

"For the tools of learning are the same, in any and every subject; and the person who knows how to use them will, at any age, get the mastery of a new subject in half the time and with a quarter of the effort expended by the person who has not the tools at his command."

—Dorothy Sayers,
The Lost Tools of Learning

FOUNDATIONS

The CC Difference

Classical Conversations is not a co-op. Classical Conversations and local co-ops are both valuable assets to the homeschool community. Our goal in comparing the two here is to help you decide whether **Classical Conversations' Foundations Program**, for K4 through 6th graders, is a good fit for your family. Please visit www.classicalconversations.com for information regarding all of Classical Conversations' academic programs and services or to request a free catalog.

	CC Foundations Program	Local Co-Ops
PURPOSE	Our purpose is to lead the home-centered education movement by equipping parents and students with the classical "tools of learning" and a biblical worldview.	Varies per co-op.
TEACHING METHOD	The classical model identifies three stages of learning: grammar, dialectic and rhetoric. Elementary-age students are in the grammar phase of learning, and the academic emphasis in Foundations is on mastery of facts — memorization of a vast storehouse of knowledge. In our 24-week Foundations Program , trained tutors introduce weekly memory work and model, for both students and parents, how to learn the material successfully at home.	Varies per teacher or co-op.
ACADEMIC FOCUS	The Foundations Curriculum Guide , used by tutors in class and by parents and students at home, lays out the core "grammar" — or facts — of six subject areas: math, science, English, Latin, history, and geography. One tutor teaches all subjects to her class. In addition to the introduction and review of core grammar, students enrolled in a CC Foundations Program participate each week in a fine arts experience, science project, and student presentation. As part of the classical Christian model, the integration of subject areas facilitates a thread of continuity between subjects. The Foundations Program uniquely prepares students to thrive during the challenging academic years ahead.	Co-ops generally assist families in teaching either core or enrichment subjects. Co-op parents usually teach subjects specific to their knowledge or passions, benefitting from one another's gifts and talents. Typically, course offerings vary each year depending on the availability and interests of teachers and students.
LEADERSHIP, SUPPORT & CONTINUITY	Families who choose to join a Classical Conversations Community become members of a national network of experienced classical home educators. Every single program director and tutor participates in training seminars annually, and CC Communities nationwide study the same material at the same time year to year.	Co-ops often vary from location to location and from year to year with regard to experience, course offerings and teaching methodology.
TUITION	Tuition and fees support trained directors and tutors and cover supply fees and facility costs.	Joining a co-op is often free or the cost of materials.
PARENT PRACTICUMS & ONLINE SUPPORT	Beyond local support in our CC Communities, CC offers free Parent Practicums across the nation each summer to equip, encourage, and connect parents in the classical Christian teaching of their children. Parents can also subscribe to C3 , home to our online forum and additional study resources.	Co-op support is generally local to the group.

"It would be much more difficult to homeschool apart from my CC community. My kids love the program, and I love the support."