

7 Habits for Highly Effective Family Home Evenings

(Erin Harris)

1. **Stick to the Basics:** use LDs Standard Works, lesson manuals, Ensign, New Era, and Friend as basis for lessons.
2. **Involve Everyone:** post your family assignments/FHE chart; older siblings or parents help younger children.
3. **Use Variety:** within each meeting or throughout the month, vary teaching methods, especially for young children.
4. **Be Consistent:** Hold FHE weekly; be consistent in format and planning.
5. **Identify a Purpose/Goal:**
 - a. choose a theme for the month/quarter/year
 - b. choose a gospel message through one of the Standard Works
 - c. prepare for “milestone events”
 - d. Sermon on the Mount
 - e. Scripture theme for the month/quarter/year
 - f. Threefold mission of the Church
6. **Age-appropriate Teaching Style:** Find the common ground! KISS – Keep it Short and Simple.
7. **Devise a Way to Measure Success:**
 - a. we’ve learned all the Articles of Faith
 - b. take account of contention reduction
 - c. bearing of testimonies
 - d. more willing to have FHE (less grumbling)
 - e. individuals come prepared with assignments
 - f. PRAY for the Lord to help you know how FHE has improved your family

Suggested Format:

Welcome
Opening Song
Opening Prayer
Lesson (10-15 minutes)
Testimonies
Closing Song
Closing Prayer
Activity
Treat

Ideas for Lessons

1. Themes
 - a. 10 Commandments
 - b. Articles of Faith
2. Upcoming Events
 - a. New baby/blessing
 - b. Baptism
 - c. 1st day of Primary
 - d. 1st day of School
 - e. Priesthood Ordination
 - f. General Conference
 - g. Fast Sunday
 - h. Birthday – Tithing
 - i. Holidays
3. Questions your kids have; family or household needs
 - a. Obedience
 - b. Order
 - c. Reverence
 - d. Kindness
 - e. Prayer

Teaching Aids

FHE Manual
Gospel Art Picture Kit
Friend/New Era
Pre-made Lesson Ideas
Flannel Board Stories
Act out Scripture Stories
Memorize Scriptures