



## "They All Promised We'd Have Friends."

But maybe they aren't coming as quickly as you had hoped.

This would be the case even if you'd left your kids in public school, too. Let's be honest, a lot of kids go to public school and are painfully lonely and friendless. However, because our homeschooled children (most likely) aren't immersed in a sea of kids their own age 6 hours a day, 5 days a week, 180 days a year, finding friends - *lasting friends* - can be a little trickier and take a little longer. Of course it doesn't ALWAYS take longer, but it always hurts your heart when it does.

I've been there. We've all been there. It's not a fun place to be.

I sometimes think of friendships as flowers. Some spring up relatively quickly and are beautiful! But most of them take a long time. In fact, last year I fall-planted a bunch of seeds in my front

early this spring and enjoy a summer full of blossoms and bees and butterflies. But I've still only got seedlings. At first I was incredibly disappointed. I'd put in so much work. I had traveled hours to pick up these particular seeds. I planned exactly where I would put them. I dug and watered and just cared and nurtured those little guys. I thought about how much joy they would bring me. And now here it is JULY and there are no blossoms. There are no butterflies. There is no color - besides a little green. Just itty-bitty seedlings. It was not what I had anticipated.

But I'm not depressed about my seedlings anymore because I've learned a gardening saying regarding perennials - you know, the plants that will last year after year: "First year they sleep. Second, they creep. Third, they leap."

It can take time and maybe a little extra work.

So... seedlings and friends? Besides water and sunshine, you are going to need repeated exposure and maybe a little beneficial manipulation. Because YOU have to make the effort to get your kids around other homeschool kids, you get the added bonus of "choosing" your kids' friends by deciding which groups fit best with your family culture. Go to the park days, the art classes, the co-op if that's your thing, the hiking/nature group, the choirs, the field trip groups, the clubs, library story time, just whatever works for your family. And repeat. And repeat again. And again. And keep repeating. And once you have identified the germinating friendships that may have potential, set up specific outings/activities with those specific families. Nurture the budding friendships. And give them time to take root. Some of my kids knew their current best friends for years before those

friends actually blossomed. Sleep, Creep, Leap. These were kids who were kind and fun and funny, but they just didn't quite know how to break the ice. Are they scarred from not having a best friend for all that time? Absolutely not. And now my family has a full garden of friends that beautify all of our lives!

This principle seems to be true even with us adults. Most good things take time and effort. There are so many homeschooling families around. There are so many opportunities to find and connect with the homeschoolers in your area. If the best friends aren't just bursting out of the woodwork, maybe remember "sleep, creep, leap." Don't give up.

And let us help you...

[Homeschool Hub Utah Website](#)

## Homeschool 101 Events Line Up

Interested in homeschooling but don't know where to start? Maybe you've already started homeschooling, but you've hit a wall? Or, maybe you've been homeschooling for a while and you just want to come hang out with other homeschooling moms for an evening! Come to one of the Homeschool 101 Events being co-sponsored by the Homeschool Hub Utah this summer!

**Cache County** - August - TBD

*Saturday, July 16th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm- **Syracuse**.* Contact Melissa Butler at [melissarncanyon@gmail.com](mailto:melissarncanyon@gmail.com). [Flier](#)

### **Salt Lake County -**

*Thursday, July 7th, 2:00 pm AND Tuesday, August 2nd at 2:00 pm - 2574 West 12875 South, **Riverton**.* Contact Sandy Grant at 801-467-1499. [Flier](#).

*Tuesday, July 12th, 7:30 pm AND August 7th, 7:30 - RSVP me at [rinarandkelly@icloud.com](mailto:rinarandkelly@icloud.com) and I'll send you my address. [Flier](#).*

### **Utah County -**

*Tuesday, July 19th at 7:00 pm - 1345 East 600 South, **Spanish Fork** (right behind the All Abilities Park) Contact Anna Mock - text 801-380-3950. [Flier](#).*

*Tuesday, July 26th at 7:00 pm - 24 E 1430 N, **Orem** - contact Emily Frogley at [frogleymom@gmail.com](mailto:frogleymom@gmail.com) or 503-443-8674. [Flier](#)*

*Wednesday, August 3rd at 6:30 pm - 2464 N Cramden Drive, **Lehi**.* Contact Melissa Holmes at 801-628-8552. [Flier](#).

### **Washington County -**

*Thursday, July 21st, 7:00 pm - **Hurricane**.* More info can be found in the Hurricane Valley Homeschool Group on Facebook. Contact Randi at [trentonandranti@infowest.com](mailto:trentonandranti@infowest.com) for the exact address. [Flier](#).

*July 26th, time TBD - **St. George**.* This Intro to Homeschooling event will be held in conjunction with the St. George curriculum fair. Please see the Community Homeschool Group of St. George for updates.

Even if you've been homeschooling for years, come meet other homeschooling moms in your area and start making those connections - finding the park days, clubs, classes, etc. Additionally, check out [homeschoolhubutah.org](http://homeschoolhubutah.org) and click the "Find a Group" link. Select your region of the state to connect with groups who are listed there. Know of a group not listed? Please encourage them to add their group to the website! Let's help every homeschooler in the state find a community and start building their friendships.

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Every year the Homeschool Hub holds our Back to School Photo Fundraiser. The money earned from these events helps us give back to the homeschool community. This year we are excited to announce that we are opening another location for back to school photos in the Ogden area! Keep your eyes out for more information to come in next month's newsletter.

If you are interested in volunteering your time as a photographer, as well as earning an income from this event, please let us know! We'd love to talk with you. Contact Cindy at [cfillmore@homeschoolhubutah.org](mailto:cfillmore@homeschoolhubutah.org)



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## Build Your Homeschool Community (aka Find Friends) - Part TWO!



*Are your kids (or you) needing friends?*

You might be a newbie or your kids might still be looking for that one homeschool friend who is going to make it okay to keep homeschooling. If you are feeling like you've got to do something but you don't know where to begin, check out part 2 of HHU's workshop from this past May. Start reading [here](#).

## Get the Word Out

Do you have a state-wide or multi-county event and you need help getting the word out? The Homeschool Hub Utah newsletter is here for that very purpose. Have a topic you'd like us to address? Know a homeschool family or homeschooling business you'd like us to spotlight in our monthly blogs? We can do that! Help us create a newsletter that helps YOU connect, educate, empower, and serve the homeschooling families of Utah.

[Let's Get the Word Out!](#)

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## Does your Business cater to Homeschoolers?

Join the HHU Marketplace! The Homeschool Hub has a space dedicated for businesses, classes, workshops, companies, etc. who specialize in serving homeschoolers in Utah. HHU wants to connect homeschoolers to ALL the resources available to them.

Come advertise your classes/business for FREE

[Click HERE for more information.](#)

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Like what you see? Invite your friends to subscribe to the Homeschool Hub. Have them visit [The Homeschool Hub of Utah](#) to sign up!

“Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.”  
— *G. Randolph*

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