. The main point is to demonstrate that you have considered the best interests of your children in choosing home education:

1. State explicitly that you take responsibility for choosing and delivering the curriculum, and that this happened primarily at home:

EXAMPLE

I take full responsibility for [CHILD'S NAME]'s education, which happens primarily at home, and for the selection and delivery of his/her curriculum and other resources.

2. Explain the reason for choosing homeschooling. This should agree and clarify the points chosen in section 3.5 of the application form.

You can use the data gathered on page 1-2 of this guide to guide or supplement your reasoning. Take any question you answered “yes” to and explain WHY you answered yes to that question.

EXAMPLE USING POINT 12

I believe sending my child to school will be bad for their physical safety. Remi has been bullied severely in school, not only by the children, but by the teachers as well. We have attempted numerous times to put an end to it by having discussions with the school and district officials, however, nothing has changed.

You can add as many points as you want, but aim for at least 3-5.

3. (Optional) If you are using a methodology that is different from what is typically used in school (Charlotte Mason, Classical education, Montessori, eclectic learning, etc.) you may add an explanation if you wish of what this methodology entails and why you want to use this methodology.
4. (If a tutor is used) Explain the subjects the tutor assists in and hours involved. If the tutor assists while being physically in the home, please make that clear.
5. (If both parents are employed) Add a short explanation of how they will have sufficient time to attend to the education of the learner.

Disclaimer: Legal Information, Not Legal Advice

The content of this document is intended for informational purposes only and is not a substitute for professional legal advice. The information provided herein does not create an attorney-client relationship and is not tailored to the specific circumstances of any individual case or situation. For legal advice pertaining to your unique situation, please consult a qualified attorney or contact the Pestalozzi Trust so that the Trust can obtain legal advice on your behalf. Join or renew your membership, if not already a member.