



# HOMESCHOOLING

*Is It Right for Your Family?*



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## Is Homeschooling Right for Your Family?

There are many reasons that parents choose to homeschool their children these days. With the continually rising costs of even public schools, a lot of families simply cannot afford to pay for things like uniforms and a vast amount of supplies.

There are also the ever increasing incidents of bullying in schools, and if your child is in the least bit different, he or she can be targeted. Sadly, it seems that teachers, school counselors and even principals can do nothing about this - or so they claim.

The level of education in many schools is another reason for homeschooling. Many teachers are merely glorified babysitters in some schools because they have classrooms filled with students that have no interest in learning. The list goes on and on.

Whatever your personal reasons are for thinking that homeschooling will be best for your children, there are still some things to take into consideration before making that final decision.

Have a look at the following check list and then see where you stand on the idea of homeschooling:

- ! **Research homeschooling laws in your location:** Depending on where you live, it can either be almost too simple or next to impossible to homeschool your children. Many states have laws or rules that almost require the parents to be degreed teachers before they'll be allowed to homeschool.

Other states require only that you register your child with the school district they live in along with declaring your intent to homeschool. Some places will require that you keep track of and report attendance while other areas have no such requirements. To stay out of trouble, be sure to check into the laws of your location.

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- ! **Be honest about your patience:** There are many children, although well loved by their parents, that still exhibit difficult and challenging behavior. The harried parents of these children are often relieved to see them head off to school. It's the only way that these parents can get a break. Therefore, it's important to do a check on how patient you are.

Do you have the patience to be with your child all of the time? It also takes a fair amount of patience to teach something that your child may not get the first time around. You must be able to remain calm in these instances.

- ! **Can you make learning fun:** To be honest, there are a high percentage of trained teachers that still don't have THIS one down. It's a very important requirement, however, when it comes to homeschooling. Many parents can actually do this better than teachers. Use your imagination and creativity to help your children WANT to learn.
- ! **Do you feel qualified to teach your children:** This can be a difficult question to answer but it doesn't have to be a deal breaker. Even if you had trouble with a certain subject yourself when in school, this can be an opportunity for both you and your children to learn and understand it better.

If you look at this list and feel that homeschooling is the right answer for your situation, forge ahead with confidence and determination. You're on the path to a fun, rewarding and fulfilling adventure.



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## **Homeschooling and Socialization**

While it may be a tired topic, the issue of socialization and homeschooling is going to continue to come up. This is a particular concern for children without siblings, or those with siblings that they don't get along with. It's a fact that everyone needs to have enough social contact with others in order to make friends and lead a happy childhood.

Most parents of homeschooled children find ways to make this happen for their kids. Others, however, seem to struggle with this part of homeschooling because they've always depended on a public school system to provide their children with the opportunity for friendships.

Once you begin homeschooling your children, it's going to be necessary to make sure that they have every chance possible to make friends, and it may be up to you to see that it happens. For families that attend church on a regular basis, the problem may be somewhat solved because churches tend to have youth activities going on quite a bit. Many times, this can provide enough social exposure to allow your children to make some great friends.

Another way to get your children exposed to other kids their age is through outside activities such as gymnastics, martial arts classes or dance classes. Anything that puts your children in the environment to meet other kids is a great way to give them a chance to meet their future best friend. It also gives your kids some much needed entertainment as well as letting them learn a new skill that they can use to relax or just have some fun.

If you live in a neighborhood, there are probably other kids around that your children can socialize with. Use special occasion events such as your children's birthdays to have a party so that the kids in the neighborhood can be invited along with any others that your children may want to invite. These can be a lot of fun for everyone and your child can end up with a new friend or two by the end of the event.

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Don't ever get under the impression that your children won't have any friends if they're homeschooled. In fact, children tend to find their own friends even when left to their own devices. Try taking them on vacation to the beach for a week. You can bet they'll make some fast friends the first day they arrive and that they'll hang out with those friends the entire week. Children are more resilient than they're given credit for.

At any rate, the last thing you ever need to worry about is whether or not your children will make friends if they're homeschooled. They tend to do just fine with or without your help. All they need is to want to meet other kids and it usually happens. Of course, if you notice that your children aren't being as social as they should be, then you may want to step in and set some things up so they can meet some new people.

## **Involving Your Homeschooled Child in Sports**

Something that many parents worry about when they choose to homeschool their children is whether or not they'll be able to participate in sports. There are ways around this if your child is inclined to play sports of some sort so that being able to take part will be possible. A lot of it depends on what sort of sport your child is interested in.

For example, if your child is interested in more of a solo sport such as tennis or golf, it's rather simple to find a way for him or her to enjoy that sport. It's entirely possible to find lesson instructors for both of these sports. These private lessons can be weekly, daily or every other day through the week. If you're a member of a country club or something along those lines, there will be more opportunities for your kids to get in some competition.

If you don't happen to be club members, try contacting the local YMCA or YWCA and find out what sort of programs they have available that your kids can get involved in. Many of them offer soccer, softball, swimming and other types of team sports that you can enroll your children in. For a nominal fee, they can play at their favorite sports for several weeks.

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Other options are martial arts, dancing, and gymnastics. As each child has his or her own preference and interests, you may have to try out a few different things before hitting on the one that really lights up their world. Many times, there can be more than one choice when it comes to sport like activities.

In addition, there's always the chance that your children will decide that a particular sport is something that they really love. When that happens, you'll have to do a bit more research to see if you can get them on a team that will be noticed. If it's something like football or basketball, you'll probably have more issues with finding a team that will allow them to join it.

In fact, you may have to give up homeschooling entirely when they hit high school just so they can become a part of the sport they so love. But by then they should be able to handle a public school if you've done your job right.

If your children love a more solitary sport such as golf or tennis, homeschooling them can offer them more free time to practice and perfect their skills. There are colleges and universities that have golf teams. Your children may even be eligible for sports scholarships at some schools.

Gymnastics is something else that can become a very important part of life for participants. There's even an Olympic team for gymnasts, both female and male. Dancing can be difficult but it can also be the beginning of a dream for many and lead to a career that many work very hard to achieve.

No matter what sport your children may be interested in, you can help them to be a part of it and realize whatever dream they may have.

## **Homeschooling vs. Unschooling**

Once you've made the decision to teach your children at home rather than

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sending them into a routine school, believe it or not, there's still another choice you must make. You need to decide if you're going to homeschool your children or use a more recent popular method called unschooling. There are some vast differences in this way of doing things even though the one thing that's the same is also what's most important. The goal of both methods is to make sure that your children are learning things.

Admittedly, school officials, teachers and parents that promote mainstream teaching methods cringe at the term unschooling. They feel that children taught using this technique will never learn all they need to nor will they be able to live up to their full potential in life. However, parents that use the unschooling method to teach their children at home claim many successes.

A part of the problem is that unschooling isn't completely understood by everyone. There are several definitions associated with this term but the basic meaning is that children study what interests them the most. It doesn't mean that these children aren't learning anything. Actually, it's quite the opposite.

Most children taught with the unschooling method learn much more than those sitting in a rigid schooling environment. This type of learning can be more effective because the children are allowed to choose what they want to study without a ton of rules and regulations holding them back and forcing them to study things they hate and will most likely never use in life.



When children are allowed to delve into what they find captivating, they will REMEMBER what they learn from it. Unschooling children are still taught the basics of writing, reading and math along with other required subjects. They're just taught these subjects differently in methods that employ fun and capture their interest.

Before you start criticizing the technique of unschooling, you should check out the statistics.

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Children that are unschooled are usually a lot more relaxed and excited to learn simply because they're not being FORCED into studying something using methods that they despise. In fact, it's rather natural to rebel against something you hate, and this happens even more so with children.

When you force children to learn something, they'll probably memorize the material you give to them so they can score high enough on a test to pass it. However, in the grand scheme of things, just how much of that memorized material are they going to remember in a year, or even in a week?

The fact is that unschooled children usually retain more knowledge simply because they WANTED to learn it and were excited to find out all they could about the subject. Shouldn't that be goal of all teaching methods, no matter what they are?

The ideal solution may simply be incorporating parts of both homeschooling and unschooling into your personal teaching methods. When you find the perfect balance between the two, you'll have enthusiastic children that can't wait to learn and who will remember what they've been taught for years to come.

## Unschooling for Young Children

With the whole debate surrounding homeschooling and unschooling, it can become confusing as to what actually IS best for kids. Advocates of homeschooling methods will tell you that there's no way for kids in an unschooling environment to ever learn anything of value. They'll tell you that all these kids do is play all day long or watch cartoons. Proponents of unschooling say that learning needs to be fun and children need to be a part of choosing what they want to learn or the lessons taught won't



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be retained. There may actually be some truth to both sides.

The one thing that is probably the most true out of everything is that young children that are taught at home just may benefit more from unschooling rather than a rigid homeschooling schedule. Ages that may do better with unschooling include the toddler ages where the children are truly starting to discover the world around them. You may be familiar with three year olds that constantly ask questions. This is the perfect age to answer these questions with a "Let's find out!"

Once you've set out on a discovery of sorts with a toddler, it can become one of the most wondrous events that you'll ever experience. They seem to have tons of questions regarding nature. That gives you the opportunity to teach them bits of science. Use picture books and the actual outdoors to answer their questions of why the sky is blue and what a rainbow is made from.

One of the most exciting nature lessons for young children is that of growing things. This can be plants, flowers, or vegetables. If you want them to fully understand the process of planting and caring for something that sprouts from the dirt, you can begin with seeds. Let the children be a part of each step from choosing the area where the seeds are planted to planting the seeds, watering them and weeding them as time goes on. If they want to check their seeds daily, let them even if there's no sign of growth yet.

You'll never forget the expression on their faces the first day they see the little green sprout protruding up from the ground. That's when they, too, get really excited and impatient to see the full grown plant. If you're growing vegetables, when they've grown and become ripe, you can allow the children to pick them. Then, head into the kitchen and let them help use those vegetables to prepare something to eat.

With very young children, learning is all about experiences. They enjoy what they can touch, see, taste, and smell. Unschooling gives you the opportunity to teach children in a way that they will love and remember.



So, while homeschooling may be a better idea for older children, unschooling is often the perfect way to lead them into it. When they're unschooled at a young age, it conditions them to be excited by learning at an older age. Try it out and you'll see.

## **Use Television to Start Homeschooling Early**

The sooner you begin homeschooling your children, the better it is for them. This doesn't mean that your toddlers shouldn't be allowed to watch television; not at all. It does mean that you shouldn't park them in front of the television and let them watch cartoons all day, although certain television shows are actually good for young children.

Case in point would be the very long running Sesame Street. With the many different characters on Sesame Street, small children have learned the alphabet, counting, colors, shapes, songs, dancing and life lessons.



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The idea behind such teaching shows as Sesame Street is that when learning is fun and entertaining, kids are going to learn in spite of themselves. Seriously, when you think about it, what could be more fun than doing numbers with the Count, or learning about friendship with Bert and Ernie? There's so much that can be said regarding the many positive things that children throughout the years have learned from the wonderful Sesame Street characters.

Throughout the years, there has been the development of other educational television shows that target children of all ages. Even though many parents all over the country could barely stand Barney, that big purple dinosaur had a lot of meaningful lessons to impart to the very young. Barney dinosaur dolls and toys became quite popular with children. They didn't just offer toys to play with; these Barney dolls talked. The things he said were still in a teaching mode so parents were anxious to find a talking Barney doll for their children.

There are also shows that focus on science and history that target young children. These shows often put out a series of DVDs that parents can make use of when getting their children off to a good start in homeschooling. You can actually borrow many of these DVDs from your public library, which will save you some money in your homeschooling supplies.

When you're using television shows to help get your children off to a good start, there are ways to add to that. Take note of the story lines used in these shows that interest and delight your children into learning, even though they don't realize that's what they're doing. Then gather various materials and supplies that your children will associate with their favorite teaching shows. These can be things such as music CDs or DVDs with children's songs, or Sesame Street coloring/activity books, Sesame Street crayons, and anything else that your children may recognize.

Most people say that television isn't a good babysitter and should never be used in that way. However, there are other ways to use the television as a very effective teaching tool for very young children. If you're right there





supervising these television shows and helping your children interact in a positive manner with what the shows are teaching, then you're making the most of one of the best teaching tools available to use in getting your children interested in learning. Use whatever you have at your disposal and make your children thirsty to soak up all the knowledge they can.

## **Keeping Up with Homeschooling Paperwork**

In many states, homeschooling can be a bit of a challenge because of all the rules and regulations that must be met in order to do so. There are so many papers that must be filled out on a monthly basis in many of these locations that it's almost like the Powers That Be in those states are trying to discourage anyone from homeschooling their children. They throw so much paperwork at you that it's almost a second job just keeping up with it.

One of the main pieces of paperwork is an attendance sheet. This is where you must mark your children's attendance every day that they have taken part in homeschooling classes. These are the states where your children are strictly required to attend a certain amount of "school days" per calendar year. Any day that classes aren't held must be marked as holidays, weekends, or sick days. In these situations, be sure to keep perfect records because you'll most likely be called on the carpet at some point to present these.

Something else you need to learn how to do is organize and file all school work and tests that your children have worked on. This is proof that your children have been actively working on school subjects. It also shows how they're doing because this work will be graded.

Be sure that your state isn't one that has a required curriculum. This can be a problem if you're doing independent homeschooling or unschooling. You'll need a list of the required subjects and how many hours are required for each subject. To make matters worse, you'll have to find the right sort of books so that you can teach those subjects to your kids.

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This can be a bit of a nightmare, particularly when you're trying to be innovative and get your kids interested and excited about learning. When you're subjected to a state mandated homeschooling program, it sort takes all the fun out of it because you'll still be teaching those tired, old, dusty and boring subjects that your kids were forced to deal with in public school.

There are still ways to get around this, though. Obviously, if you can afford to go through an accredited and approved homeschool program, you'll probably be fine. You'll have the proof to show the school board, if need be, that your children are studying their required subjects. If you can't afford those programs, you'll have to become inventive. Of course, you're going to be teaching your kids what they need to know regarding writing, reading, language, math and spelling. Those are the important subjects. If your kids can do those, they can pick up anything.

Last of all, set up a filing system in which you can store every piece of paper that passes through your homeschooling day. If you're called in to meet with the school board to prove that your homeschooling efforts are satisfactory, you'll have everything they need to see, and then some.

## **Choosing a Homeschooling Curriculum**



Many parents enjoy constructing lesson plans and selecting the curriculum that they'll be using to homeschool their children. These are the parents that are creative, imaginative and confident of their abilities to successfully teach their children at home. It's so much easier when parents have that attitude because they're going to be all set when school time comes around.

For those parents that are entering the homeschool arena for the first time, it may be a bit challenging to put together just the right curriculum to use in teaching their children. If you fall into that group, there's no need to worry. There are many organizations around that offer approved and

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accredited homeschool curriculums for sale. These offer a scripted teaching curriculum with both student workbooks as well as teaching manuals. Parents that opt for these pre-made curriculums provide a good education for their kids although it may not be quite as entertaining and interesting as an original curriculum.

Something else that can be a problem is that the pre-made curriculums can be very pricey. That's because these curriculums include all of the required textbooks and reading materials for a particular grade. You even get the books that are required reading for whatever grade you're teaching. So the only things you'll need in the way of supplies are things like pencils, paper, and pens.

Much of the work with these curriculums will be performed on the computer. In fact, there are now actually schools that your child can attend online right at home. These work a bit more like regular public schools in that there are classes and teachers online. Your child will attend these classes just as if they were in public school. These are interactive in that your child can also ask questions and participate in answering questions. This is a relatively new, but totally amazing, way of allowing your children to be homeschooled. Of course, as you can imagine, a program such as this is going to be quite expensive.

Another option in some areas of the country is computer homeschool programs that are conducted from the public school classrooms directly. These programs are actually low cost and even free in some places. If you happen to be lucky enough to be eligible for one of these programs, you may also get a free computer for your children to use in their homeschooled classes.

As you can see, there are many options for getting just the right curriculum for your children if you've decided to homeschool them. There will be many things to consider in choosing the right one for your situation. Eligibility and availability are two important components in selecting the curriculum or program that you want. However, possibly the most important is going to be that of cost. If you live on a tight budget, you'll probably have to either





save up for a year or take out a personal loan to pay for something like this. In the end, though, it's going to be worth every penny of it.

## **Scheduling a Homeschooling Day**

Something that can baffle homeschooling parents, especially in the beginning, is just what sort of a schedule they should adhere to for their children regarding a normal schooling day. This can be a little confusing at first but it doesn't have to be a deal breaker. There are many things to take into consideration when you sit down to plan out your teaching schedule.

Now that you're homeschooling, you and your children don't HAVE to get up at the crack of dawn. It's been proven that many older kids shouldn't have to start school too early in the day as they don't start being really aware of things until around 10AM. For many children, 9AM is a great time to get up and start their day. Other kids feel better if they're up by 7AM. You now have the freedom to follow the internal clock of your children. Start the day when they're more alert, awake and less grumpy.



Make sure that they have a decent breakfast. People think much better when their blood sugar isn't low. That doesn't mean fill them up with tons of sugar. Many times something like fruit, cheese, and an English muffin is perfect along with juice and milk. You want them to have a well-balanced meal.

By the time they've finished with breakfast, they should be more awake and ready to begin their lessons. A good way to balance their lessons is by starting them off with something they love doing. When they complete this subject, let them take a bit of a stretching break. This is a great time for bathroom visits and getting something to

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drink.

Next, tackle one of the less favorite subjects. Those have to be done, too, whether all of you hate it or not. You'll probably be hard pressed to find someone that actually finds geography fascinating, but it's typically a required course in most school curriculums. So you and your kids both do your best to make it as non-boring as possible. However, if geography is your children's most detested subject, mid-morning is the perfect time to throw it in. They're wide awake now and energized from the fun they had with one of their favorite subjects. Take advantage of it.

Depending on how long it takes to do those first two classes, it may be close to lunchtime by the end of the second class. If not, let them have a few minutes of free time for reading, listening to music or whatever they want to do. Following lunch, it's time for another favorite subject. The reason you want to put these subjects later in the afternoon is because this will keep your children alert willingly. Afternoon hours bring about tiredness and sleepiness that their boring subjects can play on and put them to sleep. If they're totally disinterested in a subject, you can bet they're not going to retain much of it.

Try to get most of the work done during the school hours so that you won't be assigning homework very often. You can also choose what days and hours that you want to do homeschooling according to the schedule that works best for you. That's one of the many great things about homeschooling.

## **Homeschooling on a Budget**



If you've seen the supply lists for schools lately, you'll know that it costs more money now than ever before to make sure that your children are completely outfitted when school comes around. These supply lists can cost upwards of \$100. Then, if your children are in a school that requires uniforms, add on another \$300 to \$500 per child.

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Since one of the many reasons that parents choose to homeschool their children these days is due to financial issues, they definitely don't need to trade one financial problem for another. So one of the first things that these parents are going to want to do is find the lowest cost homeschool resources around to remove some of the financial burden from them even more.

One of the greatest things about homeschooling is that you can save tons of money when it comes to teaching materials and school supplies. Teaching at home doesn't require ordinary textbooks that you have to pay fees on. You can also decide what sort of supplies that your children will need to complete their work in homeschooling.

Following is a list of some of the best resources for free and low-cost homeschooling materials:

- ! **The Public Library:** This is the best resource you'll find anywhere when you're homeschooling your children. There's something at the library for everyone no matter what the age. You'll find books that teach things, books to read for fun, music CDs and DVDs. Choose the most effective method of teaching for you and simply sign it out on your library card.

All of this stuff is free to check out and use for your homeschooling curriculum. If you do your planning the right way, you'll be able to time things so that you're finished with any materials that you've borrowed from the library by the time they're due back. On top of that, you can probably borrow them a second time in a row if you need to wrap up any loose ends. This is the perfect place to start when you need free homeschool materials.

- ! **Online Websites:** The Internet is quite possibly the best information resource that you'll find when you're looking for free teaching material for homeschooling. There are many websites that specialize in helping out parents that are homeschooling their children.

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One such website is edhelper.com. You can obtain some free materials from this site, but for a very affordable yearly membership fee, you get unlimited access to everything that they have to offer. They offer materials for all age groups that you can simply print right from your computer. With this website, you may not need any other materials for the lower grades.



It's at sites like these that you'll find tons of material that you can print out right from your home printer and use as worksheets for your children. There are also many projects and learning aids for each age group that you'll be able to print out and use as teaching materials. The only cost involved in this is the printing paper you'll need.

- ! **On Hand Materials:** These include things like magazines, newspapers and things you already have on hand for other reasons. You can find many articles, pictures and various other things that are in these places. Simply put them to use by incorporating them into your teaching curriculum.
- ! **Thrift Stores:** If you're lucky enough to be located close to a thrift store, you'll find so many things there that you can use in homeschooling that it will amaze you. These shops carry a little bit of EVERYTHING. Granted, not all of it will be in excellent shape, but even the things that are incomplete sets of things or aren't in perfect condition can still be used in different areas of your homeschool teaching. The prices on things at thrift shops are very affordable, so keep that in mind.
- ! **Yard and Garage Sales:** These are other events that carry things you can use in your homeschooling venture. When you find something at yard and garage sales that you can use, the prices are not only even cheaper than thrift shop prices, but are also negotiable. That's

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because the people running these sales want to sell the items rather than being stubborn and having to repack them into the basement or the attic. So if you find something that you want to buy but don't want to pay the full price, you can offer a lower price that you feel is reasonable. Most of the time, your offer will be accepted.

- ! **Dollar Stores:** These stores have been around for over 25 years and are still thriving today. The thing that's the biggest draw to these stores is that you can find just about anything in them and all for only one dollar each. There are also several items that are paired so that you get two for a dollar. Either way, when you spend ten to twenty dollars in a true dollar store, you'll leave with bags full of things. You actually FEEL as if you've bought things and got your money's worth.

Dollar stores sell different types of books, arts and crafts items, and writing supplies that you can use for your children's homeschooling. Once you start browsing around in one of these stores, you'll be amazed at all of the homeschooling supplies and materials you can find for just a dollar each.

- ! **Online Auction Sites:** Websites such as eBay sell many homeschooling materials. Many times you can get full sets of homeschooling books if you're shopping at the right time of the year. When parents buy a full program from a homeschool, many times they can't use them after that year is over. So, rather than just throwing them out, they'll put them up for sale at a very affordable buy it now price or you can bid on them.

Those are the perfect ways to start out your homeschooling venture for very little out-of-pocket expense. As you go along, it's easy to find other ways to add to your teaching curriculum. Your imagination will kick in and you'll learn to use everyday things to help teach your kids. A big part of the fun involved in homeschooling is looking around your environment and picking out things that you can use to teach your children about life and school subjects.



The more you look around the more things you'll find that you can use. In most cases, things you find on your own will most likely also be more fun for both and your children. This works out easier with younger children because you can use just about anything you may have on hand to teach them. It's as they get older that you'll need to get more inventive, but it's still possible.



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## Homeschooling Supplies for Pre-School Students

Homeschooling a pre-school age child isn't a lot more than creating learning games for them. As these children are still so very young, you'll need to keep them excited about learning through the use of teaching them through games. These are also the children that seem to have the shortest attention span, so the way you teach them will need to be creative, fun, enthusiastic and, above all else, interesting enough to them that they'll stay with you as long as you need them to.

Things that your pre-school child can easily learn include colors, shapes, the alphabet and numbers 1 through 10. It's pretty easy to incorporate all of these things into one activity so that they can learn them all at once without over taxing their little minds. That's why you're going to want to buy certain things when you shop for teaching supplies for this age.



To begin with, be sure to get plenty of crayons. These should be the oversized, or fat, ones that can easily be held by little hands. You'll find out quickly that most children this age love to color and draw. However, crayons can break easier than you may like so you'll need plenty of replacements.

Since "drawing" is a huge part of their world, get plenty of drawing paper for your pre-school children. You can get printer paper, drawing tablets or butcher paper. When you choose butcher paper, you can easily unroll as much of it as you need so that your children can feel free to expand their pictures. The more blank space you give these children to cover, the more enticing it is for them to do so.

Construction paper is another must because you're going to be teaching your children how to make simple things from it. For example, you can teach the color red and the apple at the same time by using a red sheet of construction paper to create the red paper apple. You'll be doing most of the creating until they've gained a bit more control over their drawing.

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Safety scissors will be needed eventually so you can purchase them during your initial shopping trip. Make sure that these are the ones made to fit little hands and that they're the kind that won't cut those hands. By the end of the first year of homeschooling, your children should be able to handle these scissors efficiently but never leave them unsupervised.

Puzzles, music CDs of children's music, and teaching DVDs for pre-school children are also very helpful. Singing and dancing to songs they can understand and learn to sing will keep your children excited for the new school day to arrive. In fact, singing is one of the fastest ways for children to learn. So be sure to get songs that will also teach. This is the perfect way to teach the ABCs as well as colors and numbers.

Once you get started teaching your pre-school children, you'll learn as you go along what other things you may need. It's a joint learning adventure for both you and your children. Make it a fun one.

## **You Can Only Cut and Paste So Many Times**

When it comes to homeschooling very young children, you need to find various ways to help them participate in arts and crafts time so that they're always entertained and able to learn something different. While cutting and pasting is a wonderful way to get them acquainted with using child safe scissors and how to paste something using just the right amount of paste, when these things are ALL they do, children can get rather bored.

Boredom causes inattentiveness. So you see why it's important to keep them challenged and motivated. Instead of only letting them cut, paste, and color; try throwing in something a little more fun for small children. There are other crafty activities that children love and are very capable of doing. One of the most popular is finger painting. Granted, this is an activity that you'll need a bit more preparation for than other things they could be doing.





The first thing you should do is make sure that the children are dressed in old clothing so that they won't risk ruining some of their nicer clothes. You can always haul out some old shirts of yours and use those to cover the children. In that way, no one has to worry about getting paint on anything valuable.

Once the children are appropriately dressed, be sure to spread out plenty of old newspapers or some other sort of protective covering over the area that will be used as the painting area. Set out the different jars of paint and paper for the children to use in creating their masterpieces.

Give them the freedom to choose their own paint colors and their own designs. If they want to mix all of the colors into one giant blob, let them. It's important that they get used to the feel of the paint and how to put it on the paper. Let them make their own choices so that they can actually have some fun.

If they ask for your help, obviously show them anything that they need to know. Just let them use their own imagination when it comes to putting the paint onto the paper. Encourage them to talk about what they're painting, and what the shapes and images are in the pictures. When they've completed their pictures, ask them to name the pictures. Let the pictures dry.

While they're drying, take some poster board and make them into frames for the pictures. The easiest way to do that is simply paste the picture into the center of a poster board square cut to just a bit larger than the size of the picture and it will look as if it's framed or matted.

Last of all, let the children choose where they want their pictures to be put up. If you have some sort of fancy décor going on in the rest of your house, encourage them to add it to their rooms to go along with any other pictures they may have hanging on their walls. It will make them feel special by creating their very own room decorations. Anytime you can allow your children to create something that can be used in some way, it's the perfect teaching experience.



## **Bringing Public School Ideas into Homeschooling**

While homeschooling is considered to be a superior learning experience to attending public schools, there are some things that are a regular occurrence in public schools that can be incorporated into homeschool. These activities break the monotony of the day and give the kids something to look forward to. When you homeschool, you can arrange these activities whenever you want.

One such activity is a trip to the public library. All schools maintain libraries and the kids usually have a set day and time that they're allowed to visit it. This is a dream come true for those children that love reading. They can spend time browsing books and choosing the ones they want to read. Then the rest of the hour is spent reading those books.

When you homeschool, you can load your kids up any day of the week at any time and head to the public library. Instead of being limited to just 2 books per week, the public library typically allows 5 or more to be checked out at a time. Your little readers can go crazy in the library choosing books by their favorite writers.

If your children are pre-school age, you'll need to help them choose their books and spend some time reading these books to them at home. In addition, you and your children can stay at the library as long as they want. You can even make Library Day a half day experience and have lunch out.

Music is something else that most kids really enjoy. Whether it's singing, playing an instrument or dancing, kids simply love music. This is another activity that usually happens only once a week in public schools. You can make it an everyday occurrence when you homeschool. Choose music that's appropriate to the age of your children and let them enjoy learning the songs every day. You don't have to be on a time table so if the kids seem to be having an exceptionally fun time, you can just keep going.



Even better is if you happen to play a musical instrument. You can spend part of music time giving your children music lessons. However, this isn't an area where you should ever force your child. For instance, if you play the piano but your child has no interest whatsoever in learning to play the piano, you should drop that idea. Find out if your child wants to learn how to play another instrument and see what you can do about making that happen.

One of the very best things about homeschooling is that you can set your own schedule. Math doesn't have to be done every day at 1PM. Language doesn't have to happen at 10AM every day. Switch things around to make it more interesting, unless your kids happen to respond better to a regimented schedule. In that case, then write out the day's schedule and post it where it can be seen. They'll know just what to expect. But that's the beauty of it. When you homeschool, you have the freedom to do what works best for your children.

## **Using Field Trips as Part of Homeschooling**

When children attend public school, field trips are a mainstay of the school year. It's good to get the kids out of the classroom on occasion and let them go somewhere where they can have fun while learning. This is one of the things that many homeschooling parents worry that their children will miss out on. That doesn't have to be an issue at all. In fact, homeschooled children can go on even MORE field trips than those in public schools.

Choosing and organizing these field trips will be left up to the parent that's responsible for homeschooling. If your children are old enough to contribute to the choices, by all means, let them. They'll take in so much more of what the trip has to teach them if they're excited about the destination.

When selecting the best places for your children to attend on field trips, you'll need to consider several factors. Their ages, subjects they study and their interests should all be taken into account. If you have any special

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needs children or children with challenging behaviors, you must also take that under advisement. The last thing you want is a disaster of any kind on your field trip, whether it's someone getting hurt or something valuable destroyed that you'll be responsible for replacing or repairing.

Younger children like things that they can touch and play with. Many cities have special museums just for kids to attend where they can touch and learn from the items on exhibit. These include science museums, space museums and history museums. You can also take them to special matinees of children's movies or plays. If you match the ages and behaviors to the event, it will be enjoyed by everyone.

Older children can be a bit more challenging to entertain sometimes. If you live near a wax museum, zoo, or aquarium, those are often the perfect choices. It's the older children that you can whisk away on overnight trips to nearby historical locations. Don't forget to let them help choose and even plan these field trips. You can be sure to have a real success on your hands if they've been a part of the planning.



Another way you can work in relevant field trips is through special assemblies at local public schools. Many times, there are public schools that work in conjunction with homeschooled children in their locations. This means that homeschooled children are invited to any special event that they may want to attend at those schools.

A lot of schools are able to book celebrities and other popular speakers and entertainers to appear. Your children can be a part of these audiences. Just be sure to check into this with your local school board.



Field trips are actually very important and successful teaching tools. This is true even if you're taking the kids somewhere that it feels like they're playing. In fact, fun learning is usually the most effective learning. Keep that in mind.

## **Let Mother Nature Homeschool Your Children**

The seasons of spring and fall are both perfect to use when it comes to homeschooling. The weather is typically just right during those times. It's not too hot and not too cold, which makes it the perfect weather to be outside rather than cooped up indoors with some books, pencils and paper. These are the seasons where you take your children outside with their paper and pencils.

They don't actually have to have paper and pencils. What would be even more fun is to get disposable cameras for your children and let them take their own pictures of whatever parts of nature that you're studying. Make a list of the different items in nature that they're meant to find. Once they find those items, they can take a photograph of each one. This gives you a chance to teach about certain bugs or other living things that you wouldn't exactly want them to catch, touch or bring back into the house.

Let them also be a part of getting the pictures developed so that they can understand the process involved in that. It can be a very exciting day when you all go to pick up the developed pictures. When you get back home, take out the pictures and have your children match each photo to the items on the list. Then, begin to teach about each of the items separately, using the pictures as a visual aid. Many times, seeing something while being told about it will help the children to learn and retain the information that they're taught.

You can also take your children outdoors to teach them about the different types of clouds there are. This is a very fun exercise as you all go into your yard, look up into the sky and try to see what clouds are up there. Take

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pictures of the different clouds outside with you so that your children can compare the ones they're actually looking at to the ones that are in the pictures. This is a great way to grab and harness their interest in things of a science nature.

Learn all about the different flowers that come up in the spring. This is also the perfect time for your children to start their own little garden. They can plant flowers or vegetables. It doesn't matter which as long as it's something that they're interested in. As the growing process goes along, you can discuss what's happening in the plant. They'll also learn how to take care of their plants and help them turn into healthy and strong plants.



Fall is the season to learn about the different types of trees and the leaves they produce. It's also one of the most beautiful times of the year with all of the different colored leaves decorating the trees. Have your children gather some of their favorite leaves and take them back inside to use for some fall-related crafts.

These are the best seasons for teaching since summer is for playing and vacation, and winter is when everything is very cold and bare. But Mother Nature can be an excellent teacher when you're homeschooling no matter what the season.

## **Incorporating Holidays and Special Events into Homeschooling**

Holidays and other special days are always exciting for kids. It really doesn't matter what the holiday is. They always love the festivity and fun surrounding such holidays as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Halloween, Valentine's Day and many other special days. Another great thing about holidays is that they are some of the best teaching tools that you'll ever get your hands on. When you know how to use them, holidays and special days will allow you to have a great school day with some excited and avid

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students.

Halloween is a wonderful holiday to incorporate into your homeschooling curriculum. This is one of those holidays that hold a lot of interest for students of all ages. As the adult in residence, you'll probably find that YOU also enjoy the different things that surround Halloween. There's the history of Halloween that's pretty fascinating. Stories of how 'trick or treat' came about as well as Halloween customs all over the world are a lot of fun to teach. Of course, then there are ghost stories that you can also tell.



Christmas is another holiday that you can build lessons around. There are so many things about Christmas that you can teach that it may be difficult to know where to start. You may even want to start with teaching your children about Yule and how it was observed centuries ago and compare it to how it's celebrated today.

Santa Claus is another interesting legend to explore. Of course, if you have small children you probably don't want to break it to them just yet that Santa really doesn't fly around on his sleigh led by reindeer and deliver presents to good little boys and girls. However, there are many other historical fun facts about the jolly old man that you can involve your kids in.



Thanksgiving is an excellent way to make history lessons fun. This holiday is perfect to teach all about the Pilgrims and colonization. It's also a way to teach your children about Native Americans. The First Thanksgiving can be a teaching tool that you can use to get your kids in the kitchen and cooking some of those long ago dishes that were served during that time.

Easter can be used to learn about how the Easter Bunny and decorated eggs came about. It's also another cooking holiday so you and your kids can spend lots of time in the kitchen making deviled eggs and all kinds of

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bread. If you happen to be religious, you can work in the details of Easter that involve religion. It's really a lot of fun to get them making construction paper bunnies with cotton ball tails and egg trees out of small trees or bushes in the front yard.

Whatever holiday or special day your children has a definite interest in, you should make that a teaching tool. You can even use their own birthdays by digging into the past for events that occurred on that day. That will really get their attention and keep it.

## **Incorporating Life Lessons into Homeschool Curriculums**

Something every child needs to learn is how to take care of him or herself as they grow older. This doesn't mean that you're just throwing them under the bus, or tossing them into the water without knowing how to swim when they're still babies. It means that it's the responsibility of parents to teach their children life skills. In the absence of parents, it's the responsibility of whatever adult is taking care of the children. All adults need to have some basic life skills so that they can grow up knowing how to get through life successfully.

Because of this, every homeschool curriculum should include lessons that teach these skills. When your children are adults, they need to know how to cook, do laundry, keep a home clean and in order, and how to manage money. These are skills that nearly everyone takes for granted. That's why you want your children to be able to take them for granted, too, rather than stumble through the world because they don't know what they're doing.

It's quite easy to work in these life lessons as part of your homeschool curriculum. One very simple way to get them started is by having them take part in family grocery shopping. This can begin as soon as they can read and understand what they're reading. Start by letting them help you make your grocery list. Take them with you through the kitchen, bathroom and any other part of the house that you check while making your list of





what you're out of. Making the list is a very important part of the process.

When you reach the store, give your children a small list of their own. As you travel through the store, allow them to shop for their items. Teach them how to locate the items that are the best bargain. It's also good to give them a set dollar amount to spend so they can learn how to save money on things. At the checkout counter, let them put their own items up on the belt for scanning and take care of paying for these items on their own. This should be a weekly event.

Cooking lessons can be done anytime you're in the kitchen. Let your children take part in measuring, mixing and stirring. Find kid friendly recipes so that they can create their own culinary masterpieces with little to no help from you. Being able to cook is an important skill and doesn't have to be gourmet.

Being able to do laundry correctly may not seem like a big deal, but it can be when you run out of clean clothes. Even three year olds can be taught how to sort laundry. Bring your children with you to the laundry room and show them each time you do laundry how it's done. Eventually, they can do their own laundry.

Knowing how to keep a house clean is vital to fighting germs, dust and dirt. Let your kids sweep, mop and, when they're old enough, vacuum. Dusting can be done by even very small kids. Keeping a clean house is valuable knowledge.

Don't be fooled into thinking that homeschooling is only about books. Kids tend to love getting involved with "grown up things." Take advantage of that while they're young.

## **Creating a Pre-School Curriculum**

Pre-school age children can be so much fun to teach because they're so excited to learn new things and are so ready for you to teach them. It's the

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perfect age to get them on the right road to gaining knowledge as well as keeping them enthusiastic about learning.

If you've decided to homeschool your children of this age, it couldn't be a better time to begin. However, it's up to you to make it interesting and keep it that way so that your little ones will look forward to each day of "school."

To begin with, decide which days you'll want to have classes for your children. Since they're so young, you may want to keep it down to Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or you can do half days Monday through Friday. After all, they ARE children and should be given plenty of time to play and have fun.

Once you've decided what days you want to hold class for your children, choose the hours that you'll be teaching them. They should get up around the same time every morning and enjoy a good healthy breakfast. That's the number one rule when it comes to starting your day. Breakfast will keep your children full of energy throughout the morning.

Following breakfast, choose an activity that will gently warm them up for the rest of their day. This can be through a coloring exercise of some sort to teach colors and shapes. If they're brand new to all of this, they'll probably enjoy thinking that they're just getting to play with crayons. Try a color of the day in the beginning. For example, red can be used in also teaching about apples and fire engines. Incorporate things that your children see and use daily so that it will make more sense to them.

A wonderful activity is through the use of photograph albums or scrapbooks in which you'll cut out pictures from magazines that correspond to the color you're teaching. Using red as an example again, you can find pictures of bright and shiny red apples, fire trucks, cherries, strawberries and whatever else you can come up with that is red and relevant to your children. You can create a book of this kind for each basic color. Spend a little while after breakfast each morning with one of these books. Engage the children in learning what each object is.



Since they've been sitting for a while, following the book activity, get them on their feet doing some stretches. You can use this as music time and teach them songs. If you've got your music CDs, put those on. DVDs that teach songs are even better. You're trying to keep them interested and excited and music almost always does that.

Work in a mid-morning snack followed by what learning activities seem to suit your children best. After lunch, they can have rest or nap time. If you're doing full days, this time would be followed by a fun learning activity. When children are this young, you need to let them be your guide as to when to introduce what sort of activity. That ensures that they'll learn what you're teaching.

## Sample Study Plan for First Grade Homeschoolers

The first grade is a very important time for children. This is when they start to learn more of the basics needed to progress in life. They're learning how to print and read. They should already know their alphabet by now and how to count to ten, but if not, this should certainly be the first order of business.

First graders are now considered to be very smart. It's also an age where they still feel excited about learning new things. Following is a sample study plan to use in homeschooling your first grade children:

- ! **Wake Up with Singing:** Following breakfast, it's good to start out with music of some sort. It will get your child awake and alert when taking on the next lesson. Put on a music CD and get your child involved with singing some of the songs on it. Sing along, too, to get him or her really involved.
- ! **Writing Lesson:** It's good to have a chalk board for this so that you can write out whatever letter you're working on currently. Draw out



the lines just like they appear in your child's beginner writing tablet. Don't rush or your child can become frustrated. Go slowly and be encouraging with every stroke of the pencil.

- ! **Stretches:** Since first graders tend to have lots of energy, following the writing lesson it's advisable to get them up and moving for a few minutes. Put them through some stretches and maybe running or marching in place.
- ! **Reading Lesson:** Now that you've got their minds warmed up with writing, it's a good time to begin a reading lesson. Flashcards are excellent to use in teaching basic words that they'll be putting together in sentences. There are also reading programs for children that you can invest in.
- ! **Taking it outside:** If you have a pretty day, use it to your advantage. Take your child outside to discover nature. You can build many lessons around this so that your children can learn about different flowers, leaves, bugs, rocks and trees. Plus, kids tend to love being outdoors and they'll love collecting items for more study.
- ! **Lunch:** You can pack a picnic lunch and have it outdoors following the end of your nature discovery. As long as the weather is nice, fresh air does a lot of positive things for your children.
- ! **Rest Time:** If your day is going to continue a bit longer, your child is probably going to be ready for a rest by now. Depending on the needs of your child, he or she can rest or nap for as long as needed.
- ! **Math:** Following rest time, go through a few more stretches to get your child fully awake. Then do some work with numbers. Flashcards are also good as teaching aids for this.
- ! **End of the school day:** You don't want to over tire your child so this is probably a good time to end the school day. Keep in mind that your child needs some time to just play and be a kid. Anything that you



didn't get to on one day can certainly be gone over another time.

## Homeschooling Your Older Children

Teaching young children can be a bit challenging, but it's nothing when compared to teaching your older children. This is the age when they're going to challenge you at every turn. They don't WANT to study math, science, English, reading or spelling. They want to watch television or play their video games. This is a tough audience to please and an even tougher one to get interested in learning things.

If your children have had any experience with public schools this can affect how they respond to being homeschooled. Since they're now at home, you may find that they'll want to sleep in every day and won't take your teaching efforts seriously. That's why you must come up with a routine and stick to it. Make sure that your children know that from this time to this time on these days, they will be "in school" and they need to understand that you mean it.

Choose a curriculum that will hold your children's interest and make the learning fun. For example, a science class can be conducted by going outside on a hike with a list of various things to find. These can be different leaves, berries, flowers and rocks. A scavenger hunt is always fun. Make it challenging but not so hard that it gets frustrating.



Target the strength of your children and let them spend plenty of time doing activities related to that. If they're strong in more than one area, that's even better. Combine their strengths with their weaknesses.

For example, English or language can be combined with drama. Have them do a reading of the Spoon River Anthology. They can choose which of the



epitaphs they want to give a dramatic reading of. Then they can write their own epitaph. This gives them exercises in English, language, drama AND writing. It's also fun for children that are dramatically inclined, love to write or both.

Let your children have a "free" period each day where they can choose their own activity. This can be their video game time or their time to get outside and ride their bicycles. They need something to look forward to everyday and this is usually going to be that time. This free period is in addition to lunch and a physical education time. You can help get them rejuvenated so that they'll be ready to take on the next class on the list.

Something else that you may want to avoid is giving them homework. They're already at home doing school work. When the end of the day comes around for them, don't assign even more school work that will keep them chained to their desks for the rest of the night. The exceptions to this will be tests that need to be studied for or papers and reports that need to be written. Otherwise, let them complete their daily work during school hours.

When you can go that extra mile to make learning at least interesting even when it's not fun, you'll have much more co-operative children to homeschool.

## **Group Homeschooling**

Many parents feel challenged and a bit overwhelmed when they first start to homeschool their children. It can certainly be a huge undertaking; there's no denying that. However, it can also be one of the most rewarding things that you can do for your kids. When you homeschool, your children are getting all the attention that they would never get in a public, or even a private school, setting. They can learn much faster and more thoroughly when they're taught at home.

While homeschooling can be a very positive experience for both parents

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and their children, sometimes it can just become a bit too much when it comes to finding ways to make learning interesting. You may need some ideas that will present lessons to your children in unique and captivating ways. Something that many parents have begun doing is group homeschooling, and this alleviates the challenge of presenting interesting lessons as well as offering parents a break while their children are still getting the teaching that they need.

Group homeschooling is just as it sounds. It means that parents that are homeschooling their children get together and map out a way to rotate teaching days. Obviously, it's much easier if all of the children involved in a group are in the same grade, but it has worked out to combine ages as long as they're not too far apart.

The families can live in the same neighborhood or not. As long as there's a way to get the kids together in one place every day, it all works out just fine. The parents will meet and set up a schedule of what parents will be responsible for teaching on which day of the week.

For example, on Monday, you may be responsible for teaching the children at your home. Tuesday will go to someone else, as will Wednesday, and so on. Depending on how many parents you have involved in this effort, you may only have to teach once or twice a week.

This gives the children a change of scenery and fends off the boredom of being in the same place day after day. Field trips can be a group effort as well with the parents planning out the trips and all going along to help keep order among the group of kids. Each parent can also take turns in suggesting field trips and making the arrangements for them.

While this isn't a public school environment, it offers a bit more socialization for the kids as well as some support when doing lessons. It's also more fun when recreation or exercise time comes around if there are other children to share it. This can be an ideal situation for many families because it provides their children with a better homeschool and learning environment while removing some of the pressure from the parents.





Some of the parents involved in group homeschooling can even take on a part time job or work from home on the days they aren't responsible for teaching. Everyone wins in this situation.

## **Homeschooling High School Students**

Many times children are homeschooled beginning when they're quite young and, as they reach high school age, they're enrolled in a high school. This can be done for many reasons. A child may be very talented in a particular sport that they cannot play and be considered for a scholarship unless they're playing for a school team.

It may be that the parent can no longer challenge the child when it comes to learning and making it interesting for him or her. It can also be that the child just decided that he or she wants the experience of going to a public school. If this is the situation in your home, then you and your child will want to talk this over seriously so that the best decision is made.



On the other hand, if your children are quite content to continue homeschooling at a high school age, there are ways to make things more fun and exciting as well as helping them meet the requirements for getting into a good college. As children get older, their subjects are more difficult.

The good news is that they can do more independent study on their own. They're not going to need for you to be peering over their shoulder and supervising everything they do now. This gives you a bit more free time to do other things but always be available in case they have a question for you.

While they may be missing things like the prom and other school events,

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it's very easy to throw them a prom of their own. Your kids are going to have friends of their own and some of them may also be homeschooled. So your first step is to find out how many kids would be interested in attending a homeschool prom. Once you have your numbers in hand, all it takes is finding the location, getting a DJ or a band, and working out decorations and refreshments. It can be a lot of fun for everyone.

When your children have met all graduation requirements, they usually can sit for a General Education Diploma test and take it. Passing this will give them their diploma. Many public schools will allow homeschooled students in their district to attend graduation ceremonies so that they will be able to celebrate this milestone in life. If you don't have a school near you that will allow this, throw your own graduation ceremony. Contact the parents of other homeschooled students that are ready to graduate and get them involved.

Homeschooled graduates can even take the SATs so that they can get into a good college. If your children have missed out on those, there are other tests they can take through different colleges and community colleges that offer these tests for a fee. When those have been satisfactorily passed, acceptance into college can be accomplished.

When it comes down to it, there's really nothing that kids in public school have that homeschooled kids cannot have. You just have to know the right questions to ask and the right people to go to for the answers.



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## Getting Started with Homeschooling

The popularity of homeschooling has risen to high numbers and there are various aids to assist parents to effectively provide children with a good education. One of these aids is [Homeschooling ABC's](#), which is a 26 week course.

This course covers everything step-by-step to provide you with the tools you need to create a home school environment. This aid will enable parents to have everything setup within 48 hours or less, plus provide ongoing support and resources to make the homeschooling journey successful.

Parents receive one email per week from [Homeschooling ABC's](#), which will provide instructions on the important areas of homeschooling children. The creators offer the wisdom and tips acquired while homeschooling their own children for 12 years and the immense amount of experience they have gained. The weekly email will have a unique lesson about homeschooling and there will be a plan of action, which helps to provide a comprehensive and continuous curriculum.

## What Will Be Learned

The valuable information that will be learned from [Homeschooling ABC's](#) will include:

- ! *Determine Education Philosophy*: Determining what your own beliefs are regarding education, this lesson will enable you to form a strategy to teach your children and stay focused.
- ! *Learn Organization and How to Remain Organized*: Organization will make it easier to maintain the school area and your children and you will do better.
- ! *Understanding Learning Ability of Children*: Everyone learns at a different pace and when you have figured out how your children learn best, education can be tailored to meet their specific needs.

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- ! *Learn about Buying and Selling Curriculum:* When you teach your children the proper curriculum, they will be able to learn faster and more effectively.
- ! *Have a Great Start Every Day and Keep It that Way:* When children are happy they are motivated and take in more knowledge and finish their schoolwork faster.
- ! *Dealing with Socialization:* People will question how you are dealing with socialization for your homeschooled children. Learn how to deal with this issue and be prepared.
- ! *Teaching Children of Different Ages Together:* Few families have only one child they are homeschooling. This will mean knowing how to teach children of various ages at the same time.
- ! *Get the Most Out of Field Trips:* Field trips get children's attention and are interesting, which is one way to broaden the horizons in home education.

These are things that will help parents that decide to home school their children, but you get more than just the weekly lessons when you're a member of this program.

Membership also gives you access to the following bonuses:

**The Home School Planner:** This is 31 pages of lists, planning forms and other goodies from Old Schoolhouse Magazine.

**Get Organized:** Cindy Rushton shares her ideas for how to make your school year great.

**Learn How to Teach Less, while Children Learn More:** A step-by-step book that will show you how to use living books to provide a quality education for children at an economical price.

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**Sequence and Scope Checklist:** This is a checklist of everything your children will need to know for each grade level.

**TEACH Magazine, Mother Enrichment Package:** This is 2 digital issues of TEACH; Queen of Her Castle MP3 audio and Organizing Happiness ebook.

**The Internet Scavenger Hunt:** This is for children 12 and over to introduce MotherboardBooks.com Internet Scavenger Hunt.

**History Not Backwards:** History that shows God's part in it, for those who want to incorporate Bible teachings into their homeschool curriculum.

**What Really happened During the Middle Ages:** This is a collection of historical biographies, helpful for teaching both history and reading skills.

**WriteShop Learn to Write:** A starter package for grades 6 through 10, which includes an 8-day lesson plan from the new elementary WriteShop; a K-2 primary book; and a Story Builders Sampler offering prompts for creative writing.

**Teaching Science and Having Fun:** This book by author Felice Gerwitz shows you how to teach science and keep students interested.

**Under the Sea (Pre-K through 2) and Ocean Habitats (Grades 3 through 6):** In the Hands of a Child packs containing a research guide about the world's oceans and hands-on activities, for children to create a lap book on oceans.

**Foundations 1 Bible Curriculum:** This is a way to bring religion into your homeschooling curriculum, if you choose.

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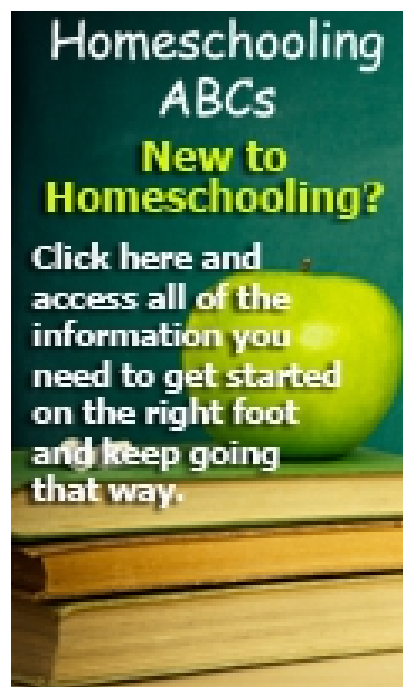
[Click here!](#)



It does not matter if you are new to homeschooling or have been doing it for an extended amount of time, there is something to learn from [Homeschooling ABC's](#).

The very affordable membership cost of \$10 per month comes with a 60-day money back guarantee, no questions asked.

It's a great way to get your homeschooling efforts built upon a strong foundation, with guidance from parents who have been there.



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