

Choosing Curriculum

A. Considerations When Choosing

1. Family needs, goals, and lifestyles
2. Learning styles of children
3. Finances
4. Educational philosophy

B. Educational Approaches to Home Schooling (pg 10 Guide)

1. Conventional method - school at home; textbooks and workbooks
2. Delayed academics - wait until brain, vision, hearing, perceptions, emotions, sociability, and physical growth come together to function cooperatively, between ages 8-10
3. Unit Study method - integrates almost all subjects into one topic
4. Unschooling - traditional teaching methods destroy natural curiosity, children will learn because of natural delight directed desire to learn
5. Charlotte Mason method - "twaddle free", living books, whole books, real life Situations
6. Principle method – worldview of America's Founding Fathers, notebook approach: research, reason, relate, record
7. Classical method – 3 stages of the Trivium suited to the natural stages of mental development in children.
8. Learning Lifestyle - eclectic, lines between school and home blur, happens naturally over period of years

C. Where to Find Info About Curriculums

1. Books
 - a. *Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling* – Mary Pride
 - b. *100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum* – Cathy Duffy
 - c. *Christian Home Educators Curriculum Manual* - Cathy Duffy
2. Catalogs, brochures
3. Magazine reviews, articles & advertisements
4. Book fairs and conventions
5. Friends' (other homeschoolers) recommendations, be sure to ask:
 - What they DO and DON'T like about it!
 - Why they like or dislike it. (Are the reasons applicable in your home?)
 - How they use it.

D. Where to Buy Curriculum

1. Mail order catalogs/Internet sales
2. Book fairs and conventions
3. Local book/teacher supply stores
4. Support group used curriculum sales
5. Library sales, thrift stores and garage sales
6. Used curriculum web sites - ebay, vegsource, etc.

I. Introduction

- A. Welcome
- B. Who I am
- C. Who are you? Schooling elem? Jr. high? Sr. High?
- D. Introduce the other speakers and what we will be discussing
- E. Ground rules: bathrooms, small children taken out when disruptive, lot to cover in 2 hrs – keep questions for the end unless a point isn't clear, not here to bash the school system or air gripes
- F. Answer “Should everyone homeschool?” My personal belief is that everyone should consider it as one of their options, but no it is not for everyone. It is not for the family that can not or will not give it their best efforts.
- G. Answer “Can I homeschool?” I think you can if you believe this is the best choice for your child. I believe that because you love your child and want the best for him/her you will be willing to do what it takes to make your homeschool successful.
- H. Acknowledge their fears, doubts and nervousness. Quote: “Starting to homeschool is like learning to dance. You step on each others toes and sometimes you wonder if you are listening to the same music, but you eventually get into the groove.” -Unknown

Then where can you find people that are doing what you are doing, that will help you and encourage you?

- II. Support (starts on page 22 in the guide)
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- A. National Home Education Research Institute - gather data, analyze data and write reports, keeping up with the research done on success of homeschoolers.
 - B. Home School Legal Defense Association - Legal defense, new program helping members homeschooling high school, developing new program for members homeschooling special needs students, help getting homeschoolers into military, into college sports, scholarships for special needs students and for widows homeschooling
 - C. Home Education Foundation – Brenda Dickinson. Responsible for dual enrollment at colleges, extracurricular activities at public or private schools, Bright Futures for homeschoolers, Florida Virtual School online for homeschoolers
 - D. Florida Parent Educators Association – Free “Guide to Homeschooling in Florida”, Almanac, annual convention, up to date homeschool info, discounts, scholarships for single parents homeschooling and college scholarships
 - E. PPEA or other local support groups – PPEA tri-fold brochure, handout that lists other local support groups. Newsletters, directories, field trips, extracurricular activities, park days, orientation, science fair, spelling bees/geography bees, book fairs, used curriculum sales, graduation, yearbooks, proms, etc. Get involved with like minded people.

Before turning it over to John, who will be discussing the homeschool law, make sure they understand he will be discussing complying with the Home Education law and not schooling under a nontraditional private school. Suggest they read about it in the Guide or discuss it with you afterwards.

Hoag's Ladder of Learning
(Retention Levels)

90% Do

70% Say

50% See and Hear

30% See

20% Hear

10% Read