



**HOMESCHOOLING**



**YESHIVAH**

**VS**



**RABBI CHAIM LEVI GOLDSTEIN**

*Ask any parent who homeschools their child, and they will assure you that the advantages of homeschooling are many: More love. More connection. More chassidische ruach. Less chance of being hurt by teachers' mean comments. Less pain and confusion for the sensitive child. Less (or no) bullying. But what did the Rebbe say about homeschooling?*

A question that was asked of the Rebbe: Since the *frum* educational institution in our area is not suitable for the *ruach* of Chassidus, we are considering homeschooling our young children.

The Rebbe's answer<sup>1</sup>:

"It is self-understood that it is better for children to be schooled along with other (suitable) children, and not alone at home."

Furthermore, the Rebbe wrote to a member of Anash as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> *Heichal Menachem*, Vol. 3, pg. 192



Talmidos of Bnos Menachem of Crown Heights.

“I am interested to know — are the children from Anash *sheyichyu* who are of schooling age learning in Chabad schools? The *brachah* and *ruach* of our *Nesi'im* is particularly there<sup>2</sup>.”

A question that was asked of the Rebbe: Where should my child learn? Who can make an unbiased decision? Parents, who love the children so much, or better someone else?

The Rebbe writes<sup>3</sup>:

“Regarding making a proper decision regarding the right place for ... *sheyichye* to learn for the upcoming school year:

“The parents must take counsel from his teachers and educators, for they get to see him daily. Their guidance should be followed, because they see him during his learning and while he interacts with his friends, so their view is unbiased, as opposed to the parents who may be assumed, due to their love for their child, to see the matter in a way which may be far from the truth.

“And since the will and desire of the parents is to benefit their child *b'emes*, and for many years to come, and not only temporarily, it is understood that it is worthwhile for the child to endure temporary discomfort in order to ensure that he will go on the straight path. And then, his parents will derive much *nachas* from him, for many days and years to come.”

A question that was asked of the Rebbe: If it is clear that there are undesirable things actually going on in a particular school, should the children be removed from that school and homeschooled?

<sup>2</sup> *Igros Kodesh of the Rebbe*, Vol. 14, pg. 178.

<sup>3</sup> *Igros Kodesh of the Rebbe*, Vol. 10, pg. 287.



Talmidim of Oholei Torah of Crown Heights with their teacher, Rabbi Shmuly Klein.

The Rebbe writes<sup>4</sup>:

“In response to your letter, in which you ask whether to remove your children from the nursery because there are undesirable things happening there, my opinion is that you should not do so, but your children should rather continue attending the yeshivah nursery. And very soon, ways and means will be found to improve the matters which concern you....”

Nearly two months later<sup>5</sup>, the Rebbe wrote to the same parent:

“I’ve received your letter and was pleased to read that you have resumed sending your children to the Yeshivah Achei Temimim.”

Rabbi Shmuel Arkush of Birmingham, England, asked the Rebbe about homeschooling.

The Rebbe replied<sup>6</sup>:

“*Kinder darfen hoben kinder* (children need other children). To become isolationists and just to educate them in your own house, you can potentially bring up socially damaged children.”

There are, obviously, exceptions, as to every rule. For this, we must turn to our *mashpia/chassidisher rov/chinuch* experts for advice.

It is also obvious that even in a case where it is advisable to homeschool a particular child, not necessarily is this advisable for all the other children in the family. If one child requires antibiotics, for example, that doesn’t mean we give antibiotics to the whole family. If one child needs eyeglasses, we don’t get them for everyone.

I wish all Yiddishe parents *hatzlachah* raising

4 A letter dated 20 Kislev 5713.

5 16 Shvat 5713

6 Recording of Rabbi Arkush quoting the Rebbe’s answer is Posted on Chazak – Merkos 302. [merkos302.com/horaos](http://merkos302.com/horaos)



These are the original letters from the Rebbe in Yiddish that are translated and excerpted in this article.



their children to be fine, upstanding, *chassidische kinder*. I pray that you can one day say with pride, "*Re'u gedolim shegidalti! See the children I have raised!*" and that you can bring them to the Rebbe for him to have *nachas*. ❧



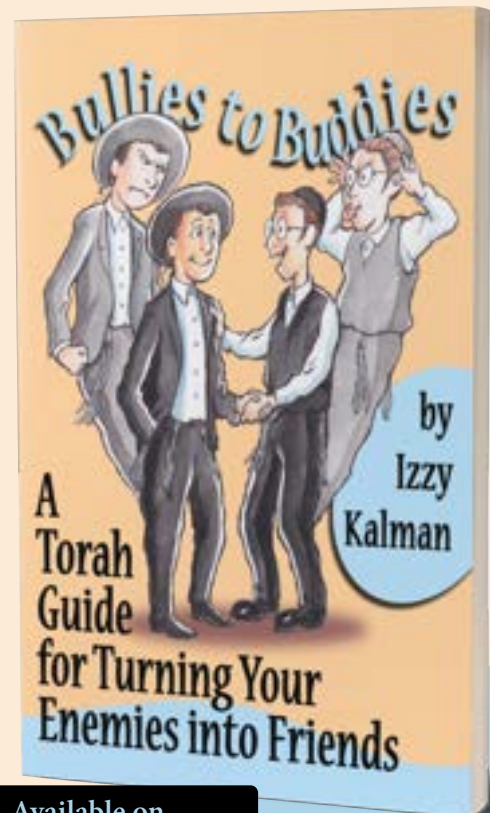
**RABBI CHAIM LEVI GOLDSTEIN**  
has successfully taught our boys Torah, in *Oholei Torah* and *United Lubavitcher Yeshiva*, for many decades. His chinuch website is [chinuchtime.com](http://chinuchtime.com).

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