How do I answer the critics?
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Have you felt the heat start to prickle at the back of your neck when someone starts to criticise you or the decision you have sincerely made to home educate your children?

Oh dear, it is uncomfortable to say the least. Sadly, sometimes it comes from those whom we would least expect it to.

It is a true statement, “What is right for one, may not be right for another person.” If you can grasp this concept, you will find some clarity and support to overcome the critical and negative reactions that you may at some point experience.

What kind of things might people say to discredit the choice you have made to home educate your children? Here are just a few:

- Your children will lack peer time and socialization skills
- You can’t be a teacher and a parent at the same time
- You aren’t qualified to teach
- You are disadvantaging yourself, and your opportunity to earn your own income
- Your children won’t have access to the necessary school resources
- Your children will miss sporting selections and team sports and possible zone/state selection opportunities.

Those well-meaning friends, or grumpy critics may sound very sincere, but they are sincerely wrong!

Many home educated children have more time to socialize, and tend to be more mature and able to converse with all age groups.

In case you didn’t realise, being a parent elevates and qualifies you to teach and mentor your own child. From the very first word they speak, you have coached and trained them.

The Riverside curriculum is written in a way that supports you to teach your child, and along with specialist teacher support, you are fully equipped to facilitate the learning journey.

While we understand that a school complex is built to mass educate children, this doesn’t mean it has to be our only option.

Riverside Curriculum resources are very supportive and Workshop Days allow Distance Education students the opportunity to attend a school campus and participate in a variety of hands-on activities with specialist teachers.
Further to all of the fantastic options available via our College Campus, Distance Education students can join in on campus sporting events, such as Swimming Carnivals, Athletic and Cross Country events, and Interschool Equestrian Competitions. Should any of our students perform well, they will have the option of engaging in zone and state level competitions.

Riverside Distance Education also plans an annual Camp, for students in Year 5 to Year 12 to attend and get to know other students who also have chosen to be home educated.

By attending these types of events regularly, many of our students and families have formed some lifelong friendships and stay in touch in a variety of ways.

The best part about home educating your children … you have great rewards as you watch your children grow and learn in a safe environment.

One last thing to ponder while we consider the topic of critics.

In some cases, critics don’t like to have their own worldview threatened or challenged, and will fight and argue to protect their own ideals or way of life. Distance Education may be a topic that they don’t want to consider, so be prepared. 😊