

# Step 7: Joining Local and State Homeschooling Support Groups

Connecting with homeschooling communities provides invaluable support, resources, and social opportunities for both Arlie and Kove. These groups offer guidance on homeschooling strategies, curriculum choices, legal requirements, and opportunities for socialisation with other children.

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## Benefits of Joining Homeschooling Groups:

- 1. Emotional and Peer Support:**
    - Connect with other homeschooling parents who understand the unique challenges of homeschooling a child with developmental delays.
    - Receive encouragement, advice, and insights from experienced homeschoolers.
  - 2. Educational Resources and Ideas:**
    - Gain access to lesson plans, curriculum recommendations, and educational activities.
    - Share best practices and creative learning strategies that align with Kove's needs.
  - 3. Socialisation Opportunities:**
    - Participate in group meetups, excursions, and playdates.
    - Allow Kove to interact with peers in a supportive and understanding environment.
  - 4. Legal and Regulatory Guidance:**
    - Stay informed on legal requirements and compliance with homeschooling regulations in WA.
    - Learn from parents who have successfully navigated legal challenges.
  - 5. Workshops and Events:**
    - Attend homeschooling expos, special events, and educational workshops tailored for homeschooling families.
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## Recommended Local and State-Based Homeschooling Groups

## Facebook Groups:

1. Perth Homeschooling Network
    - A large community of homeschooling families sharing resources, ideas, and local event information.
    - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PerthHomeschoolingNetwork>
  2. WA Special Needs Homeschooling Support Group
    - Focuses on providing support for families homeschooling children with additional needs, including developmental delays.
    - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WASpecialNeedsHomeschooling>
  3. Northern Suburbs Homeschooling WA
    - A group for families in Alkimos, Two Rocks, and surrounding areas, offering local meetups and activities.
    - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthernSuburbsHomeschoolingWA>
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## Homeschooling Associations and Websites:

1. Home Education WA (HEWA)
    - Provides legal guidance, curriculum support, and information on homeschooling regulations in WA.
    - <https://www.homeschoolwa.com.au>
  2. The Australian Homeschooling Association
    - A national resource hub offering advice, curriculum resources, and support for homeschooling families.
    - <https://www.australianhomeschooling.com.au>
  3. Homeschooling Downunder
    - Offers educational resources and guidance tailored to the Australian curriculum.
    - <https://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com>
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## How to Get Involved in Homeschooling Communities:

1. Join Online Groups:
  - Request to join relevant Facebook groups and introduce yourself.
  - Engage with posts, ask questions, and contribute to discussions.
2. Attend Local Meetups:
  - Participate in park meetups, co-op learning sessions, and parent networking events.

- Look for groups organising play-based activities suited to Kove's needs.
  - 3. **Sign Up for Workshops and Webinars:**
    - Many homeschooling associations offer free or low-cost workshops on curriculum planning, legal advice, and special needs education.
  - 4. **Reach Out to Experienced Homeschoolers:**
    - Seek mentorship from families who have been homeschooling for several years.
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## How ChatGPT Can Help:

- **Finding Additional Groups:** Ask ChatGPT to suggest more homeschooling groups based on location and interests.
  - **Drafting Introductions:** Generate an introduction message to post in online groups.
  - **Exploring Activity Ideas:** Provide suggestions for play-based socialisation and meetups.
  - **Tracking Group Activities:** Help create schedules for local homeschooling events.
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