



Durenda Wilson is the author of *The Four Hour School Day* (Zondervan), *The Unhurried Homeschooler* and *Unhurried Grace for a Mom's Heart*. She is also the host of *The Durenda Wilson Podcast* and writes at durendawilson.com. She has been part of the *Homeschooling Today* writing team for 3 years and has written numerous posts and articles for other magazines as well.

In her new book, *The Four Hour School Day*, she gives parents a fresh perspective that will help them see how doable home education really is! Packed with encouragement and practical advice, this resource equips parents with all the information they need to create a sustainable homeschooling plan customized to their child's needs.

Durenda has been a wife to Darryl for 32 years and homeschooling mom to 8 kids, 7 of whom have graduated. (She is also a nana to seven!) She homeschooled her children from the beginning. Durenda brings decades of experience in a gracious, practical, and gentle way. Her words and voice bring a sense of calm to the hearts of parents and help them realize that they really can do this!

Durenda believes that because our parental role is God-given, He will be faithful to equip parents with exactly what they need so they can effectively disciple and *enjoy* these years with their kids...and it often starts with slowing down. *The Unhurried Homeschooler* reflects the positive response to Durenda's message. In five years, this book has sold over 30,000 copies. Her podcast averages 23K downloads per month and she has a very active and engaged social media audience.

Durenda has been a featured speaker at NCHE (North Carolina), HEAV (Virginia), FPEA (Florida), AFHE (Arizona), APACHE (Illinois), ICHE (Illinois), CHCSD (South

Dakota) as well as other homeschooling conferences. In addition to homeschool conferences, Durenda is a popular speaker at women's events.

Durenda would consider it a privilege to bring encouragement to the families who attend your event. Her passion is to mentor parents so they can build strong, cohesive families and enjoy the many benefits of home education!

Website: durendawilson.com

Bio(85 words): With more than twenty-five years of home education experience, Durenda Wilson is a trusted voice and resource at homeschooling conventions and on The Durenda Wilson Podcast.

Durenda and her husband, Darryl, have eight kids (7 graduated) and seven grandbabies. As an author and speaker, her greatest joy is reminding parents how doable and effective homeschooling is and that they are, in fact, qualified for the job! Her books include *The Four Hour School Day*, *The Unhurried Homeschooler*, and *Unhurried Grace for a Mom's Heart*.



Here are Durenda's topics and descriptions: (More may be added, but not after August 31, 2022).

Chores: Why They are Essential in Homeschooling

Most of us agree that chores are important, but often moms and kids are frustrated, angry, and resentful when it comes to how and when to implement

them. Having 8 kids in 13 years has the potential to bring a mom to her knees and her home into disarray, but God taught our family SO much through working together. The benefits of having our kids do chores are countless! Investing in this area not only lightens our loads as moms but is an essential part of our kids' education! (This topic is another very popular workshop)

Unhurried Homeschooling: Why We Need to Slow Down

In a world that is moving at warp speed, it's easy to forget that kids are still kids. Their needs haven't changed: they need time to explore and experiment with the real world around them, to absorb life through all their senses, to process their thoughts at their own pace. All of these are crucial in laying a firm foundation for higher learning, but this TAKES TIME. Learn why this is so important and how to protect and defend your kids' childhood.

Nurturing Sibling Relationships

This is THE most popular topic I speak on! Most of us didn't factor into the equation just how much sibling conflict would be part of our homeschooling days! It can be exhausting! As homeschooling parents, we have a unique opportunity to nurture sibling relationships among our children. Find out practical ways to do this and what an IMPORTANT part of our homeschooling it really is!

Unhurried Homeschooling: K-2nd Grade

Most people's definition of "education" is a more formal approach, but the truth is that you've been "educating" your child for 5 years already! YOU are the "expert" when it comes to YOUR child and YOU will be able to tell when he/she is ready to start reading, writing, etc. We will talk about simple ways to recognize when your child is ready to experiment with reading, writing, and basic math! Most of all you will be encouraged to RELAX and enjoy this season of early learning and quiet the voices that want to put unnecessary pressure on you and your littles!

Homeschooling Boys: What Do They Really Need?

Out of our eight kids, five are boys. We have graduated 4 of them so far. As homeschooling moms, we can find teaching our boys extra challenging because...well...they can be VERY different from us. However, God knew what He was doing when He knit them together AND when He chose to make us their moms. Find out some of the most effective tools to engage your boys in their education and enjoy these years with them to the fullest!

Unhurried Homeschooling: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers

The pressure starts BEFORE we even hold our babies in our arms: cloth diapering or disposable, store-bought baby food or homemade, nurse or bottle-feed? We even feel pressured to decide our 'style' of parenting before we have a chance to engage in the role. Feeling pushed and pressured is no way to start our parenting journey OR our home education. By taking time in the early years to learn to let God lead us, we begin to create the margin that helps give us the freedom to be the parents and homeschooling family God has called us to be.

Homeschooling: Purpose or Performance?

We all have clear reasons that we decided to homeschool, but as we continue on this journey, the lines can become blurred. It can be so easy to get caught up in how our kids (and we) are (or aren't) performing when it comes to homeschooling. But what if that isn't actually what we are called to? Mastery *can* be important. God talks about becoming skilled and the importance of diligence. But what if we are giving up purpose and exchanging it for performance?

The Sky's the Limit: Homeschooling High School

These final years seem full of pressure and can feel intimidating. Every parent wonders if their kids will be prepared for college, if they missed something or if their child will measure up.

In this workshop, parents are encouraged to take a step back and think about what education should really look like at this age. Durenda is in her 15th year of homeschooling high schoolers and will share how she turned her children's interests and experiences into high school credits and how combining subjects

can help keep your high schooler motivated. She will also share the importance of parents moving away from a dominating role and more toward the role of a coach during this season.

The Five Most Important Things We Taught Our Kids

As homeschooling parents, we know that it's next to impossible to imagine what our kids might be doing for a living. When we started homeschooling 24 years ago, we would have never guessed anyone could make a living on the "internet". The internet didn't even exist. So what are the most important things we can teach our kids to prepare them for the future? With the clarity of hindsight, Durenda will help you focus on what really matters so you can homeschool with confidence, knowing your kids are ready for whatever the future holds!

Creating a Family Schedule

Homeschooling is challenging, but when you have multiple ages, it can feel more overwhelming than anything! Durenda had 8 children in 12 years and homeschooled them all from the beginning. She speaks from a place of experience, but also reality. In this session, she shares a simple system that helps moms schedule their days in a way that works for them and challenges moms to think through their priorities and stay focused on what is most important so they can find a sense of calm in this busy season!

Preparing Your Mom Heart for the Post Homeschool Years

The homeschooling journey becomes such a big part of our lives as moms. Sometimes it seems as though we will never see the finish line but talk to any homeschool mom with grown kids and she will tell you, "The days are long, but the years are short." What feels like a lifelong commitment soon becomes a distant memory and when you've given your all to this worthy task of homeschooling, the next season can bring a conflict of emotions. Durenda has graduated 7 (so far) whom she has homeschooled from the beginning and in this session, she shares some key thoughts to consider as you near the finish line.

Sustainable Homeschooling

We all begin our homeschool journey with high hopes, but it often doesn't take long before we realize that some things simply are not working. We find ourselves and/or our kids in burnout mode. At the same time, we are confronted with the fear that we may somehow fail our children if we let go of something. Learn the importance of creating a sustainable homeschooling life unique to your family, bring joy back into your homeschool days, and help equip you to go the distance!



References:

Trish Corlew (Hip Homeschool Moms) trish@hiphomeschoolmoms.com

Ashley Wiggers (Homeschooling Today) ashley@homeschoolingtoday.com

Ginger Hubbard (author of "Don't Make Me Count to Three" and 'I Can't Believe You Just Said That") ginger@gingerhubbard.com

Heather Haupt heather@heatherhaupt.com

Debbie Mason (NCHE Conference) events@nche.com

Sherril Seligson (speaker/curriculum writer) for Apologia
sherriseligson@gmail.com

Dr. Kathy Koch (Celebrate Kids) drkathy@celebratekids.com

I appreciate you taking the time to consider me as a speaker for your event!

Warmly,

Durenda Wilson

