

Dear Prospective Homeschooler,

You have begun a life changing process, educating your children at home. Few decisions can have such a significant impact your home and your children's education as the decision to homeschool. Home education is a great opportunity and a great responsibility. The rewards can be tremendous!

While many parents begin home education focused on their children, you will soon recognize that out of necessity you have become a learner also. You may experience a whole new appreciation for subjects that challenged you during your school years. While the process of beginning to homeschool can be overwhelming, I encourage you that you can do it and do it successfully.

In the following resources you will find answers to some of your questions and develop many more questions. Below is a table of contents for the resources in this package.

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God bless you as begin your homeschool!

Fort Wayne Area Home Schools

Are You Considering Homeschooling?

This outline suggests a plan of action for exploring the idea of homeschooling, and then gives you guidelines for planning and preparing for your first year.

I. Start Reading

- A. Search the Word of God for your role and responsibilities as a parent.
 - 1. Pray for wisdom and guidance. Expect the Lord to answer your sincere questions through His Word. (James 1:5)
 - 2. Here are a few scriptures to get you started in your search: Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:6-9, Proverbs 6:20-23, 22:6 and Ephesians 6:4. Also notice the examples of men who loved and served God but neglected to training of their children and lost them to sin.
- B. There are many books on the topic of homeschooling. See the list provided for a sampling of these titles. Many are in the local library.
- C. The following periodicals will "plug you in" to the home-school community and movement, nationally and locally. There are other national magazines as well.
 - 1. *IAHE Informer*, published by Indiana Association of Home Educators, P.O. Box 217 Stilesville, IN 46180. Phone: 317-467-6244. Web site: <https://iahe.net>. Their purpose is to provide information, inspiration and support to Christian home-schooling families. Subscriptions are free upon request.
 - 2. *Homemade News*, % Ambia Cooper, 1753 Richfield Drive, New Haven, IN 46774. (\$14.00 for 4 quarterly issues, \$10.00 before July 1.) Published by the Fort Wayne Area Home Schools (FWAHS), it contains a calendar of events, resources, opportunities, classified ads from subscribers, students' poetry and short prose, legislative news, and book reviews.

II. Attend an Orientation Meeting

- A. These meetings are held quarterly. For the next available date check our website at <http://www.fwahs.org/orientation.htm>. Prospective and beginning home-school parents hear a short presentation of the basics of home education and have ample opportunity to ask questions.
- B. Newsletter subscriptions, Resource Expo packets, free samples, as well as materials for purchase are available at the meeting.

III. Make your decision

It is wise to make your decision before May when planning to home school the following fall. This gives you time to decide on a course for the academic instruction of your children and place orders no later than July 1. During the peak ordering season, some curriculum orders can take 4 to 6 weeks to arrive. You will want most of the month of August to acquaint yourself with your new texts and make lesson plans.

IV. Name your school

- A. Having a ready answer to the usual "where do you go to school?" will help both you and your child feel more normal and legitimate.
- B. Indiana law categorizes home schools with other non-accredited private school. You should consider your school to be a bona fide school.
- C. Occasionally it is also advantageous to order materials in your school name.

V. Order your materials for the coming school year

- A. Your best source of advice will be experienced home schoolers. Don't be shy in asking their opinions about various programs, publishers, and texts. But do not try to copy another family's school. Every family is unique, as is every child, and no home school is perfect. Most families change something every year.
- B. *Basic Home School Information*, compiled by *The Teaching Home* magazine, (\$3.75) will help you sort through the different approaches to home education. This book takes 10 different philosophies and briefly explains each, tells you who the leading proponents are, and then where to get their materials.
- C. Ruth Beechick's books, *You Can Teach Your Child Successfully* (Grades 4-8), and *The Three-R's Series: A Strong Start in Language, A Home Start in Reading, and An Easy Start in Arithmetic* (for preschool through grade 3) are intensely practical and encouraging. They could have been listed in the "Read" section but they are put here to emphasize the fact that they should be read before you purchase your curriculum. Dr. Beechick demystifies all the educational jargon and plainly tells you the goal of each subject and practical ways to reach those goals. She makes it sound simple and makes you feel great about your ability to teach.
- D. Curriculum fairs: Here you can examine most texts from the major Christian publishers. You can talk to representatives from the companies and school. You can quiz a few veteran home schoolers about their experience with the different programs and materials. And you will leave with more catalogs and brochures than you ever really want! (*The FWAHS Home Educators' Resource Expo* is held in May each year at the War Memorial Coliseum. The *IAHE Informer* includes a section announcing other fairs in the state.)

- E. *The Big Book of Home Learning*, by Mary Pride, is a four-volume set that can help you sort through the different programs, publishers, and materials. It is the most comprehensive. This is not just a commentary on curriculum, although that is done subject by subject with dozens of materials and recommendations in each chapter. It is also filled with useful and interesting information on almost any subject related to home learning.
- F. *Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual, Elementary Grades* and *Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual, Junior/Senior High*, by Cathy Duffy. These two volumes help you choose materials and methods best for each child. They give an overview of major Christian publishers' materials; information on learning styles; and organizational, planning, and scheduling helps.
- G. You may still have a difficult time making your decision because you want to start out with the perfect curriculum, realize that in your first year you will learn where your child is academically, how he learns best, and some of your own preferences in texts. It is important to get started. As your confidence builds, you will begin to see where changes are necessary. One advantage to home schooling is that you can substitute a new text for one that is not working.

VI. Join HSLDA

Consider joining the Home School Legal Defense Association which provides prepaid legal protection for \$100/year. For an application contact: HSLDA, P. O. Box 3000, Purcellville, VA 20134 Phone: 540-338-5600. Web site: www.hslda.org. If you are a subscriber to FWAHS's *Homemade News*, a \$15.00 discount is available from HSLDA.

VII. Establish your goals

- A. Your most important goals will be the character training of your child. Obedience, self-discipline, forbearance, kindness, etc., are far more important than academics. Ask the Father to show you the way in which your child should be going. Write down those goals. Refer to them occasionally, so that you can encourage yourself or realign yourself with them.
- B. Begin to make your lesson plans. Divide a text into the number of weeks you want to spend on it. Then write out some general long term plans and a few weeks of specific short term lesson plans. (Use pencil because days have a way of sometimes going awry and you can then be flexible.) You can add to and adjust your plans throughout the year. Include field trips and projects that complement your studies.

VIII. Keep accurate records

You must keep daily, accurate attendance records. It is wise although not required to date all of your child's work and to keep as much of it as you have room for. As a minimum, keep tests, reports, lesson plans, and samples of all other assignments.

IX. Find the support you need, when you need it

Getting to know other homeschoolers in a field trip group may prove to be all the additional support you need. Other times a Mom's meeting, a seminar, a convention, or a roller skating party full of homeschoolers may "cure what ails ya."

This publication has been used primarily in the Fort Wayne area. If you live elsewhere, check with your local support group to see if similar helps are available. IAHE can assist you in finding a local support group in Indiana. Contact IAHE at P.O. Box 217 Stilesville, IN 46180. Phone: 317-467-6244. www.iahe.net.

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Homeschool Preparation

Below you will find a suggested schedule of preparation for parents desiring to homeschool their children. We hope to direct you to helpful resources and information. The responsibility, however, to research and become prepared to teach your children at home is yours. It is work and will take time. You do have the advantage of a vast number of books on the subject as well as many veteran home schooling parents to give you ideas. Each home school is unique, so be selective when patterning your school after anyone else. If possible, do not pull your child out of a traditional school setting mid-term. For best results, be as prepared as possible as far in advance as possible.

Calendar of Preparation to Homeschool

August – January

- Research references at the Allen County Public Library. (Librarians are more than willing to help you find homeschool materials, or check their web-site at: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/children/homeschool.html>).
- Read books, review Mary Pride's Big Book of Home Learning or Cathy Duffy's Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual for curriculum options.
- Visit publisher's websites, request samples.
- Subscribe to our FWAHS newsletter, Homemade News, to find out more of what is available to homeschoolers in the Fort Wayne area.

February - May

- Attend a FWAHS orientation meeting, visit www.fwahs.org for dates.
- Attend a support group meeting or other open event advertised in the Homemade News to meet other home schooling families.
- Attend the FWAHS Resource Expo and Expo Preview (especially for new homeschoolers).

June

- Attend the FWAHS and other area used book sales. (Ask parents about the curriculum they use.)
- Order curriculum not yet purchased.

July - August

- Review curriculum and make lesson plans.
- Attend organizational meetings for field trip groups, support groups and etc.
- Start school.

BOOKS ON HOME SCHOOLING

A Selected List

Most books are available at the Allen County Public Library. Visit the ACPL web-site at <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/index.html> to place books on hold or search for more books on homeschooling.

100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum: Choosing the Right Curriculum and Approach for Your Child's Learning Styles / Cathy Duffy

Better Than School / Nancy Wallace

Beyond Survival: A Guide to Abundant-Life Homeschooling / Diana Waring

A Biblical Home Education: Building your Homeschool on the Foundation of God's Word / Ruth Beechick

Christian Home School / Gregg Harris

The Complete Home Learning Source Book / Rebecca Rupp

Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling / John Taylor Gatto

An Easy Start in Arithmetic / Ruth Beechick

Educating the WholeHearted Child / Sally Clarkson

Growing up Writing / Linda Leonard Lamme

The Heart of Homeschooling / Christopher J. Klicka

Help for the Harried Homeschooler: A Practical Guide for Balancing Your Child's Education with the Rest of Your Life / Christine Field

Home Grown Kids / Raymond & Dorothy Moore

Home School: Taking the First Step: the Complete Program Planning Handbook / Borg Hendrickson.

Home School Burnout / Raymond & Dorothy Moore

The Home School Journey / Susan Card

Home School Manual / Theodore E. Wade

Home School Source Book / Donn Reed

- Home-Schoolers Complete Reference Guide* - Covers all subjects K-6th / Kay Gries Milow
- The Homeschooler's Guide for Learning Problems: Practical Tips for Daily Success* / Jill J. Dixon
- Homeschooling at the Speed of Life: Balancing Home, School, and Family in the Real World* / Marilyn Rockett
- The Homeschooling Book of Answers: the 88 Most Important Questions Answered by Homeschooling's Most Respected Voices* / [compiled by] Linda Dobson.
- Homeschooling Father* / Michael Farris
- Homeschooling for Excellence* / David Colfax
- Homeschooling from a Biblical Worldview* / Israel Wayne
- Homeschooling the Challenging Child: A Practical Guide* / Christine Field
- Homeschooling: The Right Choice* / Christopher Klicka
- Home Education 101: A Mentor's Manual* / Vicki Bentley
- Home Learning Year by Year: How to Design a Homeschool Curriculum from Preschool through High School* / Rebecca Rupp
- Home Schools: an Alternative: You do have a Choice!* / Cheryl Gorder.
- Home-Spun Schools* / Raymond & Dorothy Moore
- A Home Start in Reading* / Ruth Beechick
- Home Style Learning* / Philip S. Morse
- Home Style Teaching* / Raymond & Dorothy Moore
- Home Sweet Homeschool: a Survivor's Guide to Giving your Kids a Quality Education* / Sue Maakestad
- The How and Why of Homeschooling Expanded Edition* / Ray Ballmann
- How to Create Your Own Study Unit* / Valerie Bendt
- How to Get Your Child Off the Refrigerator and On to Learning: Homeschooling Highly Distractible, ADHD, or Just Plain Fidgety Kids* / Carol Barnier
- How to Home-School (Yes, You)* / Julia Toto
- How to Teach Your Child* / Veltisezar B. Bautista
- I Learn Better by Teaching Myself; and Still Teaching Ourselves* / Agnes Leistico

Learning at Home: Preschool and Kindergarten / Ann Ward

The Little Book of Big Reasons to Homeschool / David D'Escoto

Life Skills for Kids: Equipping Your Child for the Real World / Christine Field

Mary Pride's Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling / Mary Pride

Modern Montessori at Home II / Heidi Anne Spietz

A Mom Just Like You / Vickie Farris and Jayme Metzgar

Mommy, Teach Me! / Barbara Curtis

The Passionate Mind / Michael Schulman

Raising Wise Children / Carolyn Kohlenberger

A Sacred Foundation / Michael Farris and Reed Elam

Schooling at Home / Anne Pedersen & Peggy O'Mara

So why do you Homeschool? : Answering Questions People Ask About Home Education / Mimi Davis

So You're Thinking about Homeschooling, Revised / Lisa Whelchel

Strong Start in Language / Ruth Beechick

The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook / Raymond Moore, Dorothy Moore

Survivor's Guide to Home Schooling / Luanne Shackelford

Teach your Child Math / Arthur Benjamin

Teach your Own: a Hopeful Path for Education / John Caldwell Holt

Teach your Own: the John Holt Book of Homeschooling / John Caldwell Holt

Things We Wish We'd Known / Diana Waring

The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens / Debra Bell

The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling, 10th Anniversary Edition / Debra Bell

The Underground History of American Education: A School Teacher's Intimate Investigation into the Problem of Modern Schooling / John Taylor Gatto

A Thomas Jefferson Education: Teaching a Generation of Leaders for the Twenty-First Century / Oliver DeMille

What your Child Needs to Know When / Robin Scarlata

When Homeschooling Gets Tough: Practical Advice to Stay on Course / Diana Johnson

When You Rise Up: A Covenantal Approach to Homeschooling / R.C. Sproul Jr.

Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling: Facts & Stats / Brian Ray

You Can Teach your Child Successfully - Grades 4 - / Ruth Beechick

You've decided to Homeschool, Now What? / Marsha Hubler

AUDIO VISUAL MATERIALS ON HOMESCHOOLING:

You Can Homeschool: A Closer Look / HSLDA

Homeschooling: Is it For You? / Free the Mind Productions

These selections were compiled by FWAHS Board members and other sources to aid new and prospective homeschoolers. The content within the resources are not necessarily FWAHS-endorsed and each family should use their own discretion and wisdom.

Tips on Choosing a Curriculum

One of the most difficult decisions a home educator has to make is deciding which curriculum to use. It is important to understand that there is no "one perfect curriculum." What works well for one student does not mean that it will work well for another student. In a way, choosing curriculum is a lot like choosing clothing. You need to consider the style (the basic philosophy of education of the authors or publishers of the curriculum), the material it is made of (the specific teaching/learning approach to education), its durability for what you plan to use it for (whether or not it is teacher friendly), and the fit (its appropriateness to the learning style of the student and the appropriateness to the home-schooling family's lifestyle). Sometimes you just have to try it out to see if it works for you!

Before making a decision on curriculum, it is helpful to obtain a scope and sequence which provides a guide as to what subject matter a child should be taught at each grade level. Individual publishers put these out for their particular curriculum and whole books have been written on what students need to know at what grade level.

There are various styles of curriculum that are available with their specific philosophy of learning and approach or method of teaching. Some examples are:

1. Delayed learning - Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Moore (Hewitt-Moore Foundation).

They believe that children are not mature enough in several areas of development to begin academic learning until the ages of 8-10. Emphasis is put on character training until that time.

2. Traditional - This approach teaches children the basic "subjects" of language arts (reading, writing, spelling, and grammar), math, science, and history in grades 1-12 using textbooks.

Examples - A Beka, Bob Jones University Press, Rod & Staff and Mott Media.

Correspondence schools using the same - A Beka and Christian Liberty Academy.

3. Unit Studies - This approach uses a topic around which to develop all "subjects" such as reading, writing, some math and language, science, history, art, and music. You can teach multi levels of children at the same time.

Examples - KONOS, Weaver, Bill Gothard's Advanced Training Institute, and Alta Vista.

You can also make up your own Unit Studies - incorporating various subject areas by using the scope and sequence as your guide.

4. Mastery Learning and Programmed Learning: A self-paced curriculum where students are able to master material on their level of learning before proceeding to the next level.

Examples - (combined with the traditional approach) Alpha Omega, Christian Light, and A.C. E.'s Basic Education.

5. Classical Approach - The emphasis is on giving children tools of how to learn. It adds logic, debate, and classical language in grades 5 and 6.

Example - The Classics (published by The Helping Hand)

6. There are other approaches which may be discovered through your personal research.

After becoming familiar with the various curriculums available, the next consideration is your child's learning style. Observe your child in action when he or she is learning a new task. There are three basic learning styles - visual, auditory, and kinesthetic (hands-on). Keep in mind that as more research is being done, more styles are being recognized and identified; however, they all stem from the three basics.

Your goal in choosing a curriculum is to fit the curriculum to the student. For example, if you have an auditory or hands-on learner, they will probably not respond well to lots of workbooks or silent reading. On the other hand, if you have a child that hates role-playing, dramatization, and creative activities, that child would not respond well to some of the Unit Study curriculums that emphasize those activities. Be open to the idea of mixing curriculums and providing supplemental materials that enhance your child's particular learning style, and don't be afraid of creating some of your own!

Once you've considered the learning style of the student, your focus should move to the teacher- YOU!

1. First, ask yourself these questions: What do you think the role of the teacher is? How do you feel that your children learn best? From the answers to those two questions you should be able to narrow down which teaching approach/method that you would be most comfortable with.

2. Second, make a personal assessment of where you are in this season of your life as far as time commitments. Be sure to include your spouse's input and his/her commitment as well. Also, consider your strengths and weaknesses, (creative, flexible, need for structure, need for guidance in teaching, etc.). You will want to balance the time you will need to plan and prepare your lessons with the time you have allocated to family, home, and other commitments. Look for a curriculum that will be "user friendly" for you and your particular situation.

3. Thirdly, ask yourself the following questions when comparing curriculums:

a. Can I keep up with the demands of a correspondence school? Will being under the authority of a correspondence school make me feel more secure and confident and help me to be better disciplined or will it be overwhelming?

b. Am I disciplined enough to keep attendance records and curriculum plans on my own so that I could use various texts in major subject areas?

c. Do I need the help of a Teacher's Manual to help me explain or direct the material? If yes, compare the various Teacher's Manuals to see which ones provide enough instruction/direction for you.

d. Do I have the time to research for books and materials in the library on a frequent basis? All curriculums should be supplemented with library materials; however, Unit Studies require more time researching and preparing.

e. Do I like working with a group in sharing teaching responsibilities or would I rather work on my own? Some Unit Study programs encourage group teaching. The decision to participate or not is a personal one.

f. Are my children self-directed and self-motivated enough to learn well using a self-paced program or do they need more direction and motivation from the teacher?

g. Would I feel comfortable using texts for the major subject areas and doing multi-level teaching for subjects such as: Bible, science, history, art/music, literature, geography, oral reading, physical education, and character traits? You can create your own unit studies which stem from a theme, a character trait, or period in history, in which you include all of your children.

The answers to these questions should help you narrow the selection of available curriculum to a more manageable level. You can check out *The Big Book of Home Learning* by Mary Pride or Cathy Duffy's *Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual* for names and addresses of publishers. Google your questions. Do keep in mind that it is not the curriculum that guarantees educational success, but rather the teaching. In your teaching, use as many of the senses as possible. Include supplemental materials and manipulatives, take field trips, and get involved with other groups of home educators to round out your choice of curriculum.

Curriculum Sources

These sources are not necessarily FWAHS-endorsed and we encourage each family to use discretion in selecting their curriculum.

A Beka Book

877-223-5226

<http://www.abeka.com/>

Alpha Omega

800-622-3070

<http://www.aophomeschooling.com/>

Bob Jones University

800-845-5731

<http://www.bjupress.com/page/Home>

Christ Centered Publications

800-778-4318

<http://www.christcentercurriculum.com/>

Christian Book Distributors

800-247-4784

<http://www.christianbook.com/>

Christian Liberty Press

800-832-2741

<http://www.christianlibertypress.com/>

Christian Light Education

877-226-8010

<http://www.clp.org/>

Covenant Home Curriculum

800-578-2421

<http://www.covenanthome.com/>

KONOS

972-924-2712

<http://www.konos.com/www/index.html>

Saxon Publishers

800-225-5425

<http://saxonhomeschool.hmhco.com/en/saxonhomeschool.htm>

School of Tomorrow (ACE)

972-315-1776

<http://www.aceministries.com/>

Sycamore Tree Inc

888-334-6711

<http://www.sycamoretree.com/>

Sing 'n Learn

800-460-1973

<http://www.singnlearn.com/>

Timberdoodle Co

800-478-0672

<http://www.timberdoodle.com/>

The Weaver Curriculum

800-622-3070

<http://www.aophomeschooling.com/weaver/overview.php>

This list is not comprehensive and there are many other good curriculum sources available. A list of vendors who attended the FWAHS Resource Expo is also available at <http://www.fwahs.org/vendorlist.htm>.

Check here if you are:

- ☐ a single parent/
widow
☐ a new subscriber

(Please print clearly)

Date received by FWAHS

Date newsletter sent
(office use only)

2011-2012 School Year

HOMEMADE NEWS SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Fort Wayne Area Home Schools' Newsletter

NAME _____
LAST FATHER MOTHER

ADDRESS _____
STREET OR BOX CITY STATE ZIP + 4 digits

PHONE (____) _____

E-MAIL _____

Grades of children homeschooled in 2011-2012:

Grade Grade Grade Grade

☐ I will have a homeschool
graduate in 2012. Please contact me
about participating in the FWAHS
Commencement Ceremony.

Full name of graduate (first, middle, last):

____ M/F

____ M/F

*** In respect of the privacy of newsletter subscribers, the above information will be kept confidential. ***

HOMEMADE NEWS SUBSCRIPTION RATES (CHECK ONE)

- ____ 1. Special Rate (Postmarked BY June 30, 2011): \$10.00 4 quarterly issues (August 2011 - May 2012)
- ____ 2. Regular Rate (Postmarked AFTER June 30, 2011): \$14.00 4 quarterly issues (August 2011 - May 2012)
- ____ 3. Mid-Year Rate (Postmarked AFTER January 1, 2012): \$8.00 (February and May 2012)
- ____ 4. Single Copy Rate: \$4.00 (check one): ____ Aug 2011 ____ Nov 2011 ____ Feb 2012 ____ May 2012

(To participate in FWAHS 2011-2012 group achievement testing, you must subscribe by February 15, 2012.)

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By Mail: Send check and completed subscription form to: **Homemade News**
c/o Ambia Cooper
1735 Richfield Drive
New Haven, IN 46774

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Checklist for Starting a School Year

by Cindy Short and Sue Welch, editors

☐ **Prayer.** Pray for wisdom, guidance, and strength (Prov. 3:5-6). Make a daily quiet time with God top priority.

☐ **Communication.** Maintain good communication with your spouse at each step in the process. One parent may do most of the research, planning, or teaching, but the other should be informed and involved in decision-making, especially setting goals.

☐ **Goals.** Write out, or review, your long-range goals and philosophy (fundamental convictions) for your children's education and training. Include Bible verses and plan for both academic subjects and nonacademic areas such as character and life skills.

Make changes or additions as you gain insight and experience.

☐ **Inventory.** Take inventory of each child's knowledge, skills, and character. You may use standardized tests, publishers' diagnostics, or homemade oral or written tests in addition to your everyday observations.

☐ **Objectives.** Set objectives for each child that will move him toward your long-range goals. (Several children can share similar objectives in subjects like history or science. They would usually be at different levels in math and have different needs in character development.)

You may find a publisher's scope and sequence or a list of concepts usually taught at each level helpful for ideas or a guide in choosing materials to fit your objectives.

Discuss these objectives with each child privately, and explain how they fit into the big picture of his future.

☐ **Methods.** Consider various teaching methods, curriculum, and other available resources. Basic differences involve the degree of structure or flexibility you wish to use at each stage of your child's development.

If possible, visit a curriculum fair.

☐ **Budget.** Rework your budget, allocating funds for educational materials. You may be able to spend less on "school" clothes or transportation and emphasize learning tools, books, and games for gifts. Less expensive foods that require more

preparation cut costs and also provide life skills education.

☐ **Reference Library.** Add to your family's library of reference books, quality literature, and educational audio-visual and software aids that will help meet your objectives.

☐ **Libraries.** Learn how to use your local library system and how to reserve books or order them through interlibrary loans. Explore the reference section. Also browse through your church library.

☐ **Materials.** Choose and list the methods and materials that you will use to meet your objectives for each child this year. Then, ideally, order or collect materials early!

Textbooks or workbooks can be supplemented with unit studies, games, projects, etc., to cover all objectives.

You may select only parts of some books if the other material will be (or was) covered at another time.

Decide which of your children could be taught some material together for most efficient use of time and effort.

For example, you could read a Christian history text at an intermediate-level to all your children, assigning age-appropriate projects such as oral discussion or a play for young children, extra reading or research for older children.

☐ **Legal Arrangements.** To comply with your state laws as fully as possible, contact your state organization and consider joining Home School Legal Defense Association.

☐ **Household Organization.** Do a thorough cleaning of your house. Get rid of unused items and store little-used ones out of the way. Designate a place for everything, including space for books and school supplies.

☐ **Family Schedule.** Reorganize your family's schedule and chore assignments to fit your educational activities. Train children to do household tasks and establish regular meal and bed times.

☐ **Discipline.** Deal consistently with behavior or attitude problems.

☐ **Commitment.** Be prepared to handle opposition or lack of immediate success through prayer, adjustment, and perseverance.

☐ **Head Start.** Establish nonacademic (e.g., Bible, life skills) portions of your program several weeks before other studies begin.

☐ **Teacher Review.** Study basics of math, phonics, and spelling to prepare for presenting them to your children. Look through an English handbook that you will use for reference. You can learn or review other material with your children as they study it.

☐ **Calendar.** Plan your year's calendar, marking school days, test days, vacations, and special events.

☐ **Preparation.** Familiarize yourself with your curriculum, noting unit divisions, and collect any needed supplementary materials.

☐ **Planning.** Decide and list which topics, units, or subjects you will cover during which weeks or months to make an overall year's plan.

For example, you could plan a certain number of pages per day in math and language, a chapter every two weeks in history and science, or a history chapter each week in the first semester and a science chapter each week in the second. Units can also be shifted to coincide with related events or seasons.

☐ **School Schedule.** Use your plan to develop your daily and weekly schedule of studies.

☐ **Record Keeping.** Decide how you will record planned and actual activities.

☐ **Supplies.** Gather record-keeping and filing supplies, general school supplies, and special project supplies.

☐ **First Week.** Plan your first week or unit, referring to your overall plan.

☐ **Celebrations.** Plan special celebrations for the first day of school and for the completion of the first week or unit of study as well as for the mastery of significant skills.

☐ **Explanations.** Carefully explain your expectations and procedures to your children.

☐ **Beginning.** Get started and keep going. Make adjustments as needed. Enjoy this privilege of investing your life moment-by-moment in the lives of your children!

20 Elements of Success in Christian Home Education

Periodically evaluating how your family includes and balances these basic elements will keep you on track for success.

1. Bible Knowledge

Develop your children's Bible knowledge and Bible study skills by ordering grade-level Bible curriculum from a Christian publisher, choosing an ungraded family Bible study guide, or reading through the Bible together, stopping to explore meanings and applications. Memorize Bible passages together by drilling verse cards, reading or reciting aloud, or writing and rewriting them.

2. Scriptural Perspective

Curriculum materials from Christian publishers avoid atheistic slants and portray a biblical view. When you use other materials (e.g., library books and encyclopedias), guide your children's understanding in light of Scripture. You can do Bible studies based on school topics as well.

3. World View

Knowledge of Bible doctrine and principles provides a vantage point for an accurate, discerning, yet compassionate world view.

4. Character Training

Qualities such as diligence, responsibility, and consideration can be studied in the Bible and other literature, charted to show personal progress, made the theme of a unit study, or developed through chores and projects.

5. Spiritual Growth

Christian home schoolers seek to promote their children's spiritual growth, including personal acceptance of the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and loving dedication to Him.

6. Useful Habits

Regular habits that minimize stress, save time, and provide other benefits include grooming and health habits, courteous behavior and speech, concentration on studies, and initiative and thoroughness in chores.

7. Family Teamwork

Each member of the family can make a contribution to the success of the whole. Toddlers can pick up toys, young children can do simple chores, older ones can take on larger responsibilities, teenagers and some preteens can help with teaching, and parents can encourage, support, and help each other.

8. Organization

Organization of time and space contributes to an effective home-school environment. Schedules and lesson plans, however flexible, give direction to daily activities. An orderly household with a planned time and place for everything facilitates education and allows more enrichment activities.

9. Atmosphere

A positive atmosphere of mutual love and respect makes teaching and learning more effective. Parents' understanding attitudes foster parent-child interaction.

10. Involvement

Children learn best from parents who are closely involved with them in work, play, conversation, study, and all of life.

11. Example

It is important for parents to model dedication to God, good character traits, disciplined habits, and enthusiasm for learning. Parents also need to supervise and limit children's exposure to poor examples in TV programs, books, or the behavior of friends.

12. Experiences

Varied experiences, such as shopping, errands, home repairs, nursing home visits, trips to local museums and work places, and out-of-town excursions build the background knowledge for academic learning.

13. Understanding

Parents who are sensitive to their child can recognize and accommodate his readiness to learn new concepts, his abilities or difficulties in various areas, his personal interests, and his tendencies to learn best by either sight, sound, touch, or movement.

14. Motivation

Parents can use a child's curiosity, needs, and interests to motivate learning. They can stimulate new interests through reading, conversation, questions, and family activities. The ultimate motivation for both parent and child is to serve our Lord and others.

15. Discipline

The goal of raising self-disciplined children can be reached only after they learn to willingly accept parental discipline. Parents must consistently require children to behave according to established standards. Affirma-

tion should follow obedience and cooperation; negative consequences are appropriate when a child disobeys or rebels.

16. Thinking Skills

Parents need to ensure children are developing the skills of thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving. Children also need to learn how to study and learn on their own. Besides curriculum materials that contribute to these aims, parents can design questions and projects to stimulate such growth.

17. Mastery

In developing the foundational skills of reading, language, and math, children need to thoroughly master some concepts before others. (This does not apply as much to subjects such as history, literature, and science in which topics can be studied in any order.) Children must review frequently in all subjects to be sure learning is retained. True mastery is demonstrated by generalizing from facts and applying principles.

18. Connected Knowledge

It is valuable to make connections between facts. A master time line or categorized fact file can help you find and call attention to historical events, geographical locations, scientific developments or facts, literature, and art that relate to your present study. These relationships between facts, concepts, and previously acquired knowledge help children to understand and remember what they are taught.

19. Resources

Educational resources that can be used repeatedly include reference books (encyclopedia, dictionaries, thesauruses, Bible concordances, atlases, nature guides, etc.) and higher-level textbooks. Also collect aids such as time lines, maps, globes, pictures, charts, videos, and tapes; manipulatives for math or other subjects; educational games and software; and various tools.

20. Life Skills

Life skills include budgeting; cooking; shopping; driving; repairs; maintaining a house, yard, and car; banking; voting; and finding information by phone, letter, or Internet. (Supervise Internet use closely.)

Children receive training and practice in these skills as they work with parents. When able, children may take responsibility for entire areas, thus rehearsing for adult life.

The Teaching HOME

Questions & Answers Concerning Home Schooling

by Sue Welch and Cindy Short, editors
The Teaching Home magazine

Q Why do families home school?

A Many Christian parents are committed to educating their children at home because of their conviction that this is God's will for their family. They are concerned for the spiritual training and character development as well as the social and academic welfare of their children. Specific advantages have been expressed as follows:

Parents can present all academic subjects from a biblical perspective and include spiritual and character training.

Parents have quality time available to train and influence children in all areas.

Each child receives individual attention and has his unique needs met.

Parents can control destructive influences such as temptations, false teachings (including secular humanism, evolution, and immoral sexuality), occult influences, negative peer pressure, and unsafe environments.

Children respect their parents as teachers.

The family experiences unity, closeness, and mutual enjoyment of one another.

Children develop confidence and independent thinking away from the peer pressure to conform and in the security of their home.

Children have time to explore new interests and to think.

Communication between different age groups is enhanced.

Tutorial-style education helps each child achieve his full educational potential.

Flexible scheduling can accommodate parents' work and vacation times and allow time for chosen activities.

Q Are parents qualified to teach?

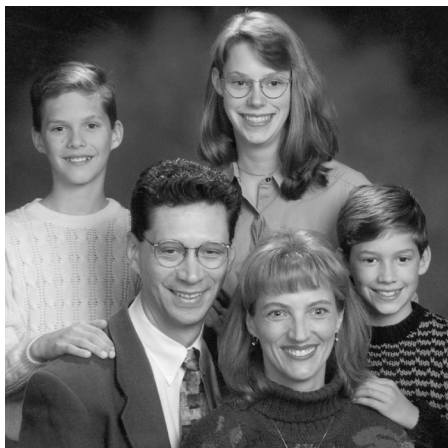
A You know your children better than anyone else and have the deepest love and concern for them.

You also have the most direct and long-term responsibility for your children before God, who commands parents to teach their children His Word, the most important thing they will learn (Deut. 6:6, 7).

Educationally, one-to-one tutoring has many advantages over a classroom where one teacher tries to meet the needs of many children at different learning levels.

You do not need to know everything in order to teach. Your example and enthusiasm in learning with your children will motivate and encourage them.

Dr. Brian Ray, president of the National Home Education Research Institute, conducted an analysis of standardized test results for 16,320 home-school children. He found these children to average at or above the 73rd percentile in all subject areas (i.e., in the top



27 percent of students tested nationwide). He demonstrated that there is little relationship between parents' education levels and children's scores. (For information on this report and how to contact NHERI, see p. 27.)

Resources are available to give home educators on-the-job training:

The organizations listed on p. 33 offer conventions, workshops, and newsletters. They can also refer you to a local support group in your area. See www.TeachingHome.com for Web links.

Articles in current and back issues of *The Teaching Home* written by experienced home schoolers deal with the philosophy and methods of teaching all subjects to all ages.

God promises His wisdom and assures you that He will supply your needs as you follow His leading (James 1:5-7).

Q Is home schooling legal?

A Each state sets its own laws governing home education. Complying with these laws may be as simple as informing the school district of your intent to home school and having your child tested or as complex as fulfilling requirements to be a private school. (See Summary, p. 29.)

Legislation is continually proposed. It is important to work with your state and local Christian home-school organizations to aid the passage of favorable bills.

Constitutional rights to liberty and privacy under the Fourteenth Amendment and the free exercise of religion under the First Amendment guarantee parents the right to educate their children according to their convictions. However, lower courts have ruled inconsistently in applying these rights.

We encourage you to comply with the law as far as your conscience will allow.

It is important to obtain a copy of your state's law pertaining to home education. You can avoid many problems by being accurately informed and by using tact and respect in dealing with government school authorities.

Home School Legal Defense Association

offers legal advice or defense. For information, an application form, or a free summary of your state's home-school law, contact HSLDA, Box 3000, Purcellville VA 20134, (540) 338-5600, www.hsllda.org.

Q How much time does it take?

A Home schooling does require a time commitment. However, one-to-one tutoring is more efficient than classroom instruction and thus takes less time.

Time requirements vary according to the methods used, the ages of the children, and the number of children being taught.

Academic instruction might begin with one-half to one hour for the early grades and work up to a few hours of instruction and/or independent study for upper grades. Most correspondence courses state that their work can be completed in four or five hours per day.

Q Can I teach several children?

A You can teach subjects such as Bible, science, history, and literature to several grade levels of children together.

Lessons can be presented in an amplified manner with explanations that enable all children to understand and assignments tailored to individuals.

Older students can do much of their work independently while younger ones receive necessary tutoring in basic skills.

Q What about socialization?

A "Socialization" may be the most misunderstood aspect of home schooling.

Popular opinion assumes that children need interaction with a group of peers to acquire social skills. By contrast, many believe that extensive peer contact during childhood can cause undesirable peer dependency and negative behavior patterns.

"Do not be deceived: 'Bad company corrupts good morals'" (I Cor. 15:33).

Children are more likely to be influenced by the majority than to be an influence on them. Children who are educated outside the home are prone to accept their peers' and teachers' values over those of their parents.

Some advantages of freedom from peer pressure can be self-confidence, independent thinking, the ability to relate to people of all ages, and better family relations.

Godly principles of interaction can be taught, demonstrated, and reinforced at home by parents. Children can learn needed social skills by interacting with siblings or other children and adults under their parents' supervision. Young people who have had this type of training have adjusted well to adult life.

Your children will build lasting friendships with people of all ages as they interact with church and family friends. (Cont. on p. 38.)

Q What about higher education?

A “Thousands of universities and colleges accept home schoolers. Many of these schools actively recruit home-educated graduates because of their maturity, independent thinking skills, creativity, and extensive academic preparation,” says Inge Cannon, executive director of Education PLUS.

In preparation for college entrance or vocational training programs, parents should prepare a transcript of high school work, award a diploma, and specify a high school graduation date. SAT or ACT scores are usually required for college admission.

A high school diploma may not be necessary for military enlistment, college enrollment, or employment when a student has 15 credit hours of college work completed.

Many colleges offer nontraditional programs for off-campus study.

Some home schoolers enter their chosen fields through apprenticeship programs supervised by parents and professionals.

Q What about special interests?

A A wealth of experiences outside the home can supplement and enrich home education. Unlimited possibilities abound for field trips for individual families or groups.

Specialized classes are often available through parks, museums, art schools, or private teachers. Church and community teams offer various sports opportunities.

There may be more enrichment activities and time in which to do them available for home-taught students than for those in school.

Q What materials are available?

A Fine Christian educational materials developed for Christian schools are available to home educators. New materials have also been developed or adapted especially for home teaching. These materials may be obtained in the following three basic ways:

You may order texts and teaching aids directly from the publishers or through mail-order companies. Each issue of *The Teaching Home* presents many suppliers of quality teaching materials. (See “Resource Directory,” p. 5, and at www.TeachingHome.com.)

An extension program offered through a local Christian school or church can provide teaching materials, testing, and counseling.

Materials, record keeping, and help can be obtained through correspondence courses.

Home educators can choose or combine elements of the following approaches.

Traditional Textbooks. High-quality textbooks are available from Christian publishers. These cover each subject in depth and in a logical order of topics.

Worktexts combine textbooks with exercises in consumable write-in books.

Classical Approach. Children progress from memorization of facts and development of learning skills to advanced logical reasoning and expressive use of language to discuss their knowledge and beliefs.

Principle Approach. Teachers and students keep subject notebooks that contain biblical perspectives and principles, personal applications, and information on the subject acquired from various sources.

Unit Studies. Theme-centered units integrate several subjects. Language arts and math need additional systematic teaching.

*You shall love the LORD your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your might.*

*And these words, which I am
commanding you today shall be on
your heart; and you shall teach them
diligently to your sons and shall talk
of them when you sit in your house, and
when you walk by the way, and when you
lie down, and when you rise up.*

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

Books & Life Experiences. Other than basic teaching in the three Rs, much learning comes through reading good literature and nonfiction. Everyday activities supplement study and give it perspective.

Q What methods should I use?

A There is no one right method or curriculum. As an artist has an entire palette of colors to mix and use, so a home educator has a vast array of effective methods from which to choose. These choices may be based on:

Ages of the children.

Subject matter being taught.

Number of children you are teaching.

Your time for preparation and teaching.

Your children’s abilities or special needs.

Motivation that certain methods may provide to your individual children.

As you mix methods, your home school will become uniquely fitted to your family.

Q Are there any difficulties?

A The following are common difficulties along with some suggested solutions.

Lack of confidence. With experience, you will gain the confidence you lacked at first.

Fear of being unable to work with your own children. Parents who do not have their children’s respect will have trouble getting their cooperation. Gaining their respect through proper relationships, discipline, training, and example should be the parents’ top priority. Home schooling can provide the incentive and environment to accomplish this.

Inadequate time and energy. Home teaching requires an investment of time and energy. Self-discipline and organization (a daily schedule, teaching plan, and chore list) will help ensure a well-run household. Children can be a great help when trained to work.

Lack of commitment. Families gain strength to overcome difficulties when they have the

conviction that home schooling is best for them and is God’s will for their family.

Social pressure. Make a well-informed decision and stand on your convictions. More information and a loving attitude often help friends and relatives understand and accept God’s leading for your family.

Financial investment. Costs of materials or programs vary considerably, but are much less than a private school. Many materials can be reused for siblings.

Q Can I meet special needs?

A Many children with special needs are being successfully home educated. HSLDA membership is especially helpful to these families. The July/Aug. 1994 *Teaching Home* on “Special Needs” can be ordered on p. 31 or on our website.

Q How do we get started?

A Here are some suggestions:

☐ **Seek the Lord** and agree as husband and wife on your decision to home school. Pray for wisdom and strength. Make daily quiet times with the Lord a top priority.

☐ **Research home education** by reading a basic book such as Christopher Klicka’s *Home Schooling: The Right Choice* (available from HSLDA, 540-338-5600, www.hslda.org) and back issues of *The Teaching Home*.

Meet and visit with experienced home schoolers in your church or local support group, and attend a home-school convention.

☐ **Contact your state home-school organization** to learn of local support groups, events, publications, and your state’s laws governing home education (see p. 33).

☐ **Make arrangements to comply with the law** according to your conscience and recommendations of state organizations and/or HSLDA. Consider joining HSLDA (see p. 30).

☐ **Get your home and life in order.** Establish discipline and child training. Organize your family’s schedule and chore assignments to fit your educational activities. Get rid of unnecessary possessions to make way for learning materials and study space.

☐ **Choose methods and teaching materials** that are appropriate for your children. If you are overwhelmed by choices, you can use a prepared curriculum from a textbook, work-text, or unit study publisher for your first year.

Re-evaluate and experiment with different materials and methods and make adjustments as you become more experienced.

Home schooling is a way of life in which the home is the center of life and learning. Parents can thus fulfill in a unique way their responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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The Old Schoolhouse

The Magazine for Homeschool Families

SIMPLE RECIPES FOR SUCCESSFUL HOMESCHOOLING



A QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION ON THE BASICS OF GETTING STARTED AND CONTINUING SUCCESS

*"I got your number off the homeschool information line—
can you please tell me how to homeschool?"*

By Lorrie Flem and Nancy Baetz

Any support group leader could testify to receiving dozens of these kinds of calls. No two are exactly alike, because each family is different and each circumstance surrounding the question is unique. One of the first things to be said in the conversation is that there are no cookie cutter homeschools! Homeschooling means different things to different people. For some, homeschooling is duplicating public school at home with textbooks and report cards. For others, homeschooling is just the way they live—children and adults living and learning together so that an outsider looking in wouldn't be able to see what was "home" and what was "school." We don't all use or need the same recipe, the same "molds," or the same ingredients, yet we all are striving for a certain outcome that will serve our needs and purposes!

"Okay, so how do I get started?"

Let's start with the ABCs of beginning homeschooling:

A foundation.

Before you decide on a recipe, you have a reason for doing your baking. You and your family are hungry, and you want to meet that need. Hopefully you've planned to provide the components of a balanced, healthy diet. Before you set out to provide your children's intellectual diet—their education—you will want to consider

why you are doing it and what you are seeking to provide for your family.

For many homeschoolers, the most valuable benefit of homeschooling is that it strengthens their family. Homeschooling families spend a lot of time working, learning, and playing together, and strong relationships are built.

Many families like the flexibility homeschooling allows. Children can learn about things they are naturally interested in when they want to. A strict schedule does not have to be followed. Children can get an education tailored to their learning styles at a fraction of the cost of private or public school.

Maybe you've already decided why you want to do this. Maybe you have read and been convinced by some of the good books about homeschooling, such as *Homeschooling: The Right Choice*, by Chris Klicka, or *Dumbing Us Down*, by John Taylor Gatto.

You might want a more "healthy" lifestyle for your children, whether you want to live closer to nature or are concerned mostly about spiritual reasons. The reasons you are going to homeschool are unique to you. The important thing is that you identify them before you prepare to homeschool.

Be willing to establish a minimum time commitment.

Not only do you need to have your reasons established, but you should also decide what your commitment to homeschooling is before you start. Some people start strong but fall fast when

they encounter their first difficulty. Be aware that just as a new recipe will need occasional adjustments to suit your own personal tastes, your homeschooling will encounter rocky times and require some fine-tuning.

Decide on a minimum length of time you are going to homeschool. Make a commitment to give it a go for a certain time period and then re-evaluate! Don't throw out the whole lump of dough—just change the recipe! There are so many different ways to go about teaching at home, so try something new. Different methods and ideas are worth trying so you won't burn out. Give it some time and then make adjustments, but don't give up!

Check out the laws.

There is one more thing that comes before you begin planning lessons or purchasing schoolbooks. You need to know what the law requires. For information about legal requirements for homeschooling, see the sidebar on the next page.

"I don't have a teaching degree. I'm just a mom. How can I possibly do this?"

That's perfect. Motherhood and homeschooling go hand in hand, and neither one comes with directions! Although many good sources of help are available, some people don't know where to look for them. Just as many newlyweds learn to bake and cook with a lovingly handed-down book

Is Homeschooling Legal?

By Scott Somerville

Homeschooling is legal in all 50 states and in most countries around the world, but you may need to fill out a few forms to get started. Fortunately, tens of thousands of families have joined together as the "Home School Legal Defense Association" to make sure that process is as easy as possible. About one out of every ten homeschooling families is a member of HSLDA, and their united efforts help keep homeschooling safe and legal.

You can look up your state's laws and find support groups in your area by going to the HSLDA website at www.hslda.org. Click on the map to find your state if you live in the US, or scroll to the bottom of the page to see if your country is listed in the international section. While you are there, be sure to sign up for HSLDA's free "e-lerts" to get up-to-the-minute information about legal matters that affect your state, plus their weekly email of homeschool news of interest.

Twenty years ago, many states tried to ban homeschooling altogether. Those days ended in 1993: homeschooling is now a recognized legal alternative in all 50 states, with differing degrees of regulation. HSLDA color-codes the states by their degree of homeschool regulation. A handful of "red" states (MA, NY, PA, RI, VT) still have laws requiring individualized approval in advance by school officials, detailed documentation of curriculum plans, multiple forms of reporting, or the like. A much larger majority of states recognize a clear right to teach a child at home, so that parents only need to give school authorities a notice of their intent to educate a child at home in the fall. Some of these states also require an end-of-the-year assessment (such as a standardized test or certified teacher's review of the child's portfolio), while others do not. HSLDA categorizes the states that require a notice plus assessment as "orange" states, while those that require only notification are "gold" states. The remaining "green" states do not require any notification or assessment.

HSLDA provides legal defense in US courts, so membership is limited to residents of the United States or members of the US military serving overseas, but similar legal defense organizations have been established in Canada, South Africa, Germany, and Japan. No laws interfere with homeschooling in England, where "home edders" are increasingly common. Germany (like every other country in Europe) has signed the "European Convention for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms"—an international human rights treaty that guarantees parental rights in education—but continues to prosecute homeschoolers despite this. (HSLDA is appealing this violation to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.) Other European nations are more careful to honor their obligations under this treaty, and permit home education in some form or other.

By working together, HSLDA members help advance homeschooling around the world and here at home. HSLDA provides support for single parents, children with special needs, and other high-risk homeschoolers who face unusual legal difficulties. For just \$10 a month, you can have all the confidence that comes with membership plus the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping homeschoolers across the country and around the world.

Scott W. Somerville was President of the Christian Home Educators of New Hampshire and father of five when he went off to Harvard Law School in 1989. When he graduated (with six children!), he went straight to the Home School Legal Defense Association, where he has been working ever since.

of favorite recipes, anyone with an interest in a subject can learn on their own!

Kids don't need parents who are rocket scientists or even ones with teaching certificates. They do need unselfish parents who love them, are willing to guide them, and want to spend time with them every day. Children need parents who believe in them and will help them become all that God created them to be.

Who loves your kids more than you? Mom and Dad, be confident in your ability to teach, and learn right along with your children as you begin this creative journey.

"What difficulties might I face?"

The challenges homeschoolers face are unique and different. If you asked a dozen homeschoolers what things have been hard for them, you would hear a dozen different answers! Yet, in spite of the difficulties, their children still thrive, learn, and grow.

Many children acquire negative labels, are misunderstood, or are misdiagnosed in an institutional setting where the teacher-child ratio is far off balance. Little children need to run, move, and play! They aren't necessarily in need of medication just because they can't sit still or because they "act out" in a group. Research shows and results prove that learning happens in different ways and on individual time frames. Don't be discouraged if little Johnny can't read yet and he is 10! It will come. Be patient, and don't be quick to say everything is a learning disability.

Being in a safe, loving, and nurturing environment can change those so-called hyperactive, ADD, bullying, withdrawn, or surly kids. They respond very well to loving relationships and guidance. As homeschoolers, they've been found to lose many of the characteristics that caused them to earn the labels in the first place.

"My in-laws are totally against this idea."

Go back to your firm foundation, and remember that your kids are your responsibility. There will always be well-meaning concern from relatives, friends, or even strangers. Just remember to be kind and courteous in your responses, and trust your instincts. Your life will turn the naysayers around, eventually. The proof is in the pudding!

"I don't have the patience to homeschool."

Feeling that you're not the "patient homeschooling type" doesn't mean you aren't! Before you had a child, were you blessed with the patience required to raise her? Or before you were married, did you already possess the patience to be a submissive wife?

God doesn't go around doling out patience in certain amounts to designated people. Rather, He blesses us with it as we need it. Ask any mother if she has enough patience to have another child and she will probably say no. We

are blessed with patience as we need it, not in advance. Homeschooling is the same way. If you decide that this is what God is calling you to through circumstances or conviction, then rest assured He won't leave you!

"Is homeschooling expensive?"

Homeschooling can be expensive or inexpensive, elaborate or simple. Your choice of books and resources, where you acquire them, and the number of children you have will determine the expense.

It would be easy to spend a bundle on all the scrumptious learning materials and books available. On the other hand, a superior education doesn't have to mean an expensive one. With the Internet, there are so many valuable resources available that you could probably homeschool your children K-12 and barely spend a penny.

You probably already have many things you can use. Books can be read again and toys can be taken apart and put back together. Go through what you have, looking at each item through the eyes of a homeschooler.

Ask relatives and friends for dusty treasures like books, microscopes, or telescopes. Ask other homeschoolers for things they're done with that you could purchase or borrow. Check out eBay, thrift stores, garage sales, and used book sales. Be sure to pick up a book on simple carpentry. You'll need bookcases soon! Build your own and cover some geometry too!

Once you start homeschooling, you'll look at things differently. When you ask, "What can my children learn from this?" it's amazing how you'll begin to look at everything in a new way.

"Where can I find materials and resources?"

The Internet is a one-stop shopping place. Look through catalogs and websites. Find a homeschool convention and go! Look, learn, and browse. Talk to the vendors, who have a wealth of information to share. Don't forget to pay the laborer his dues and buy from those you learn from.

"How can I teach several ages at once?"

Few homeschoolers have children all in one grade! Instead of giving them all books for their own grades, teach them all together whenever you can. Teach history by reading a novel aloud and then giving each child grade-appropriate assignments. Multi-level teaching is simple, and it works. Give your children their own books for the three Rs and teach everything else together like "the old one-room schoolhouse" teacher did!

Multi-level teaching takes less time and is less expensive than using classroom curriculum. Be sure to look at unit studies when teaching different levels at the same time. We recommend www.KONOS.com and [Steward Ship](http://StewardShip.org) (UnitStudies.com).

“What about socialization?”

One of the most common and silliest questions homeschoolers are asked is whether their children will get the socialization they need. Think about it: aren't there a lot of public-schooled children who can't relate to adults or other children? Go to any local public school, walk the halls, and watch for behaviors that you want your children to imitate.

You don't have to be with other people of the same age group in order to socialize or “be socialized.” As adults, we would consider time spent visiting with our sister, mother, or grandmother to be legitimate socialization. This is true of children also. Whether they are spending time with their peers, parents, grandparents, or siblings, they are socializing. And aren't they good at it?

“Elementary age seems pretty easy, but what about high school?”

Sure, the early years can be a lot of fun, but just thinking about upper level math and science can seem daunting to some parents. It isn't necessary to send them back to an institution! You can learn right along with your kids in those grades. In a lot of cases, kids are self-teachers by that time. Diana Johnson, homeschooling mother of 22 years, wrote, “There is something very comfortable about homeschooling elementary age children ... then high school looms and our confidence often evaporates ... Fortunately, we can dilute this fear by carefully planning the high school years.”¹

You have heard the saying “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” This is true in almost any situation, but other factors are also involved. Once you instill in your children a love of learning and ground them in the basics, they will “finish the race.” And, if you still need help, you can find tutors (in person or online) on just about any subject.

“I hate math and even flunked in school. How am I supposed to teach that?”

Children have the most astonishing ability to want to learn about the one thing we know absolutely nothing about! But for homeschoolers, this challenge is easily overcome.

You can find classes taught by experts or people who have a passion for a certain subject. You'll find classes available as correspondence courses via snail mail, Internet courses, and video courses. Support groups, community centers, and colleges will also offer classes.

You'll find that many children are capable of teaching themselves. Think about this: when you decide to buy a computer, you do research about different brands, features, styles, service, and prices. Just as you “homeschool” yourself when you need to buy a new computer, your children can too.

When you're searching for teachers, don't overlook friends, acquaintances, and business people—most people are delighted to have a young person around who has an honest interest in what they do and know.

Parents don't have to be experts in every area their child learns about. That's one of the most wonderful things about homeschooling. Parents and children learn together!

“Won't they miss out on things like class field trips and activities?”

What about field trips and other activities that school students get to participate in? Many homeschool moms spend a lot of time exploring local museums and attractions with their children, and they are always educational! Whether you do it alone or with a group, exploring historic sites and museums can be incorporated into your children's course of study or just be a way to enjoy your area while getting an education. Museums have trained, highly knowledgeable docents, and conversing with them is a great way for kids to learn new things and to sharpen their communication skills.

Support groups almost always have a field trip coordinator, or you can organize one yourself! Just get plugged in to your local group's email network and start exploring your world with other families. You and your kids can also volunteer at museums, libraries, or living history museums.

“Which method should I use to homeschool?”

There are so many different methods of homeschooling that you'll definitely be able to find one—the trick is finding the right ones. What is right for one person won't be for another. In fact, what is right for one person this year may not be right next year. Before you try to choose a teaching method, think about what learning means to you.

School curricula and methods have evolved so that one adult can teach a classroom of 25 or 30 children. Curriculum has been developed for this setting but not necessarily for sparking the interest of an individual child.

Homeschoolers can use these materials and adjust them to fit. Some families like the security of having a packaged curriculum. Some want to pick and choose from what's available and use a little of everything.

Let's briefly go over some of the most common homeschooling methods:

Traditional—this is probably how you learned if you went to public school. The traditional method usually starts with a curriculum with graded textbooks in each subject that follow a scope and sequence covering each subject in daily increments for a 12-year, 180-days-a-year academic program.

Classical—children under age 18 are taught tools of learning in a sequence known as the trivium. The modern proponent of the classical approach was British writer and medieval scholar Dorothy Sayers. As the Nazis rose to power in the 1930s, Sayers warned that schools were teaching children everything except how to think.

Unit Studies—this is often the method of choice for multi-level homeschooling. Integrating language arts, science, math, and so on, all learning is focused on a particular topic with each child learning at his or her own level of understanding.

Living Books—Charlotte Mason was a turn-of-the-century British educator who disliked several things in modern education. She believed in respecting children as persons, involving them in real-life situations, and allowing them to read really good books.

Unschooling—this term came about because of a 20th-century American, John Holt. He taught that learning comes from real-life experiences. Children pursue their own interests with support from their parents.

Principle Approach—Principle Approach homeschooling is an effort to restore to American Christians three vital concepts: knowledge of Christian history, an understanding of our role in the spread of Christianity, and the ability to live according to the Biblical principles upon which our country was founded.

Eclectic—this is any combination of the above! Pick and choose your own options.

A brand new resource is out. **Homeschooling Methods: Seasoned Advice on Learning Styles** (Broadman & Holman), by the publishers of *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine*, details many tried-and-true homeschooling methods and models. Dr. Ruth Beechick, Diana Waring, Clay and Sally Clarkson, and Christine Field are just a few of the contributors represented.

“Do I have to have my children tested?”

Like so many things in life, educational choices are a personal decision. Of course, some states have laws governing this. In that case, always obey the law.

Some questions to consider are which tests will be used and why, how testing might affect the student, what will be done with the results, and whether there are less intrusive alternatives? Assessments are another way to evaluate learning. Just like when your children were babies, you can discover what they have learned by spending time with them. Standardized tests try to give a measurement of the amount of learning that has taken place up to a specific point. Assessments don't have any standard of what a child “should” be able to do; instead, they look at the child as a whole, focusing on what the child does know instead of what he doesn't.

“My children don't behave well. How can I teach them at home if they won't listen to me?”

While it is true that your children need to be obedient before they can learn from you, childrearing is also a process that is a natural outgrowth of homeschooling. But we all need some help and training in that area. One wonderful resource is www.NoGreaterJoy.org, a ministry of Michael and Debi Pearl, who homeschooled all five of their children. Parenting doesn't come naturally but is a skill to be learned, and homeschooling can give parents a better opportunity to nurture and train their children than they would otherwise have had.

“But I want my kids to go to college! Can they ‘get in’ if we teach them at home?”

Colleges, universities, and vocational schools all over the US seek out responsible homeschooled students. They recognize the value of capability, motivation, and courtesy and consider these in addition to formal transcripts, diplomas, or GEDs. Most libraries and bookstores carry books, directories, and guides that will help older homeschoolers get information and prepare for this next step. College is not the only, or even the best, route for every high school graduate. Sending kids to college who don't know exactly what their goals are is expensive and often undermines or destroys the value system you just invested your time and effort to give them. On the other hand, many homeschoolers choose an apprenticeship over formal schooling as a faster, simpler, and less expensive option. By immersing themselves in the skill they are trying to learn, they get the “whole picture.”

Remember, your kids don't have to go to college immediately after graduation. They can even decide they don't want to go and later change their mind and decide to go after all. In fact, most educational institutions prefer older students; they are usually excited about being there and want to learn.

“What if my child has special needs?”

An excellent resource for special needs homeschooling is NATHHAN, the National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network.² But remember, there are always unique needs present in every family! Some people have a special diet to adhere to—hence, no sugar or wheat is included in the recipe. And as with a special diet, there are special considerations in every family situation. You may truly be raising one or more children with a disability; or you, the parent, may have an illness or condition. See these things as challenges, not obstacles. An upcoming move or new baby in the family is just one more opportunity to learn! (And parents, YOU choose how to guide the learning.) Homeschooling in these situations is really no different from everyday life with them, and you are already familiar with that.

“Isn't there more to it than books, though?”

Did you know that learning life skills is homeschooling too? How many high school grads do you know who don't have the necessary skills to manage a home? Lots. With homeschooling, you can be sure to teach your kids routine home maintenance, cooking, gardening, how to balance a checkbook, and so on! These things are part of life, but sometimes they get pushed to the “back burner” at an institutional school. Homeschooling provides guidance and direction in all areas of life, not just academics.

“What things are vital to my success?”

We started with the ABCs of beginning homeschooling. Let's end with the 1-2-3 of things to do so you can't help but be successful!

1. Anything new in life has the potential to be trying—and can end in defeat if you haven't built your foundation AND shored up your supports. It is imperative that you and your husband are “reading the same recipe.” Be sure to pray together before you start, converse frequently along the way, and spend time reading uplifting and encouraging homeschool material.
2. You will want to find like-minded families. Start asking around, search the Internet, and don't forget to look at your state or country's Homeschool Nation page on *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine* website at **www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com**! Hook up with a support group. Once you begin to go to meetings, on field trips, and on other activities, you will find friends that you “click” with. Since relationships are key to success, cultivate these. You can become a part of the homeschooling community online at **www.HomeschoolBlogger.com**.
3. Mentors abound! One thing that veteran homeschoolers like to do is talk about homeschooling! Find those in your area who can guide you with some tried-and-true wisdom. Read homeschooling books and magazines at your local library, go to your state convention, and try different support group meetings. Sometimes a play group will turn out to be a great sharing time between the moms there. If you can't go to conventions, get some speaker presentations on tape! You can have well known speakers on audio right at home!

The journey of homeschooling is much more than a recipe for a nurturing dish or award-winning treats—but we hope these tips will help you find high quality ingredients and the tools you need. Our prayer is that your homeschooling endeavor will be both profitable and enjoyable and that these ideas on how to develop your own personal family recipe will bless you for years to come. We wish you many batches of healthy, happy homeschooling adventures!

*Lorrie Flem and her husband have 8 children. She is an author, speaker, and the publisher of **TEACH Magazine**. www.TEACHmagazine.com. Sign up for our free e-zine! Be the best mommy, wife, or homemaker you can possibly be. You'll love **TEACH Magazine**! Feel renewed, refreshed, energized, and ready to start each day with a spring in your step, a smile on your face, and joy in your heart!*

*Nancy Baetz is happily married to Kenneth and thankful for the challenge of mothering four lovely, active, and growing children all homeschooled since birth. Nancy does photo and fine art acquisitions for **The Old Schoolhouse Magazine**, along with freelance writing and photography. I am enjoying the discovery of my own gifts and talents along with those of my children. It is a joy to see who God created each one to become! Nancy hosts new homeschooler receptions every month for her local support group.*

This brochure is brought to you by the creators of *The Old Schoolhouse*, the magazine for homeschool families. Be sure to check out the company websites at **www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com** and **www.HomeschoolBlogger.com**.

Right now, when you subscribe for two years, please claim your 19 free homeschooling curriculum gifts (some restrictions apply, depending on global location). Subscribe today to this 200-page, full-color, glossy homeschool magazine! **1-888-718-HOME**.

To contact us by mail:
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The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, LLC
PO Box 1701
Dandridge, TN 37725

¹ “Planning the High School Years.” *The Old Schoolhouse Magazine*, Summer 2004: p. 94.

² NATHHAN: National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network. Christian Families Homeschooling Special Needs Children, PO Box 39, Porthill, ID 83853. (208) 267-6246 Email: nathanews@aol.com, Website: www.nathhan.com.

For Your Encouragement

Since the face of homeschooling is constantly changing, we recommend you subscribe to a few magazines. They will help you keep current with issues pertaining to homeschooling and, most importantly, supply you with regular doses of encouragement. Here are the ones we most highly recommend:

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine
www.TheHomeschoolMagazine.com
(Be sure to request a free sample!)

Court Report
www.HSLDA.org/courtreport/

TEACH Magazine
www.TEACHmagazine.com
(Be sure to request a free sample!)

Homeschooling Today
www.HomeschoolingToday.com

The Social Worker At Your Door: 10 Helpful Hints

By Christopher J. Klicka, Esq.

July 2010

Frequently, homeschoolers are turned in on child abuse hotlines to social service agencies. Families who do not like homeschoolers can make an anonymous phone call to the child abuse hotline and fabricate abuse stories about homeschoolers. The social worker then has an obligation to investigate. Each state has a different policy for social workers, but generally they want to come into the family's home and speak with the children separately. To allow either of these to occur involves great risk to the family.

The homeschool parent, however, should be very cautious when an individual identifies himself as a social worker. In fact, there are several tips that a family should follow:

1. Always get the business card of the social worker, in case you or an attorney representing you wishes to contact the social worker later. If the situation is hostile, immediately call HSLDA and hand the phone out the door so an HSLDA lawyer can talk to the social worker. We have a 24-hour emergency number.
2. Find out what the allegations are. Social workers frequently tell the families they can only disclose the allegations after they have come into the home and spoken to the children separately, but this is not true, according to federal law and some states laws and statutes requiring disclosure of the allegations upon initial contact.
3. You do not have to let the social worker into your house without a warrant or court order, unless there is a true emergency in your home. A warrant requires a probable cause which does not include an anonymous tip or a mere suspicion. This is guaranteed under the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as interpreted by the courts.
4. Sometimes it is advisable to allow social workers to talk with children, particularly when severe allegations are involved. In these instances, attempt to have a third party chosen by the parent present. At other times, HSLDA has had children stand by the door of the home and greet the social worker, but not be subject to any questioning. The purpose of allowing the state agent to view your child is to demonstrate that the child is not in immediate danger.
5. Tell the official that you will call back after you speak with your attorney. If you are a member, call HSLDA. In many cases, HSLDA attorneys are able to solve the situation immediately. Most cases are resolved within a few weeks. A small percentage of cases go to court. Cases that do go to court and involve homeschooling are often handled by HSLDA. The remaining cases are referred to other attorneys.
6. Ignore intimidations. Social workers often bluff. They will routinely threaten to acquire a court order, knowing full well that there is no evidence on which to secure an order. In most of the contacts that HSLDA handles, the threats turn out to be bluffs. However, it is always important to secure an attorney or HSLDA in these matters, because there are occasions in which social workers are able to obtain a court order without probable cause as not all judges follow the law.
7. Offer to give the officials the following supporting evidence:
 - a. A statement from your doctor, after he has examined your children, if the allegations involve some type of physical abuse;
 - b. References from individuals who can vouch for you being good parents;

- c. Evidence of the legality of your homeschool program.
- 8. Bring a tape recorder and/or witnesses to any subsequent meeting. The discussion at the meeting should be limited to the specific allegations and often you should avoid telling them about past events beyond what they know. What you give them can and will be used against you.
- 9. Inform your church, and put the investigation on your prayer chain. Over and over again, HSLDA has seen God deliver homeschoolers from scary scenarios.
- 10. Avoid potential situations which could lead to a child welfare investigation.
 - a. Do public relations with your immediate neighbors and acquaintances regarding the legality and success of homeschooling.
 - b. Do not spank children in public.
 - c. Do not spank a child who is not your own unless his or her parents are close Christian friends.
 - d. Avoid leaving young children at home alone or in an automobile.

Fourth Amendment Issues

For a social worker to obtain a warrant to enter a home and interview children separately, he is usually required, by both statute and the U.S. Constitution, to prove that there is some cause. This is a term that is synonymous with the term probable cause. Probable cause or cause shown is reliable evidence which must be corroborated by other evidence if the tip is anonymous. In other words, an anonymous tip alone and mere suspicion is not enough for a social worker to obtain a warrant.

There have been some homeschooling families who have been faced with a warrant even though there was not probable cause. HSLDA has generally been able to overturn these in court. If the investigation cannot be resolved, which it normally can be in most instances with HSLDA's involvement, the family is responsible for hiring their own attorney.

HSLDA is working with states to reform the child welfare laws to guarantee more freedom for parents and better protection for their parental rights. HSLDA sends out e-letters to its members in the states where such legislation is drafted and submitted as a bill. For further information on how to deal with social workers, HSLDA recommends *The Right Choice: The Incredible Failure of Public Education* and *The Rising Hope of Home Schooling*, which was written with the intention of informing homeschool parents of their rights to prevent them from becoming a statistic. Federal statistics have shown that upon later review, up to 60 percent of children removed from homes should never have been removed.

HSLDA Social Services Contact Policy

We desire to advise our members in every contact with a social worker and/or police officer in investigations resulting from allegations of abuse or neglect. If homeschooling is an issue, we will represent our member families until the issue is resolved. On Fourth Amendment unreasonable search and seizure issues, HSLDA will advise our members whenever the privacy of their home is violated by forced or coerced entry for the purpose of an unsubstantiated investigation. HSLDA membership benefits do not extend to court actions resulting from non-homeschooling matters. However, in circumstances where there is a clear violation of the Fourth Amendment, HSLDA may, as we have done in the past, choose to take the case in an effort to establish legal precedent.

Note: This does not constitute legal advice and these tips may not always work. If you need legal counsel please contact an attorney. You may wish to consider becoming members of HSLDA. – Copied with permission of HSLDA, provided by Fort Wayne Area Home Schools.

INDIANA

- Compulsory Attendance Ages:** Beginning in fall of school year in which child turns 7 (or when child enrolls in a school, if earlier, or on 7th birthday if parent certifies they intend to enroll child in nonaccredited private school) until child turns 18, or graduates. West's Annotated Indiana Code § 20-33-2-6.
- Required Days of Instruction:** “for the number of days public schools are in session in the school corporation in which the child is enrolled in Indiana.” West’s Annotated Code § 20-33-2-5 and § 20-30-2-3. Generally, 180 days.
- Required Subjects:** “A school that is nonpublic, non-accredited, and not otherwise approved by the Indiana State Board of Education is not bound by any requirements set forth in IC 20 or IC 21 with regard to curriculum or the content of educational programs offered by the school.” (§ 20-33-2-12 (a))

Home School Statute: None.

Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools: Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-2-4(2). A child may attend “another school which is taught in the English language.”

1. The Indiana Appellate Court held that the Indiana compulsory attendance law allows the operation of home schools. *State v. Peterman*, 32 Ind. App. 665, 70 N.E. 550 (1904). Essentially, the Court said a school at home is a private school.

The Court defined a school as “a place where instruction is imparted to the young..... We do not think that the number of persons, whether one or many, make a place where instruction is imparted any less or any more a school.” *Peterman*, at 551. The court explained further: “Under a law very similar to ours, the Supreme Court of Massachusetts has held that the object and purpose of a compulsory educational law are that all the children shall be educated, not that they shall be educated in any particular way.” *Peterman*, at 551.

The Court concluded; “The result to be obtained, and not the means or manner of attaining it, was the goal which the lawmakers were attempting to reach. The [compulsory attendance] law was made for the parent who does not educate his child, and not for the parent who ... so places within the reach of the child the opportunity and means of acquiring an education equal to that obtainable in the public schools....” *Peterman*, at 552.

2. In *Mazanec v. North Judson-San Pierre School Corporation*, 614 F. Supp. 1152 (N.D. Ind. 1985), (aff’d by 798 F.2d 230), a federal district court recognized that parents have the constitutional right to educate their children in a home environment (at page 1160). The court wrote concerning the qualifications of home school parents that, “it is now doubtful that the requirements of a formally

licensed or certified teacher ... would pass constitutional muster.” (at p. 1160). On appeal, the circuit court ruled that a school corporation is not immune from a 1983 action for improper enforcement of compulsory attendance.

3. Parents must keep attendance records, Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-2-20, “solely to verify the enrollment and attendance of the particular child upon request of the state superintendent ... or the superintendent of the school corporation in which the private school is located.”
4. A private school administrator shall furnish, on request of the state superintendent of public instruction, the number of children by grade level attending the school. § 20-33-2-21(b). This request must be to the individual private school, not merely a blanket announcement to the public at large. Indiana Public School officials frequently request that parents seeking to homeschool their children complete an online “enrollment” form on the Indiana Department of Education website. This enrollment is not required under state law and entirely voluntary. Contact HSLDA for more information.
5. Although the child must be “provided with instruction equivalent to that given in public schools” (§ 20-33-2-28), the State Board of Education is not given the authority to define “equivalent instruction” nor to approve home schools. Furthermore, § 20-33-2-12(a) has removed all subject requirements, leaving home schools without any mandatory subjects.

Teacher Qualifications: None.

Standardized Tests: Not required.

HSLDA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Every question should be completely answered by parent or legal guardian using black or blue ink. Please do not staple correspondence to this application.

1 ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Other title _____

Name _____

Last First Middle initial

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Other title _____

Spouse _____

Last First Middle initial

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip code _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

2

A. Where did you hear about HSLDA? ☐ Print ad

☐ Home School Heartbeat ☐ Friend

☐ A local support group ☐ HSLDA E-let Service

☐ Other _____

B. From whom did you receive this application?

☐ Conference table ☐ Curriculum supplier

☐ HSLDA office ☐ Friend

☐ Conference materials bag ☐ HSLDA website

☐ Discount/support group ☐ Other _____

3 Was your family previously a member of HSLDA? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, when? _____

4 Do you have school-age children (4–18 years old)? ☐ Yes ☐ No If no, skip to question 7.

5 Please provide the names of both parents and anyone else who is providing instruction or supervision on a regular basis to your children.

First name	Last name	Years of education completed or degree acquired	What percentage of the teaching will this person be doing? <small>Column should total 100%.</small>	During what hours will this person be involved in teaching? <small>Example: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.</small>	If instructor works outside the home, please list work schedule (days and hours). <small>If you need more space, please explain below.</small>
Father					
Mother					
Other					

6 Provide information on all children you are planning to teach at home. List additional children on separate sheet. (Generally, we cannot protect your right to homeschool any children other than those in your own family. If any students are not part of your family, please explain.)

Please list students age 4–18 who will be or are currently being homeschooled. <i>If child's last name is different from parents' last name, please provide.</i>			What is instructor's legal relationship to each child? BP=Biological/Adoptive parent NR=No legal relationship SP=Stepparent CC=Custodian of child (not court appointed) LG=Legal guardian (court appointed) GP=Grandparent			Date home-schooling first began (or will begin)		Is student enrolled in any public school program? <i>If yes, explain below.</i>		Is there any time during traditional school hours when this student will not be under adult supervision? <i>If yes, explain below for any child under 13.</i>	
First	Last	Age	Father	Mother	Other	M	Y	Yes	No	Yes	No
						/		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						/		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						/		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						/		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						/		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanations for questions 5–6:

7 Have you been investigated for or charged with child abuse, neglect, or any other related charge within the past five years? *If yes, please explain when the investigation occurred, if there was a finding of abuse or neglect, and if it has been fully resolved. Use a separate sheet if necessary. Include copies of any court documents and correspondence from social services.* Yes ☐ No ☐

8 Has any legal action been threatened or brought against your children, homeschool, or anyone associated with it, or have you been contacted by any local school district official, social worker, or other government official concerning your children, your homeschool, or absence from public school? *If yes, please describe the threat, legal action, or contact (by whom and when). Include copies of correspondence, legal documents, etc.* Yes ☐ No ☐

Explanations for questions 7–8:

Office Use Only	Account #	Payment type, date, and amount	Accepted by	Group #	27 of 31
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9 Membership and Payment Options—Please note: No refund is available once membership is established.

	One year	Two years	Five years	Lifetime	Monthly Payments
Standard membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	<input type="checkbox"/> \$230	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10/month (first payment \$25)
Special membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 <input type="checkbox"/> \$190 <input type="checkbox"/> \$450 HSLDA offers a special rate to pastors, missionaries, active, retired or disabled military personnel, and groups who have established a discount with HSLDA. You qualify for a discounted rate if you are: <input type="checkbox"/> A full-time pastor. <input type="checkbox"/> A full-time missionary. <input type="checkbox"/> Active/retired/disabled military. <input type="checkbox"/> A member of a group that is part of HSLDA's Group Discount Program. (Complete information below.) Group name <input type="text"/> Group number (Contact your group for number.) <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <i>To assist groups in keeping accurate records, HSLDA will provide your group administrator with periodic reports that include your name, zip code, account number, and membership date.</i>	The Lifetime Membership will allow your membership to continue as long as you desire to be an advocate with us for the cause of homeschooling and HSLDA continues to offer services to homeschoolers. Lifetime members are entitled to all the privileges enjoyed by other HSLDA members, as well as the peace of mind that their membership will always be active. Lifetime Memberships are non-transferable, and HSLDA membership fees are not tax deductible.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments can only be made by direct debit or credit card, no money orders. • A \$15 setup fee is added to the first payment. • All payment plan memberships automatically renew after the 12th month and are not eligible for multi-year memberships. • Auto renewal can be cancelled only after the 12th month. • Payment plan memberships cannot be rushed. Payment authorization My signature below authorizes HSLDA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If using direct debit only—To initiate electronic fund transfer in the form of pre-authorized check withdrawals (debits) from my account at the financial institution written on my check, to debit my first payment immediately, and to debit subsequent payments on the 10th of each month thereafter. • If using debit/credit card—To charge my first payment immediately, and debit subsequent payments on the 10th of each month thereafter. <i>This authority is to remain in full force and effect until HSLDA has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford HSLDA reasonable opportunity to act on it. I understand that membership is for a minimum term of one year.</i> Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>

10 Processing options

<input type="checkbox"/> Additional rush fee—\$35	Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="text"/>
For a non-refundable fee of \$35, we will rush your application through the normal review process—which generally takes 4–6 weeks. Approval is not guaranteed. Your signature authorizes us to charge this rush fee. If you have questions, contact us at 540-338-5600. If paying by check, include \$35 with your membership payment.	

11 Method of payment (Please do not send cash.)

☐ Check or money order payable to HSLDA (Payment in full only.)
☐ Direct debit: Attach a check with the current date for the amount of your first payment. (Money order not available for payment plan.)
☐ Debit/Credit card (all fields required): ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
 Card # Name on card
 Exp. date / Signature ☒

Please note:

- Payment must be submitted with application. No refund is available once membership is established.
- Membership dues are not tax deductible. HSLDA is not an insurance company and cannot guarantee legal representation in every situation.
- Membership begins once your application is reviewed, approved, and entered in our membership database.
- The processing of applications usually takes two to four weeks (longer in the summer and fall) once we have received your application.
- You will receive a membership packet after your application is approved. Membership is valid from the date your application is processed.
- Of your annual membership dues, \$15.00 is the *Home School Court Report* subscription cost.
- HSLDA reserves the right not to accept any membership application and the right to revoke membership if any information has been misrepresented. If your application cannot be approved, we will return your payment and send you a letter of explanation.
- Membership services are not available in connection with any child enrolled in a public school or government-supported program based in the home, such as a charter school, virtual charter school, or independent study program.
- HSLDA does not provide legal representation for members in matters involving divorce, child custody, or related domestic disputes.
- Because of HSLDA's active involvement in preserving traditional marriage, we do not provide legal representation in matters involving same-sex marriages, civil unions, polygamy, or related domestic arrangements.

12 By signing this application, we agree:

- To exercise diligence in teaching our children in a responsible way.
- To use a thoughtful and intentional program of education to instruct our children.
- To keep records of each child's educational progress.
- To notify the Association promptly of any threatened or actual legal action related to our homeschool.
- That all the information presented on this form, to the best of our knowledge, is true and accurate.

Signature ☒ Date

Attendance Calendar for Academic Year _____ - _____

Student Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Total
August																																
September																																
October																																
November																																
December																																
January																																
February																																
March																																
April																																
May																																
June																																
July																																

Total Days Attended: _____

Comments: _____

Fort Wayne Area Home Schools

Policies:

Statement of Faith:

We believe in the eternally-existing, triune God; man's sinful nature and need for redemption; and Jesus Christ's atoning death and resurrection. We believe in the inerrancy of the Bible and that it is the foundation upon which all education should be based. (Jeremiah 10:2, Joshua 1:8, II Timothy 3:16, Colossians 2:8, James 1:5, and Deuteronomy 6:6-9). No denomination or individual doctrine will be promoted.

Statement of Purpose:

Fort Wayne Area Home Schools exists to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by:

- 1) helping new homeschooling parents get started
- 2) informing homeschoolers about available resources
- 3) providing opportunities for homeschoolers to meet and encourage one another
- 4) monitoring the legislature and passing along pertinent information to the homeschool network
- 5) encouraging parents to "train up their children in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6)
- 6) encouraging excellence in homeschools

To participate in a FWAHS-sponsored activity, one need not agree with these statements, only understand that this is the basis from which the Board will work.

FWAHS Offers:

Orientation Meetings

Prospective and beginning homeschool parents hear a short presentation on the basics of home education and have ample opportunity to ask questions. Newsletter subscription forms, Resource Expo packets and various other materials are available. Because this is a parent education meeting, we request that only adults attend. Meetings are held quarterly. To receive a starter packet between meetings, send your name and mailing address to info@fwahs.org. Visit the FWAHS web site for specific meeting dates.

Homemade News

This is Fort Wayne Area Home Schools' newsletter. Published quarterly, it contains a calendar of current homeschool events, resources, legislative news, articles, and reviews. The *Homemade News* is the main form of communication within our support group, and, as such, is a vital link with the local homeschooling community. Subscribers with e-mail access can also elect to receive e-mail updates of opportunities that arise between newsletters. A subscription form can be printed out from the FWAHS web site at www.fwahs.org.

Achievement Tests

Each spring, FWAHS arranges for standardized testing for those homeschool families who desire to have their children tested in a group setting. The tests to be offered, the costs, and registration dates will be announced in the *Homemade News*. For this reason, any family wishing to participate must subscribe to the *Homemade News* by February 15.

Resource Expo

The Annual Home Educators' Resource Expo is held each spring. Parents can examine or purchase many texts and teaching resources from major publishers and suppliers, as well as talk to sales representatives about curricula and materials. Workshops with topics relevant to homeschoolers will be held during the day and at the Expo Preview held the evening before. All *Homemade News* subscribers receive a schedule of Expo events. Others may download a copy from www.fwahs.org.

Web Site

The FWAHS web site at www.fwahs.org is a regularly updated site containing information about orientation meetings, legislative updates, graduation, FWAHS Library resources, and links to other homeschool related sites. The FWAHS board may be contacted by e-mail through the site.

Annual Used Curriculum Sale

An annual used curriculum and book sale is held in the spring to provide homeschool teachers an opportunity to sell used books they no longer need or to buy used books for the next year. There is no admission fee. More details can be found in the *Homemade News* and at www.fwahs.org.

Graduation

FWAHS provides an opportunity for families with graduating homeschool seniors to participate in a traditional, yet personal, commencement ceremony each spring. Updated planning and participation details are included in the *Homemade News* and on our web site at www.fwahs.org.

FWAHS Offers:

(continued)

The following are also available to homeschoolers in our area. Details can be found in the *Homemade News*.

Drama Camp

E-mail Updates of Opportunities *

FWAHS Lending Library *

Geography Bee

Group Discount for HSLDA Membership *

Roller Skating Parties

Spelling Bee

Science Fair/Science Expo

Workshops

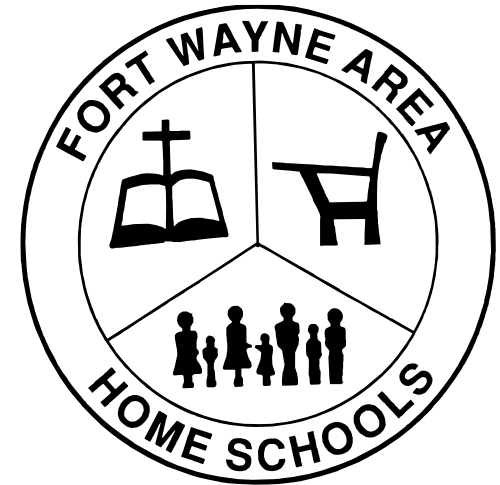
* Must be a *Homemade News* Subscriber

For more information about Fort Wayne Area Home Schools (FWAHS), contact:

Fort Wayne Area Home Schools
www.fwahs.org

Fort Wayne Area Home Schools

FWAHS



*“And all thy children shall be taught
of the Lord, and great shall be the
peace of thy children.”*

Isaiah 54:13