



REVIEWS BY MEREDITH!

HOMESCHOOLING AT THE SPEED OF LIFE

"What's for dinner, Honey?"

"Dinner?" I avoid my handsome husband's eyes. Yikes! I forgot all about dinner. I glanced around the house to find that somehow a tornado had invaded. School books were still on the dining room table along with today's mail and several of my piles. Piles seem to multiply in my house. I don't know where they come from. I stopped looking at the mess around me and met my husband's eyes.

"Dinner?" he asked again.

"Domino's has a special this week," I stammered.

"You forgot about dinner again?"

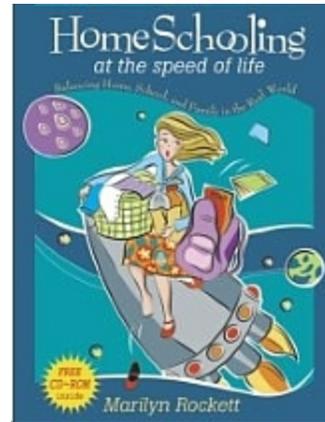
"Well, I had planned to make chicken and dumplings, but then the cat threw up when we were trying to have history class. Jimmy just wouldn't focus today and he doesn't like the ferris wheel in his phonics. Sarah Joy lost her grammar book and we had piano lessons. The kids hardly practiced at all. The piano teacher had a talk with me. I felt terribly guilty. The dog ran away and while we were chasing him, the oven caught on fire. I forgot that I was making nachos because we had forgotten to make lunch again..."

"Domino's sounds great!" my husband interrupted me.

The biggest challenge of homeschooling is not teaching my children, it is maintaining functional neatness in my house. Functional neatness? I'm glad you asked.

"Functional Neatness" was a concept that I could latch on to in [Homeschooling at the Speed of Life](#) by [Marilyn Rockett](#), this helpful guide to organizing your home and life. Full of practical wisdom from a mom who's been there, this book helps you stay on task

while keeping priorities in balance. This book might be very helpful for you! It was for me!



This book covers all the topics that are difficult and stressful for moms like me: de-cluttering, taming the paper monster, and keeping organized records. Marilyn is very administrative. She sounds like she enjoys organizing and de-cluttering. The book is positive and upbeat

because her enjoyment shines through! Though I have learned to organize and keep tidy records for our family school, I don't enjoy it even a little bit. I see it as a necessary evil. If you are like me, you will appreciate Marilyn. She is truly "The Mom's Mentor" dispensing wisdom with encouragement. She promotes a lifestyle plan, rather than an unattainable pattern that brings condemnation. Marilyn thinks that we can get organized and she just might be right.

Marilyn is refreshingly honest and real, but the bottom line is that she knows how to manage her home and homeschooling. She can pass on to us what she knows. This is a Titus 2 woman!

"LIKEWISE, TEACH THE OLDER WOMEN TO BE REVERENT IN THE WAY THEY LIVE, NOT TO BE SLANDERERS OR ADDICTED TO MUCH WINE, BUT TO TEACH WHAT IS GOOD. THEN THEY CAN TRAIN THE YOUNGER WOMEN TO LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN, TO BE SELF-CONTROLLED AND PURE, TO BE BUSY AT HOME, TO BE KIND, AND TO BE SUBJECT TO THEIR HUSBANDS, SO THAT NO ONE WILL MALIGN THE WORD OF GOD."

(TITUS 2:3-5NIV)

Home management is our call and privilege, but it is hard to juggle managing our home, teaching our children, and managing our "school." I was reminded once again, to view homemaking as a great joy in my life and to give it my very best. My friend, Katie, and I joke around with each other that we can cook dinner, teach our children, and keep the house clean. We just can't do it all at the same time. "Functional neatness should be our goal," Marilyn informs us, rather than attaining to perfectionist standards seen in women's magazines. This means that the house is neat enough

to be comfortable to live and work in, but not so neat that people are afraid to do what they need to do to live and learn.



But Homeschooling at the Speed of Life is more than just your typical homeschool administration book or home management book. Marilyn talks about building life skills into your children's lives and focuses on the eternal, rather than the temporal things in our busy lives. She encourages us to glorify the Lord and love our families. I need to be reminded to live in light of eternity and love the most precious people in my life. Do you?

One thing that I really appreciate was Marilyn's focus on building relationships and using home as a base for outreach and hospitality. She sees these things as pleasing to the Lord and worth investing time and energy into. I agree with Marilyn here and am so excited that she included this in her book. What a lovely way for a homeschooling family to enjoy ministry--from the home!

Homeschooling at the Speed of Life comes with Marilyn's File-a-Plan organizing system on CD-ROM. Her plan is easily adaptable for everyone, including you and your family!

Until next week, happy homeschooling at the speed of life!