FIRST STEPS

A guide to homeschooling in South Carolina

Provided by

Family TOUCH

Teaching Opportunities for Upstate Christian Homeschoolers

www.familytouch.org

This information has been compiled by many individuals for the purpose of helping new homeschoolers and those new to homeschooling in SC. The contents may be passed on in its entirety, giving credit to the providing group. No part of this publication should be altered. Family TOUCH should be notified of any errors so corrections can be made in future revisions.

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HOMESCHOOLING STYLES AND PHILOSOPHIES

In deciding which curriculum or program will work best for you and your child(ren), take a look at the variety of different homeschooling philosophies. You may be surprised to learn there are so many ideas and approaches!

For a number of reasons, a teacher in a classroom needs to use a pre-packaged curriculum, but as a homeschooling parent, you are free to look at your child's strengths, weaknesses and natural learning ability, as well as your natural teaching style, to decide what is best for your family. An excellent resource for more discussion on teaching styles and curriculum is "100 Top Picks for Homeschooling Curriculum" by Cathy Duffy (www.cathyduffyreviews.com) Below is a quick guide to some of the various teaching styles along with curriculum websites.

Traditional Textbook – uses graded textbooks, workbooks, drill and memorization, practice problems and review; following a specific scope and sequence. The focus is on the national (or private institution's) standards and the goal is to learn what is required for each grade level. A few curriculum suppliers are listed below. See the "Curricula" section of this handbook for a more detailed list.

Abeka Books - (877) 223-5226 – www.abeka.com

Bob Jones University Press - (800) 845-5731- www.bjupress.com

Alpha Omega - (800) 622-3070 - www.aop.com/home/

Rod and Staff - (606) 522-4348 - http://www.anabaptists.org/ras/

Calvert School – (410) 243-6030 - www.calvertschool.org

Some questions to ask yourself before trying the traditional, textbook approach are listed below. Yes answers indicate this approach may work for you and your child:

1. Did my child perform well in a school classroom?
2. Does my child like to complete assignments and have defined goals?
3. Is my child academically oriented?
4. Will my child complete assigned tasks with a minimum of prodding from me?
5. Am I the kind of person who will follow through with the lesson plans and pace of the course of instruction?

Some additional questions to ask before using the workbook approach with your child:

1. Does my child read well and have good reading comprehension skills?
2. Can my child work well independently?
3. Can my child learn without a lot of variety to the teaching materials?

Strengths of the Textbook/Work text Approach

- Everything is laid out for ease of use
- Follows a standardized scope and sequence
- Has definite milestones of accomplishment
- Testing and assigning grades is easy to do

Weaknesses of the Textbook/Work text Approach:

- Is geared to the "generic" child. Does not take into account individual learning styles, strengths and weaknesses, or interests
- Assumes that there is a body of information that comprises an education and that this information can be broken down into daily increments
- Treats children's minds like containers to be filled with information
- Focuses on transmitting information through artificial learning experiences
- Is teacher-directed and chalkboard oriented
- Different aged students study different materials
- Expensive when teaching multiple children
- Discourages original, independent thinking
- Has a high "burn out" rate

Classical Education – Producing great minds throughout history, classical education acknowledges the three distinct stages of a child's cognitive development, known as the "trivium." In teaching a child through classical methods, there is the understanding that children absorb information differently in each of these three stages, therefore, learning is tailored accordingly. It incorporates formal instruction in logic, Greek, Latin, and the Great Works of Western Literature. This approach is excellent for teaching thinking skills and verbal/written expression.

The Well-Trained Mind - Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer – www.welltrainedmind.com

Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning - Douglas Wilson

The Case for Classical Christian Education - Douglas Wilson

Classical curriculum publishers:

Memoria Press – (877) 862-1097 – www.memoriapress.com

Peace Hill Press – (877) 322-3445 – www.peacehillpress.com

Veritas Press – (800) 922-5082 – www.veritaspress.com

Trivium Pursuit – (309) 537-3641 – www.triviumpursuit.com

Tapestry of Grace – 1-800-705-7487 – www.tapestryofgrace.com

Here are some questions to ask yourself before trying the classical approach with your child:

1. Does my family like to read good literature?
2. Are my children intellectually oriented and comfortable with a rigorous academic program?
3. Am I a learner? Am I comfortable learning alongside my children so I can teach them things I never studied?
4. Do I like to study and discuss ideas that have influenced civilization?

Strengths of the Classical Approach:

- Is tailored to stages of mental development
- Teaches thinking skills & verbal/written expression
- Creates self-learners
- Has produced great minds throughout history

Weaknesses of the Classical Approach:

- Very little prepared curriculum available
- Requires a scholarly teacher and student
- Strong emphasis on ancient disciplines and classics

Unit Studies - instead of studying subjects separately, one theme is delved into deeply over a period of time by integrating language arts, science, social studies, math and/or fine arts. Unit studies are great for large families because all ages can easily learn together. Intensely studying one topic is a natural way to learn and retain information, especially when the children choose their own subject. This type of schooling does take more planning on the part of the parent unless a unit study curricula is purchased.

How to Create your own Unit Study - Valerie Bendt

KONOS - (972) 924-2712 – www.konos.com

Learning Adventures – (812) 523-0999 – www.learning-adventures.org

Heart of Wisdom – www.heartofwisdom.com

Weaver – (800) 622-3070 - www.aop.com/weaver/index.php

Five in a Row – www.fiarhq.com

In the Hands of a Child – 1-866-426-3701 – www.handsofachild.com/shop

Here are some questions to ask yourself before trying unit studies with your children:

1. Am I a creative person?
2. Do I like trying to make everything interesting and fun?
3. Do my children have a variety of interests and learning styles?
4. Can I live with the fact that there may be "gaps" in my children's education?
5. Do I have the time and energy to be the driving, creative force behind the development of units?

Strengths of the Unit Study Approach:

- All ages can learn together
- Children can delve as deeply or as lightly into a subject as they like
- The family's interests can be pursued
- Students get the whole picture
- Curiosity and independent thinking are generated
- Intense study of one topic is the more natural way to learn
- Knowledge is interrelated so is learned easily and remembered longer
- Unit studies are fairly easy to create

Weaknesses of the Unit Study Approach:

- It is easy to leave educational "gaps"
- Hard to assess the level of learning occurring
- Record keeping may be difficult
- Prepared unit study curricula are expensive
- Do-it-yourself unit studies require planning
- Too many activity-oriented unit studies may cause burn-out of teacher & student
- Subjects that are hard to integrate into the unit may be neglected

Charlotte Mason Method – develops a love of learning through "living books," great literature and real-life experiences instead of textbooks. Children observe and interact with original sources in art, music, literature, and the natural world. This approach eliminates busy work and encourages curiosity and creative thinking.

A Charlotte Mason Education – Catherine Levison

Charlotte Mason Companion - Karen Andreola

For the Children's Sake - Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

Ambleside Online – free online curriculum utilizing Charlotte Mason methods – www.amblesideonline.org

Beautiful Feet – (800) 889-1978 - www.bfbooks.com/

My Father's World – www.mfwbooks.com

Simply Charlotte Mason – www.simplycharlottemason.com

Sonlight – (303) 730-6292- www.sonlight.com

Winter Promise – www.winterpromise.com

Here are some questions to ask yourself before trying the Charlotte Mason method:

1. Does our family love to read, both alone and together through reading aloud?
2. Do we love to go to the library?
3. Am I comfortable with more of a "free-form" approach to learning?
4. Will I follow through with teaching my children good habits and character qualities?
5. Do I trust my children to learn on their own?
6. Will I follow through with exposing my children firsthand to nature and to great art?

Strengths of Charlotte Mason Approach:

- Treats children as active participants in the learning process
- Exposes children to real objects and books instead of interactions with distilled information
- Encourages curiosity, creative thinking, and a love of learning
- Eliminates meaningless tasks, busywork
- Developmentally appropriate
- Stresses formation of good character and habits

Weaknesses of the Charlotte Approach:

- Tends to be child centered
- Little prepared curriculum available
- May neglect higher level studies by over emphasis on art, literature, and nature study
- May become too eclectic

Unschooling - differentiates "teaching" from "learning" with the philosophy that children are born naturally curious and eager to learn. Each child pursues their own interests while parents simply create a learning-rich environment. John Holt, a 20th century educator, believed children have an innate desire to learn what they need to know when they need to know it. He stated that this curiosity is destroyed by the traditional methods of teaching. This approach does lack the security of a clearly laid-out and defined curriculum. It is very child-centered and unstructured, however it does create self-learners who have plenty of time and space to figure things out on their own.

"Growing Without Schooling" Magazine - John Holt - www.holtgws.com/index.html

The Unschooling Handbook - Mary Griffith

The Joyful Homeschool - Mary Hood

Some questions to ask yourself before trying the Unschooling Approach:

1. Am I comfortable with few pre-set goals and little structure?
2. Do my children have strong interests in particular areas?
3. Does my family have a lot of natural curiosity and love learning?

Strengths of the Unschooling Approach:

- Takes little planning
- Captures the child's "teachable moments"
- Children have access to the real world, plenty of time and space to figure things out on their own
- Children are less likely to become academically frustrated or "burned out"
- Children can delve into a subject as deeply or as shallowly as they desire
- Provides a discipleship model of learning - Creates self-learners with a love of learning

Weaknesses of the Unschooling Approach:

- May neglect some subjects
- Hard to assess level of learning
- Lacks the security of a clearly laid out program
- Is extremely child-centered
- Difficult to explain to others
- May be overly optimistic about what children will accomplish on their own

Delayed Academics - based largely on the publications of lifelong educators Drs. Raymond and Dorothy Moore, this approach encourages cultivating a heart to worship, work and serving others before moving into formal academics. The Moores advocate waiting until a child is physically, mentally and emotionally ready to learn (often not until ages 9-12). Moore cites research that 9 year-olds can assimilate, in just 100 hours of instruction, the material other children have spent 4 years of their lives learning through drone seatwork. They emphasize learning through a broad spectrum of life experiences.

Home Grown Kids - Raymond and Dorothy Moore

Better Late than Early - Raymond and Dorothy Moore

The Mixed Approach – Many homeschoolers use a blend of the different approaches. For example, they may use traditional math and science textbooks, but build unit studies around historical periods that include language arts, music, art, and philosophy, and then choose a computer program to teach typing.

Acknowledgements:

Descriptions of styles and philosophies, along with the referenced resources written and compiled by a homeschool veteran, Mary Nett.

Questions, strengths, and weaknesses of each method appeared in an article on the Elijah Company website with the following copyright: Any article appearing on this website may be copied or forwarded electronically provided that proper credit is given and that the article is not substantively modified. No article may appear in whole or in part in a publication sold for profit or as part of any commercial endeavor without the written consent of The Elijah Company.

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HOMESCHOOL LAW

For more information of Legal Counsel:

HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) -- http://www.hslda.org/

Option 1

Section 59-65-40 Instruction during the school term at a place other than a school may be substituted for school attendance; provided, such instruction is approved by the State Board of Education as substantially equivalent to instruction given to children of like ages in the public or private schools where such children reside.

1. Parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is approved by the district board of trustees of the district in which children reside. A district board of trustees shall approve home schooling programs which meet the following standards:

    a. the parent holds at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate or

    b. has earned a baccalaureate degree;

2. the instructional day is at least four and one-half hours, excluding lunch and recesses, and the instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days;

3. the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature;

4. as evidence that a student is receiving regular instruction, the parent shall present a system for maintaining and maintain the following records for inspection upon reasonable notice by a representative of the school district:

    a. a plan book, diary, or other written record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent engage;

    b. a portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; and

    c. a record of evaluations of the student's academic progress. A semiannual progress report including attendance records and individualized assessments of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (3) must be submitted to the school district.

5. students must have access to library facilities;

6. students must participate in the annual statewide testing program and the Basic Skills Assessment Program approved by the State Board of Education for their appropriate grade level. The tests must be administered by a certified school district employee either with public school students or by special arrangement the student's place of instruction, at the parent's option. The parent is responsible for paying the test administrator if the test is administered at the student's home; and

A. parents must agree in writing to hold the district, the district board of trustees and the district's employees harmless for any educational deficiencies of the student sustained as a result of home instruction. At any time the school district determines that the parent is not maintaining the home school program in keeping with the standard specified in this section the district board of trustees shall notify the parent to correct the deficiencies within thirty days. If the deficiencies are not corrected within thirty days, the district board of trustees may withdraw its approval.

B. The district board of trustees shall provide for an application process which elicits the information necessary for processing the home schooling request, including a description of the program, the texts and materials to be used, the methods of program evaluation, and the place of instruction. Parents must be notified in advance of the date, place, and time of the meeting at which the application is considered by the board and parents may be heard at the meeting.

C. Within the first fifteen instructional days of the public school year, students participating in home instruction and eligible for enrollment in the first grade of the public schools must be tested to determine their readiness for the first grade using the readiness instrument approved by the State Board of Education for public school students. If a student is determined to be 'not ready' or is determined to lack the necessary emotional maturity, the parent must be advised by appropriate school district personnel whether a kindergarten or a first grade curriculum should be used for the child. Nothing in this section may be interpreted to conflict with a parent's right to exempt his child form kindergarten as provided in Section 59-65-10(A).

D. Should a student in a home schooling program score below the test requirements of the promotion standard prescribed for public school students by the State Board of Education for one year, the district board of trustees shall decide whether or not the student shall receive appropriate instructional placement in the public school, special services as a handicapped student, or home schooling with an instructional support system at parental expense. The right of a parent to enroll his child in a private or parochial school as provided in Section 59-65-10(A) is unaffected by this provision.

E. If a parent is denied permission to begin or continue home schooling by a district board of trustees, the decision of the school board may be appealed, within ten days, to the State Board of Education. Any appeal form the decision of the State Board of Education must be taken, within thirty days, to the family court.

Option 2

Section 59-65-45 In lieu of the requirements of 59-65-40 (the home schooling law), parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of the South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standards of SCAIHS exempts the home schooler from the further requirements of 59-65-40.

The State Department of Education shall conduct annually a review of the association's standard to insure that requirements of the association, at a minimum include:

A. A parent must hold at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general education development (GED) Certificate;

B. the instructional year is at least 180 days;

C. the curriculum includes, but is limited to , the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seen through twelve, compositions and literature.

By January thirtieth of each year, SCAIHS shall report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association to the children's respective school districts.

Option 3

Section 59-65-47 In lieu of the requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45, parents or guardians may teach their children at home if the instruction is conducted under the auspices of an association for homeschools which has no fewer than fifty members and meets the requirements of this section. Bona fide membership and continuing compliance with the academic standard of the association exempts the home school from the further requirements of Section 59-65-40 or Section 59-65-45.

The State Department of Education shall conduct annually a review of the association standards to insure that requirements of the association, at a minimum, include:

1. A parent must hold at least a high school diploma or the equivalent general educational development (GED) certificate;

2. the instructional year is at least one hundred eighty days;

3. the curriculum includes, but is not limited to, the basic instructional areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, and in grades seven through twelve, composition and literature; and

4. educational records shall be maintained by the parent-teacher and include:

A. a plan book, diary, or other record indicating subjects taught and activities in which the student and parent-teacher engage;

B. a portfolio of samples of the student's academic work; and

C. a semi-annual progress report including attendance records and individualized documentation of the student's academic progress in each of the basic instructional areas specified in item (3) above.

By January thirtieth of each year, all associations shall report the number and grade level of children home schooled through the association to the children's respective school districts.

Kindergarten

Compulsory attendance laws do apply to children who are five years of age on or before September 1st until they reach their 17th birthday or graduation from high school. Parents of children not yet six years of age on or before September 1st may sign a waiver with their public school district to opt for their child not to attend kindergarten, and a formal homeschooling program is not required. The right to waiver kindergarten is a separate issue from home schooling. You are **NOT** required to provide any formal schooling for kindergarten, and you **do not need to give any reason** for waiving kindergarten. It is best **not** to mention home schooling when you ask for the waiver form, as it might only cause confusion.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Option 1

Greenville County School District – 864-355-3100 -- http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/index.asp

Spartanburg County School District – a complete list of all schools in the 7 Spartanburg districts -- http://www.spartanburgchamber.com/education/districts_schools.asp

Contact the homeschooling coordinator in the district where your child would attend public school. Request a homeschooling application, complete it and return to the district office.

Option 2

SCAIHS (South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools) -- http://www.scaihs.org/

Option 3

AAA (Academic Advantage Association) – www.aaa-sc.com (Mona Lopez) – 864-968-1118 or info@aaa-sc.com

CHASE SC -- www.ChaseSC.com – 843-376-3209 or information@chasesc.com

Insights on Education -- www.insightsoneducation.org (Jill Boone) – IOE@charter.net

PHEA (Piedmont Home Educator's Association) -- http://www.phea.org (Martha Freitag) – 864-268-6880 or phea@att.net

CHECKLIST FOR GETTING STARTED

1. Pray, pray, and pray some more! The Lord needs to lead both parents….and when the Lord brings you to it, He'll bring you through it.
2. Write down your goals/objectives – what you feel you need to accomplish, focusing on what is most important to you…academics, character training, etc.
3. Choose which legal option you will homeschool under, and then request the appropriate paperwork, fill it out, and submit it with any appropriate fees. See the Legal Options section of this packet.
4. Join a support group for regular support, encouragement, social opportunities, academic activities, etc. Attend regular support meetings as you can. It helps so much to realize you are not the only one struggling with an issue and to know that "you're not alone".
5. Evaluate your philosophy of education. See the descriptions in the Philosophy and Style section of this packet. Choose your curriculum, identifying the learning style of your child. You do not have to use a "packaged curriculum", but can choose the pieces from each subject which best present the material to your child's learning style. You also should consider your teaching style and find the resources that best fit you and your child. If available, attend Homeschool conventions to browse the vast number of curriculum options, and also to participate in homeschooling workshops/seminars. Local support groups also offer curriculum share nights and used curriculum sales, which can be a great benefit.
6. Plan your school year, keeping in mind that 180 days must be completed between June 1 and May 31. You can choose a schedule that works for your family's lifestyle and regular schedule. You can choose to use the same schedule as the school district, or you can go year round and take every Friday off. Some families do a 6 weeks on 1 week off schedule. Count out your days and see what works best for you. From the very first day of school, you need to keep the documentation described elsewhere. Choose the form of record keeping that works best for you.
7. Consider joining your State Support Group, SCHEA – our legal advocates in Columbia.
8. Consider joining HSLDA. They provide legal services to members and continue to lobby for us to gain more freedom for homeschoolers nationwide.
9. Consider subscribing to magazines and newsletters.
10. Begin! Do not feel you need to duplicate a public school classroom, daily schedule, or calendar. Nor do you need to duplicate your closest friend's homeschool. Relax and cherish the time God has provided for you to have a lasting, life-long impact on the life of your child….and those your child will impact in the years to come!

DOCUMENTATION

Plan Book: The documented record of your lesson plans. Each day you count as a school day needs to have a written account of the educational activities your child engaged in. The plan book can also hold the record-keeping portion of the school (grades, attendance, etc.). You can make your own or purchase one at a teacher's store.

Portfolio: A folder or notebook containing samples of your child's work in (at minimum) the five required academic areas. It can be detailed or as simple as you choose. We suggest that you take a sample of your child's work every few weeks to include. Items may include: written report/essays, photographs, certificates, etc. For projects too large to be put into a portfolio, take a picture of your child working on the project and then another photo with the finished product to save the "memory".

Progress Report: Is a summary of the child's progress during the quarter or semester. You may list the subject, followed by grades; you may list "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory"; or you may write a few sentences describing the child's progress.

Attendance: Keep an account of the days you engaged in school activities.

RECORD KEEPING TOOLS

Homeschool Tracker – software available for download – a free basic version and a "plus" edition -- http://www.homeschooltracker.com/

Homeschool Reporting Online -- http://www.homeschoolreporting.com/

The Home Schooler's Journal/The Homeschooler's High School Journal – www.fergnusservices.com (also available for purchase at Children's Books)

The Homeschool Mom -- http://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/gettingorganized/allplanners.php

DonnaYoung.org Homeschool Printables and Resources -- http://donnayoung.org

WHAT ABOUT SOCIALIZATION?

Have a stock, memorized response to the "socialization" question.....**Socialization???**

Once others know that you will be homeschooling, a very common question will be "What about socialization?" That concern seems to be uppermost on everyone's mind, even more than your child's education or your capability. Rather than find yourself on the defensive, educate yourself to better answer others.

The term socialization can be defined in a positive way as the ability to relate to other people in a confident manner and cooperate within a group. Positive sociability builds responsibility, cooperation, kindness, fidelity, love, and trust. It molds a good self-image which responds quickly to peer pressure. A loving, outreaching home environment is the best socializer a child can have. Children learn good social skills by primarily watching

and mirroring their parents as they interact with others. Children in a classroom only have each other to emulate, all at the same level of ignorance. Because the "real" world is not age segregated, studies have shown that a homeschool child tends to mix freely with all ages and not just a narrow grouping. They tend to be natural leaders when older because they have learned to think for themselves and are not as easily influenced by peers. The question could be, "Do you want your child to model after you or after his peers and his teacher at school?"

SUPPORT

Family TOUCH (**T**eaching **O**pportunities for **U**pstate **C**hristian **H**omeschoolers):

www.familytouch.org

Family TOUCH is a Christian support group which exists to minister to the homeschooling families and those families using Virtual Charter Schools in the Greater Greenville area of Upstate South Carolina. Our group wishes to encourage the member families to "love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind." We desire to help equip the parents in their teaching role at home by providing information, resources, and leadership to our member families. We also offer support, encouragement, and prayer for one another as we journey together on this path of homeschooling. We provide field trips, forums, support meetings, fellowships, book sales, family events, etc. to the homeschooling community of greater Greenville County. We desire to help meet the varying needs of homeschoolers in our area. Our group is parent-led, which requires the involvement of every member family in some way. This also provides for much fellowship and joy as we work together. Our group is open to any Christian homeschooling family or family using Virtual Charter Schools in the area who has read, agreed to, and returned completed membership documents (which are available from our Membership Coordinator listed below).

"Paid Membership" Forum, contact the Membership Coordinator (listed below)
If you have questions, contact:

Family TOUCH – 864-469-0347

Administrative Coordinator, Angela Storay – Info@FamilyTOUCH.org

Member Relations Coordinator/Treasurer, Angie Burnett – Membership@FamilyTOUCH.org

Website Administrator – Shannon McCandless – Webmistress@FamilyTOUCH.org

FAMILY TOUCH SUB-GROUPS (members are always welcome to participate in ANY quadrant)

Northeast – (Greer/Taylors/Eastside Greenville) – NEQuad@FamilyTOUCH.org

Southeast – (Mauldin/Simpsonville/Fountain Inn) – SEQuad@FamilyTOUCH.org

Southwest – (Easley/Powdersville, Piedmont) –

SWQuad@FamilyTOUCH.org

Northwest – (Berea/Traveler's Rest/Tigerville) – NWQuad@FamilyTOUCH.org

Other Area Support Groups

CHEE (Christian Home Educators of Easley) – easleyhomeeducatorsofeasley.com – Judith Gravley 864-855-1766 - gravleypc@aol.com

Core Homeschool Network – http://groups.yahoo.com/group/corehsnetwork

Fellowship of Christian Homeschoolers - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FCHome

Easley Home Educators – http://yourservant.com/homeskool

Homeschool Family Forum – (Ray & Holly Sheen, local family who have now graduated both of their homeschooled daughters) -- http://www.homeschoolfamilyforum.com/

HOPES (Homeschooling Our Precious Exceptional Students) – to support those who are educating children with learning challenges – Contact: Mary Rees – 864-834-0264

SCHEA (SC Home Educator's Association – Statewide support) -- http://www.schomeeducatorsassociation.org/ (great site for resources on accountability options and ALL accountability associations, the Homeschool Law for SC, support groups, etc.)

THING (The Homeschoolers Inclusive Network of Greenville) - http://wwwthing.smfforfree3.com Inclusive group for homeschoolers in the Greenville area regardless of homeschooling methods or religious affiliation.

Tandy Collier (with SCHEA) -- has a Homeschooling High School notebook available and does workshops on transcripts, etc. -- jcoll0042@aol.com

UCH (Upstate Christian Homeschoolers) – 864-592-2828 – http://u-c-h.tripod.com – www.groups.yahoo.com/group/UCH/

CO-OPS/CLASSES

Classical Conversations – www.classicalconversationsbooks.com

CHELC – Christian Home Educators of Laurens County – http://chelc.net/

FOCUS Co-op - JoNell Kirkland jonellk@charter.net or Lori Hill hillstuff@bellsouth.net

Greenville Classical Academy (Homeschool classes & sports) **–** http://www.greenvilleclassical.com/

H.O.P.E. Homeschool Co-op – http://www.hopehomeschoolcoop.com/

Homeschool Resource Center – (homeschool classes) – www.phea.org

Pure Creations – numerous classes on a variety of topics – www.purecreations.net

Stars Co-op – http://starsco-op.com – Starscoop@yahoogroups.com

Upstate Homeschool Co-op – www.homeschool-life.com/sc/upstatehomeschoolcoop

YMCA Homeschool PE – http://www.ymcagreenville.org (contact your local YMCA for schedule)

TEEN AND HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORT

MIT/HIT (Middleschoolers in TOUCH/Highschoolers in TOUCH) -- the homeschooling middleschool and highschool support network of Family TOUCH Homeschool Support Group (to support and provide opportunities for students and parents)

For more information contact Family TOUCH: www.FamilyTOUCH.org

This support network is in the "launch pad" stage with the goal to implement the following opportunities as we grow and have leadership to facilitate and the facilities to accommodate:

- Parent support meetings based on topics of interest and need
- For families w/ 7th graders beginning their 2nd semester: High School Step-by-Step which would be a goal setting and planning series of 9 wks based on 1-2 books that help you plan out the H/S curriculum and document it. The kids could complete one of the texts and receive 1/4 credit in Freshman Study Skills or something such as that.
- A book discussion group to augment history and/or science classes which would enable parents to count those classes as "HONORS" format. Books could be of the parents choosing particular to their family's interest and texts. 2 books per year could be jointly read by all.
- Career Interest/Aptitude Analysis via folks like Larry Burkett (Crown Financial), etc

- Career Exploration/Mentoring Board/Speakers bureau-offer field trips to events like the Medical Career Talks at Greenville Tech to give kids an opportunity to hear about different fields of interest.
- Visit businesses that are owned/operated by entrepreneurs who left the corporate world, or never entered it, to prepare kids to think outside the 9-5 American Corporate box. Mentors could be set up to work w/ kids who have similar interests. This could count as a job internship, etc.
- Finance and Money Management seminars for teens/parents
- College Exploration - field trips for 9th grades and up to colleges such as Patrick Henry, Columbia International, North Greenville, Toccoa Falls, etc; Also, develop a resource 'library' of college handbooks/bulletins for kids to look over which would then fuel internet research in reference to the schools.
- Class in corporate manners and job app process/interviewing.
- Study groups/tutoring/SAT Prep classes
- Field trips related to the arts such as museums, art shows, concerts, plays, etc.
- Social Events
- PE

CareerTalks – Greenville Tech Campuses, Greenville, SC – various discussion topics related to Health Sciences and Nursing Fields -- held at the various locations - http://www.gvltec.edu/

HOMESCHOOL CONVENTIONS

North Carolina Home Educator's Convention – Winston Salem, NC -- www.nche.com

SCHEA Convention – Sumter, SC -- http://www.schomeeducatorsassociation.org

Southeast Homeschool Expo – Cobb Galleria, Atlanta, GA --

http://www.georgiahomeschool.com/

Great Homeschool Conventions – Greenville, SC -- http://www.greathomeschoolconventions.com

Teach Them Diligently – Spartanburg, SC -- http://www.teachthemdiligently.net

CURRICULA / CATALOGS / BOOKSTORES

New Curriculum Suppliers

ABeka – www.abeka.com/ – 1-877-ABEKABOOK -- (provides local hotel shows with free shipping)

Alpha Omega – www.aop.com – 1-800-622-3070

Apologia – www.apologia.com – 1-888-524-4727

Beautiful Feet – www.bfbooks.com – 503-833-8626

Bob Jones University Press – www.bjup.com – 800-845-5731 – (has Scratch & Dent bin at BJU Marketplace in Greenville on Wade Hampton/US 29)

Calvert School – www.calvertschool.org – 1-888-487-4652

Children's Books – (Lyman) - 557 Hammett Store Rd, Lyman, SC 29365 – www.homeschooldiscountproducts.com – 864-968-0391

Christian Liberty Press – www.christianlibertypress.com – 847-259-4444

Five in a Row – http://fiarhq.com – 816-246-9252

KONOS Character Curriculum – www.konos.com – 972-924-2712

Math-U-See – www.mathusee.com – 1-888-854-6284

My Father's World – www.mfwbooks.com

Peace Hill Press (Classical) – www.welltrainedmind.com

Saxon -- http://www.saxonhomeschool.com/ -- 1-800-416-8171 – Saxon math

Sonlight – www.sonlight.com – 303-730-6292

Tapestry of Grace – http://www.tapestryofgrace.com/ -- 1-800-705-7487

Video Text Interactive – www.videotext.com – 1-800-ALGEBRA

Winter Promise – www.winterpromise.com

Used Curriculum Sources

All Aboard Book Store (used curriculum – Tryon, NC) – 864-476-5555 – http://thecatspajamas.org/

VegSource Swap Board (used curriculum) -- www.vegsource.com/homeschool

Family TOUCH Used Curriculum/Book Sale (May) – Greenville, SC – www.FamilyTOUCH.org

Easley Home Educators Used Book Sale – Easley, SC -- lorieturner@yahoo.com

HINTS Bookfair – Matthews, NC. http://www.hintsonline.org

LOCAL SCHOOL SUPPLY STORES

Bowers School Supply – (Easley) – 864-855-3222 – www.BowersSchoolSupply.com

Children's Books – (Lyman) - 557 Hammett Store Rd, Lyman, SC 29365 – www.homeschooldiscountproducts.com – 864-968-0391

School Spot – (1042 A, Woodruff Road, Greenville) – 846-284-9305

CATALOGS / BOOKSTORES

Abe Books – www,abebooks.com (new, used, rare & out of print books)

Book Peddler – https://www.bookpeddler.us/index.php

CBD (Christian Book Distributors) – http://www.christianbook.com/

Classical Homeschooling – http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/contents.html

Hands-on Science – www.tobinslab.com/

ISBN Search – http://www.isbn.nu/ find a cheap price on a particular book

Library & Educational Services – www.libraryanded.com (wholesale to homeschoolers - everything from DVDs to books or books on cassettes/CD)

Rainbow Resource Center – www.rainbowresource.com

The Book Depository – www.bookdepository.com (ships free all over the world!)

Timberdoodle -- http://www.timberdoodle.com/index.asp

Vision Forum -- http://www.visionforum.com/

EDUCATOR'S DISCOUNTS

(ask for an "Educator's Discount" not a Homeschooler's Discount)

AC Moore – 10% discount to educators

Barnes & Noble – 20% discount for educators

Office Depot – "Office Depot Star Teacher Program" – 5% discount off purchases, plus 15% off copy services

Office Max – "MaxPerks for Teachers" -- $10 off every $75 spent on eligible products

Staples – "Staples Teacher Rewards" -- $10 reward certificate for every cumulative $100 spent

RESOURCES

Upstate Home School Resources Directory (Susan Ledford, editor) -- annual directory on homeschooling resources -- accountability associations, support groups, co-ops, sports options, music lessons, art classes, curr. choices, etc. -- $6.50 for a wealth of info) Order from her & pay postage, or purchase at Children's Books in Lyman (see Curricula section) -- Susanledford9@aol.com – **NOTE from the Family TOUCH Coordinator**: This packet Family TOUCH has put together is not a replacement for the HSRD. Susan's annual publication is well-worth the purchase, as it is a wealth of further detailed information.

BOOKS:

100 Top Picks for Homeschooling Curriculum – Cathy Duffy (www.cathyduffyreviews.com) An excellent resource for more discussion on teaching styles and curricula.

Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling – Debra Bell

The Well-Trained Mind -- Jesse Wise and Susan Wise Bauer

A Charlotte Mason Education – Catherine Levison (www.charlottemasoneducation.com)

The 3 R's Series (grades K-3) - Ruth Beechick

You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully (grades 4-8) - Ruth Beechick

The Way They Learn - Cynthia Tobias

Discover your Child's Learning Style - Mariaemma Willis M.S./Random House, Inc

Discover Your Children's Gifts - Don & Katie Fortune / Baker

MAGAZINES:

"Homeschooling Parent "– www.Homeschoolingparent.com – 936-756-2226

"Homeschooling Today" – www.homeschooltoday.com – 281-492-6050

"The Old Schoolhouse Magazine" – www.theoldhomeschoolhouse.com

"Homeschool World" – www.home-school.com – 800-346-6322

Helpful Homeschool Websites

Informational sites

Carolina Homeschooler	www.carolinahomeschooler.com
SC Information Highway	www.sciway.net/edu/k12/homeschooling.html
Greenville Co. Library	www.greenvillelibrary.org
Spartanburg County Library	www.infodepot.org

Art

Arts Attack	www.homeschoolart.com
How Great Thou Art Publications	www.howgreatthouart.com
Miller Pads and Paper	www.milderpadsandpaper.com
Visual Manna	www.visualmanna.com

Bible

Balancing the Sword	www.balancingthesword.com
Picture This! Ministries	www.bibledraw.com

Character Development

Doorposts Publishing	www.doorposts.net
Generations of Virtue	www.generationsofvirtue.org
Institute in Basic Life Principles	www.store.iblp.org
Moms in Touch	www.momsintouch.org
Pumpkin Seed Press	www.pumpkinseedpress.net

Foreign Languages

Learnables Foreign Language	www.learnables.com
Powerglide	www.power-glide.com
Rosetta Stone	www.rosettastone.com

Geography

Geography Matters	www.geomatters.com
Map Link	www.maplink.com
Sheppard Software - online games	www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games.htm
USA Geography	www.50states.com
International Geography	www.countryfacts.com

History

Beautiful Feet	www.bfbooks.com
My Father's World	www.mywbooks.com
Notgrass Company	www.notgrass.com
Rod & Staff Publications	www.rodstaff.com
Sonlight Curriculum	www.sonlight.com
Summit Ministries	www.summit.org
Veritas Press	www.veritaspress.com

SC History:

Upcountry History Museum	www.upcountryhistory.org/
SC Dept of Archives & History	http://scdah.sc.gov/education.htm
Gallopade International	www.gallopade.com/
National Parks	www.nps.gov
State Parks	www.southcarolinaparks.com

Visitor Center Resources – Choose an area of history, go to an attraction of that topic and spend some time in the visitor center. Lots of resources, books, maps, DVDs, etc. available on that topic of choice. Some will have a short video & some will have hands-on interpretive centers. Check the schedule for their ranger programs/talks/walks, etc. State Parks Visitor Centers have lots of resources like this too. Let your kids choose some stickers, postcards, or something like that from the visitor center, and then they can use them in some of their activities or in scrapbooking their photos from that outing.

Language Arts

Easy Grammar	www.easygrammar.com
Institute for Excellence in Writing	www.writing-edu.com
Learning Language Arts Through Lit.	www.commonsensepress.com
Online Reading Teacher	www.onlinereadingteacher.com
Progeny Press	www.progenypress.com
Total Language Plus	www.totallanguageplus.com
Write at Home	www.writeathome.net
WriteShop	www.writeshop.com
Writing Strands	www.writingstrands.com

Math

Chalk Dust Company	www.chalkdust.com
Cuisenaire/Miquon	www.etacuisenaire.com
Math-U-See	www.mathusee.com
Muggins Math Games	www.mugginsmath.com
Singapore Math	www.singaporemath.com
Teaching Textbooks	www.teachingtextbooks.com
Video Text Interactive	www.videotext.com

Science

Apologia Educational Ministries	www.apologia.com
God's Design for Science	www.answersingenesis.com
Home Science Tools	www.hometrainingtools.com
Tobin's Lab	www.tobinslab.com

Speech and Debate

Communicators for Christ	www.communicatorsforchrist.com

Unit Study

In the Hands of a Child	www.handsofachild.com
Love to Learn	www.lovetolearn.net
Unit Studies & Lapbooking	www.homeschoolshare.com

Test Prep Sites

www.4tests.com
www.studyhall.com
www.bjupress.com/testing

High School Helps

www.HSLDA.org/highschool
www.collegenet.com
www.thehomescholar.com
www.homeschooloasis.com

Transcripts

www.teascript.com
www.covenant.edu/admissions/undergrad/home-schooled

Worksheets and Free Printables

http://chartjungle.com/
http://schoolexpress.com/
www.abcteach.com
www.americanheritage.org
www.atozteacherstuff.com
www.bookadventure.org
www.dltk-teach.com
www.donnayoung.org
www.enchantedlearning.com
www.filefolderfun.com
www.first-school.ws
www.helpingwithmath.com
www.homeschoolerhelperonline.com
www.homeschooling.about.com
www.hubbardscupboard.com
www.internet4classrooms.com
www.kidzone.com
www.math.about.com
www.mathlearningcenter.org
www.mes-english.com
www.nationalgeographic.com
www.schoolexpress.com
www.superteacher.com
www.teach-nology.com
www.tlsbooks.com
www.worksheetsworks.com

Online Educational Games

www.calculationnation.nctm.org (math games)
www.freetyping.net
www.gamequarium.com (math games)
www.goodtyping.com
www.shepherdssoftware.com (all subjects)
www.spellingcity.com (spelling & vocabulary)