Speed Mentoring Conversation Starters

Time Management
• How do you fit chores into your day?
• How do you get things done with all the interruptions of lunch, the phone, discipline, the baby, etc.?
• Do you use a schedule, a to-do list, a routine, just stick to the lesson plan or something else?
• How do you get it all done and keep your sanity? Is it possible?
• How do you have time to do anything besides school?

Curriculum
• How do you choose curriculum?
• Where is your favorite place to find resources for learning?
• Something’s not working... should I change curriculum?
• Do I need to teach every subject? How do I know which ones to teach?
• Can you homeschool on a tight budget?

Schooling
• What’s your best piece of advice for a beginning homeschooler?
• How much time do you and your kids spend doing lessons every day?
• How do I know if I'm doing enough?
• Do you do lessons all five days or do you take some time or days off to run errands, etc.?
• How long can you homeschool? What happens when you reach high school? College?
• I’m nervous about standardized testing at the end of the year. What should I do about that?
• Who is going to tell me if I am doing a good job or not in home educating my children?
• What is the best thing about having your kids home with you?
• How do I teach something that I’m not strong in or don’t know well?

Discipline
• How can I teach my kids anything if I’m spending all day disciplining them & mediating squabbles?
• How do I deal with a defiant child who does not respect me?

Socialization
• What about socialization? What do I tell people who ask me about socialization?
• Should I do an outside activity (class at the co-op, PE at the Y, art lessons, piano lessons, Boy Scouts)
  every day? My kids want to plan and hang out with other kids every day.
• Where do homeschool moms and children make friends?

Leadership
• How can we get homeschoolers to participate and volunteer?
• Did you incorporate and why/why not?
• Do you have a board, and how is it set up?
• What’s the best thing your group did in the last year or so?
• If you could change something in your group, what would you change?
• How do you overcome the reluctance of homeschoolers to take leadership roles?
• What are you doing to move your group into the 21st century?
• Some groups are becoming e-groups or co-ops. Do you still offer monthly meetings? How?
• What sorts of activities does your group offer?
• How do you involve the dads?
• What do you love most about your group/ being in support group leadership?

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