

**Y**OUNG Suné Botes is a successful model and owner of her own designer label. But what many don't know is the budding entrepreneur didn't attend any prestigious school to achieve her accomplishments.

The 21-year-old and her sister were home schooled from an early age, but her parents did not make the decision lightly.

She explains due to her parents' heavy work schedule, they decided to take the home-schooling route.

"It wasn't that it was easier but this was a way we could have more time as a family," says Botes.

Just like an ordinary school, Botes also worked according to a timetable, giving the family more flexibility for time together, but also to ensure the children were thriving on a routine.

"Mondays were our off days as a family to do some fun activities.

"On the other days we had a set amount of pages that had to be done on each subject."

Botes also started modelling from the age of 13 and her home schooling gave her the flexibility to actively pursue her career.

"I always preferred to do my work later in the afternoon and used my morning to do modelling jobs and put my creativity to use."

She recalls one fond memory that landed her in trouble with her mother/teacher: "I remember my mom sending me to my room to get an eraser and hours later coming to find me – I had made a whole new designer clothing range for Barbie."

But she has no regrets and credits home schooling for helping her find her passion from a young age.

"Fashion design has always been something I loved; being home schooled I was able to use my creativity the moment it came to mind, as long as I got my work done some time in the day.

"For me one of the pros was definitely being able to spend lots of time with my family, learning what my passion was at a young age and being able to put it to use.

"It taught me how to be independent and I learned early on that I was responsible for your own destiny."

She's managed to take her modelling career to an international level and devote more of her time to a charity close to her heart.

Many can argue that home schooling's main drawback is not giving children the option to socialise and make friends.

But here is a well-rounded young woman without the "spoils" associated with her generation.

Having not had peers to truant with, compare cellphones and handbags has benefited her, but surely the experience can sometimes lead to alienation?

"My parents always made an effort for us to do extra activities such as ballet, modelling and other sports.

"If my parents didn't do this, I would say a con would be that it could get pretty lonely."

Botes's tips for parents wanting to do the same:

- Just forget trying to duplicate a classroom environment, schedule and curriculum in your home. There's nothing sacred about sitting at desks, having set amounts of time per subject, or using only textbooks.

- Ultimately, your role will be as a facilitator to your child's learning. There's no need to lecture and very often you'll find yourself learning something new right alongside your child.

- This may go against your nature, but there's no need to do every subject every day.

- I can't overemphasise the importance of reading and maths, they are the keys to everything else your child will learn. Do everything in your power to develop strong readers and little mathematicians.



**EXTRA MURAL:** Home-schooled Suné Botes, 21, is a patron at the Baby House in Westville.



**ALL GROWN UP:** Botes advocates home schooling as it allowed her the time to pursue modelling.

# Model shares benefits of home schooling

Suné Botes is a successful entrepreneur because she was home schooled, writes **Marchelle Abrahams**

- This is YOUR school. The flexibility and spontaneity are part of the adventure.

What you need to know about home schooling your child:

- Always do your research: home schooling requires a mind shift and parents tend to think of education based on their experience.

- Don't replicate school at home: the stress of trying to keep up with the curriculum can sometimes suck the joy out of home education.

- Understand that there are different approaches: select products created specifically for home schooling and your children will be more receptive to learning.

- Go at your own pace: choose the option best suited to you and coach your children when it comes to tests.

For matric, the favoured options are: British Cambridge certificate, National Senior Certificate and accredited GED.

- Shirley Eravee is a home-school consultant. She can be contacted on [shirleyeravee@gmail.com](mailto:shirleyeravee@gmail.com) or visit her website <http://www.startinghomeschooling.co.za/>



**OUTDOOR LEARNING:** Home schooling allows parents to spend more time with their kids.

PICTURE: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## Make a date with your telly for Valentine's month

Alyssia Birjalal

This month things are heating up on TV screens around the country, with a variety of dating shows that have audiences religiously tuned in.

From people who lost faith in finding love because of a physical affliction to 30 girls battling it out for a dream date – each episode will leave you wanting more.

We've compiled a list of dating shows that are currently airing and worth a watch.

### *Too Ugly For Love?*

When to watch: TLC Entertainment, Fridays at 8pm

The series focuses on 10 singletons with unusual conditions searching for "The one".

It looks at the struggles each one goes through while trying to find love.

While their physical afflictions can be kept a secret while on a date, they can't be hidden forever. Each will have to, at some point, reveal all their extraordinary medical conditions, and with that comes a whole world of dilemmas of how and when to tell their potential suitors.

Coming up in season three, 28-year-old Chris from Seattle, US, lost over half his body weight but was left with excess skin, leaving his confidence at rock bottom; and 39-year-old Claire from Birmingham, UK, has alopecia and has been on over a thousand dates to find someone



**ROMANCE:** A *Date My Family* contestant.

to accept her and her condition. Will they find a potential partner as well as the courage to reveal all? Tune in to find out.

### *Take Me Out*

When to watch: ITV Choice, Saturdays at 8pm

King of dating, Paddy McGuinness, returns with this popular dating show for an eighth season.

*Take Me Out* sees 30 single girls battle

it out for a dream date. The single man is revealed via the "Love Lift" and does his best to impress the girls in a series of rounds in which the man's friends or family give revealing comments. At any point during the rounds, the girls can turn off their lights in front of them.

Our bachelor then chooses from the final two who to take on a romantic date to the Isle of Fernandos. The match-making does not end there; McGuinness also

reveals how the couples from the previous show got on, on their date. So far the show has been responsible for three engagements, two weddings and two babies.

Can Paddy's next line-up of flirty 30 add to the romantic role call?

### *Date my family*

When to watch: Msanzi Magic, Sundays at 6pm

On the show singletons dine with three families, without meeting their potential dates until the very end of the episode, when the "chosen" person is then revealed to the suitor.

Since its debut, the show has been a hit with both viewers and contestants, with many couples ending up in steady relationships.

### *Seven Year Switch*

When to watch: Lifetime, Fridays at 8pm

This series sees four Australian couples, desperate to save their failing relationships, take part in a radical experiment: to switch partners and be matched with someone more like-minded for two weeks. The couples find out if the grass really is greener on the other side. We see the participants arrive at their new homes and wait for their new partners to turn up. The first of many surprises is that there's just one bedroom – and it contains only one bed.

## 'Popping balloons a danger to kids'

CHILDREN should probably wear ear defenders at birthday parties because of the dangers of popping balloons, scientists claim.

Experts say a burst balloon makes a sound as loud as a shotgun and in some cases could even lead to hearing loss.

They warned children's and adults' hearing could be damaged if they attend several birthday parties a year.

For the study, Canadian researchers measured the noise from balloons burst in three different ways: popping them with a pin, blowing them up until they ruptured and crushing them until they burst. The University of Alberta scientists found the loudest bang was made by a ruptured balloon at almost 168 decibels, four decibels louder than a 12-gauge shotgun.

Safety experts recommend we are not exposed to noises louder than 140 decibels.

Study co-author Dylan Scott: "Nobody would let their child shoot something that loud without hearing protection, but balloons don't cross people's minds." – Daily Mail