

Where Did My Life Go?

(I Can't Fit Everything In!)

Have you ever thought you were a failure because you couldn't get everything done? Perhaps with school you have been trying to do 110% of everything and while trying, you seem to accomplish next to nothing? What is the cure? How does one fit everything in?

Here is the secret: doing everything...is optional! I realize this is not a revelation to most of my readers. But, it bears repeating frequently. Too often we think we have to do everything. Everything for school, everything for family, everything for church, everything for work, etc.

Goodness! Once again, I am writing on something of which I need to be reminded! So, what do I need to do?

1. Set parameters
2. First things first
3. Breathe in, breathe out

By setting parameters, I am giving myself guidelines. This helps make life a little more organized, a little less chaotic. For instance, I can tell myself that once 2:00 comes around, I should stop schooling. Or I can give myself a school time limit. No schooling longer than X amount of hours per day. If I do this, then I know when that has been reached, I have done what I needed to for that day. If I didn't get in as much schooling as I thought I should have, so be it. There will be other days that will go more smoothly. School is no fun when Mom is constantly pushing for more to be done. If I set limits on school time, then I know that my job is done there. I can move on to the next thing that needs attention. When I say that I don't school after X amount of hours, that doesn't mean I can't give my kids an assignment to be finished without my assistance after that amount of time. It just means that I am giving myself permission to stop running from one kid to the next helping them with school.

When I put first things first, I am prioritizing. I need to make sure that, at the very least, I am getting what is most important to me done. For example, I need quiet time for myself to read and study. If I put cleaning the ceiling fans ahead of my need to read and study, I feel that loss. Whatever is most near and dear to my heart must take priority in order for my life to remain in balance.

Sometimes I forget simple things in my efforts to be Superwoman. Thus the statement breathe in, breathe out. Truly, as long as I am breathing, I am in a position to make progress on this earth. I need to remember to find simple things for which I am grateful. Even during the craziest of weeks, there are things that go well without my agonizing over them. Do I take the time to find these things and be grateful? From the viewpoint of home education, do I even remember to be grateful to live in a place where I have the

right to choose how to educate my children? How about being grateful for the many resources I have to help me school these awesome little ones (and the ones that are not so little anymore)? Am I grateful for friends that school at home and offer me support? The list could go on and on without ever leaving the subject of school!

So, are you a failure because you can't get everything done? No. Absolutely not. It is not possible for anyone to get "everything" done. What's the real cure? Reminders to regroup before things spiral out of control. If you find yourself panicking or feeling discouraged by what you are not getting done, pull this article back out and regroup! On the movie "The Incredibles", Edna says, "You are Elastigirl! Pull yourself together!" Good advice!

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