



Home Educators' Resource Packet



Dear Home-Educating Parents,

I commend you on the endeavor of home-educating your children. It will take hard work and commitment, but so does anything worthwhile. As with any educational choice there will be times that are more challenging than others, hang in there and think long haul. There is no utopia, as it is homeschooling...not Heaven. However, it's still a great choice for parents who know they are capable of directing their child's education and who have the "best interest" of their child(ren) at heart.

Parents spend countless hours with their children and know what's best for them. Although there are good certified teachers out there, certification is NOT necessary to effectively educate your children, nor is it necessary to attend college to educate yourself. While attending college may be necessary for obtaining a certification to be hired for a specific job for pay, it's not a requirement for doing that job well, nor is it a guarantee that job will be done well.

You can educate yourself...as a matter of fact each of us must educate ourselves. Others can present information, but it's only when we accept and internalize that information for our-self, that it is assimilated into our thinking and thus we are educated in that area. We can be schooled and not educated, likewise, we can be educated and not schooled.

Attending monthly-local group meetings, homeschool conventions, on-line web casts or viewing DVD based methods courses created by people who specialize in a given area are all extremely effective and efficient ways of learning how to; teach specific subjects, schedule your day, teach multi-level groups, teach to different learning styles and just about anything else you can think of.

Mentor-mom groups are also great ways to learn from the educational "professionals", better known as the home-educating veterans. They have experienced education in many or all grade levels and through many different situations, because...life happens while you educate your children. They can share what worked for them and what they would modify or change completely, they can make suggestions or just listen.

Do whatever it takes to educate yourself, as each time you learn something new you are growing and increasing your ability to learn exponentially while acquiring useful tools that will enable you to more effectively and confidently home-educate your children.

You are responsible, by law, to see that your child makes "progress commensurate to their ability". How you accomplish this is up to you.

This resource packet is based on many frequently asked questions from parents I work and homeschool with... I hope you find it a useful resource..

My main goal is not to give you everything on a silver platter, but to light a fire and passion within you that will spark your desire to continue educating yourself, which in turn will equip you to better educate your children.

I am only one of many who's heart and ministry it is to help homeschooling families in their journey. You are not alone and help is always near. If you are willing to take the time to look for what you need, you will find it.

Follow the Florida Statutes on Home-Education and always be above reproach.

Enjoy your children while you have them and remember; the days seem long, but the years are short.

God Bless and God Speed!!! ♡ Teri

Equipping home-educators to run the race...

Teresa Diaz

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Visit: www.educationalrcb.org



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****If you change your email address, please update it with us so we can stay in touch and keep you informed with future testing dates, information, newsletters, resources: workshops and events. Go to: EducationalRCB.org to add or update your email.**

Updated: 11/7/09



ERCB MISSION STATEMENT

Educational Resource Center of Broward exists to help equip home-educators to run the race.

We accomplish this by providing; educational testing and evaluations that comply with Florida State Home-Education Law 1002.41, group workshops, as well as, facilitating and guiding parents in the obtaining the skills and resources they need to build their confidence, thus empowering them to educate their child(ren) in an effective and confident manner.

Disclaimer: Although we gather and recommend organizations and resources, we do NOT endorse them. We make said recommendations with the understanding that you, the parent, are ultimately responsible for your child's learning and what he/she is exposed to. Research all things ahead of time, as each person's standard of "acceptable" may differ, then decide if the said activity, website, curriculum, books, etc., are appropriate for your family. Nothing here constitutes the giving of legal advice and it is always best to verify any legal information with the actual source. Also, we try to be as accurate as possible, however web addresses change and we are prone to human error at times.

Thank you for allowing us to serve your family.

[Equipping home educators to run the race...](#)

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Home Educators' Legal Responsibilities

This must be done for each child:

1. Send Letter of Intent—Send only once, at the beginning of the school year that your child will turn 6 years of age by Feb 1.
Ex: If you are in Aug. of 2009 and your child will be 6 years old by Feb. 1, 2009, Send it in. The date you send it is known as your "Anniversary Date."
2. Send Annual/Yearly Evaluation Letter—Due one year from the date you sent in your Letter of Intent and each year thereafter. Get it in by the date you sent in your Letter of Intent; also known as your "Anniversary Date."
3. Maintain a Portfolio of Records, Materials and Samples:
 1. A *log* of educational activities made contemporaneously with the instruction and that designates by title any reading materials used.
 2. *Samples* of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used to developed by the student.
 4. Your portfolio must be preserved for a period of two years.
 5. Your portfolio must be made available for inspection by the superintendent upon a 15 day written notice.
6. Send a letter of Termination, upon completion of homeschool program.
 1. Upon High School Graduation to provide closure or
 2. Upon stopping the home-education program for any reason; putting them back into school, or moving out of state...

Some Helpful Yearly REMINDERS—Place important dates in your calendar.

August/September: ***Send Letter of Intent to register with School Board, if applicable—see Home-Education Law-Analysis.

Sign-Up for FPEA and HSLDA, at a discounted rate through ERCB, if you haven't already through your local group.

October/November: Order Scoring-High Test Preparation, if needed, practice incrementally.

February/March: **Annual South Florida Homeschool Convention in Davie**—Professional Development for the Home-Educator, great speakers and curricula hall.

Register for end of year standardized testing OR

Make appointment for personal evaluations in time for your anniversary date.

April: IOWA—END OF YEAR HOMESCHOOL TESTING with ERCB

May: **Annual FPEA Homeschool Convention in Orlando**— Professional Development for the Home-Educator—great speakers and curricula hall.

June: IOWA—END OF YEAR HOMESCHOOL TESTING with ERCB

***Send Annual Letter of Evaluation on your anniversary date, if child is registered with the school board. Follow the Home-Education Law. Pay attention to your date. Get it in on time. Send it return-receipt.

*** Notes a LEGAL REQUIREMENT in Florida See Home-Education Statute 1002.41@ flsenate.gov for the complete law. This information does NOT constitute the giving of legal advice. HSLDA provides a legal analysis of the State Home-Education Law.



**So, you've decided to home-educate your children,
(and yourself). Now what?...Glad you asked!**

1. Comply with your requirements of the Home-Education Law 1002.41.
2. Join: 1. A local homeschool group or have some type of support. 2. Homeschool Legal Defense Association www.HSLDA.org for advocacy, legal representation, k-12 guidance, discounts, plus... and 3. Florida Parent-Educators Association www.FPEA.com for the Guide to Homeschooling, informative/educational newsletters and the annual convention. Both are worthwhile Associations. Visit both websites to see everything they offer. We offer discounted rates to both-see www.educationalrcb.org.
3. Get a notebook. Writing things down helps you focus and remember.
4. Consider your resources of time and money. Consider what you are willing to do.
5. List the children's ages and grades. Consider each age/grade and what they will need that particular year.
6. Contemplate which teaching method or methods fit you and your family best, see pages 12-15. Ex: Conventional, Unit-Study, Eclectic, Classical and Delayed Academics, just to name a few. Most home-educators use a variety.
7. If you have a special-needs child, learn how to educate that child according to their need. Get help if needed. Don't let anyone limit your child.
8. Seek enrichment programs or coops if your family has the need or desire.
9. Plan your work, on paper, and work your plan.
10. Revisit and revise your plan as necessary.
11. Modify. Bag a curriculum that isn't working and find another. It will be o.k. and probably better in the long-haul.
12. If you get stuck on a step or don't understand something you want to learn more about, call a friend or mentor mom, check the educationalrcb.org website, email me, Google it, learn, learn and learn some more.

Sometimes we feel like we can't afford the time to learn.

I submit that you CAN afford it. What you can't afford is NOT to learn.

That will cause you to remain dependant on other people.

Each child needs a well rounded mom and dad who
not only encourage and help them learn but
continue to learn themselves.



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Compulsory Attendance Ages: “All children who have attained the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years...are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term.” Florida Statutes Annotated § 1003.21(1).

Required Days of Instruction: 180 days for public and private schools. Florida Statutes Annotated § 1003.02(1)(g) 1. However, home schoolers operating under option 1 below are specifically excluded from this requirement.

Required Subjects: None.

Home schools have three options:

Home School Statute: Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.41.

Option 1: Home schools can operate under the home school law.

1. The definition of a “home education program” is “sequentially progressive instruction of a student directed by his parent or guardian....” Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.01(1).
2. The parent must meet the following requirements:
 - a. notify the county superintendent in writing within 30 days of establishing the home school (not required to be filed annually);
 - b. give the names, addresses, and birth dates of the home school students; and
 - c. maintain a portfolio of records and materials consisting of a log of educational activities made contemporaneously with the instruction and designating by title any reading materials used and samples of any writings, worksheets, workbooks, or creative materials used or developed by the student. The portfolio must be preserved for two years and made available for inspection by the superintendent upon 15 days’ written notice, but the school district has no authority to enter the home. Nothing in this section shall require the superintendent to inspect the portfolio. (**Note:** The child abuse affidavit requirement was repealed in 1995 by Senate Bill 1536.)

Alternative Statutes Allowing for Home Schools: Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.43 and § 1002.01(2).

Option 2. More than one home school can operate as a private school. A child who “attends” a private, parochial, religious, or denominational school is exempt from compulsory attendance. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.01(2). Florida’s intermediate appellate court ruled in *State v. Buckner*, 472 So. 2d 1228 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1985) that one home school does not qualify as a private school by itself. However, groups of home schools file as private schools under Fla. Stat. Ann. Ch. 623 (the Private School Corporation Law of 1959, Ch. 617 (the Nonprofit Corporation Law), or Ch. 607 (The Florida Business Corporation Act). FL-1

Ch. 623 schools must file a charter with their local circuit court and file an annual data base form. In some localities, they may be required to obtain a business license. Although in practice these schools have operated for years, the Deputy General Counsel for the Board of Education has issued a non-binding memorandum dated November 2, 1988, stating that home schools cannot satellite with Ch. 623 private schools because they must be in “attendance” at the school. The memorandum, however, did not deal with Ch. 607 and 617 schools which must merely incor-

porate and file an annual data base form. The memorandum also ignored the fact that children enrolled in Ch. 623 schools are actually "in attendance" at various classroom sites located in each home and that the Ch. 623, Ch. 607, and Ch. 617 schools meet all the statutory requirements for private schools. Thousands of home school students are legally enrolled in these schools throughout the state.

Option 3. Home schools can operate under the private tutor law. Fla Stat. Ann. § 1002.43. A person may teach a child if the person meets the following requirements:

- a. holds a valid Florida certificate to teach the subjects or grades in which instruction is given;
- b. keeps all records and makes all reports required by the state and district school board; and
- c. requires students to be in actual attendance for 180 days or the equivalent on an hourly basis.

Teacher Qualifications: None for parents.

Standardized Tests: Only required for parents homeschooling under the home school law in Option 1 above. Each student must do one of the following each year:

- 1) Have educational progress evaluated by a teacher holding a valid regular Florida teaching certificate and selected by the parent. The evaluation must include review of a portfolio and discussion with the student;
- 2) Take any nationally normed student achievement test administered by a certified teacher;
- 3) Take "a state student assessment test used by the school district and administered by a certified teacher, at a location and under testing condition approved by the school district";
- 4) Be evaluated by a Florida licensed psychologist or school psychologist; or
- 5) Be "evaluated with any other valid measurement tool as mutually agreed upon."

The parent must file a copy of the evaluation with the local school superintendent annually.

There is no specific statutory deadline. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.41(1)(c).

"The school superintendent shall review and accept the results of the annual evaluation.... If the pupil does not demonstrate educational progress at a level commensurate with his ability, the superintendent shall notify the parent in writing...." The parent shall have one year to provide "remedial instruction" to the pupil. At the end of the "one year probationary period" the student shall be reevaluated to determine if he has progressed "commensurate with his ability." Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1002.41(2).

Religious Freedom Act: Fla. Stat. § 761.01 et seq.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), passed with the help of HSLDA members, gives religious home schoolers another legal means to protect their right to home school. If the parents' free exercise of religion is substantially burdened by having to comply with the homeschool law, the parents may use the RFRA as a defense or file suit against the state. Under this statute, the burden is on the state to prove that its requirement "furthers a compelling state interest" and is the "least restrictive means" of fulfilling its interest *Florida* FL-3 that children be educated. This Act restores the highest protection of the individual's right to freely exercise his religious beliefs taken away by the U.S. Supreme Court in its 1997 *City of Boerne* decision. 521 U.S. 507.

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Protect your children *by standing up for parenthood!*

Parents have the high privilege and solemn duty to raise their children to know and love God. While all parents desire that their grown children embrace their faith freely and enthusiastically, when children are young, it falls to parents to make decisions regarding their children's religious upbringing, including:

- † How often does your family attend your place of worship?
- † What congregation have you chosen to attend?
- † Can you teach your children that your religious views are absolutely true?

However, your freedom to determine the answers to these three questions will be undermined if the United States Senate ratifies the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. For example:

- † A Washington state court ruled that parents could not require their 13-year-old son to attend church with them on Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night. The judge said that unless the family limited the boy's church attendance to Sunday morning, he would remove custody. This Washington law (which has since changed) paralleled the UN children's treaty.
- † The Scottish government, in an official publication produced to help their youth understand their rights under the UN treaty, says: "You have the right to choose your own religion and beliefs." The role of parents? They "help you think about this."
- † The American Bar Association, a strong supporter of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, acknowledges that religious schools that teach that Jesus is the only way to God "fly in the face" of the treaty. Thus, any who teach children that their religion is the truth are likewise in violation.

Under Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, all ratified treaties are superior to state constitutions and laws. Hence, this treaty will override virtually all current American laws on parents and children that conflict with it.



What can we do? Only a U.S. constitutional amendment will stop international law from interfering with parental rights. Over 100 members of the U.S. House are co-sponsors of the Parental Rights Amendment.

You can make a difference! Sign up as a supporter of American parental rights at www.parentalrights.org.



Protecting Children by Empowering Parents
parentalrights.org

A THREAT AGAINST PARENTHOOD: The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC)

The Structure:

1. The CRC is a treaty that creates binding rules of law. It is no mere statement of altruism.
2. This treaty would automatically override almost all family law in America due to Article VI of the United States Constitution.
3. Congress would have the power to directly legislate on all subjects necessary to comply with the treaty. This would constitute the most massive shift of power from the states to the federal government in American history.
4. American courts would have the power to directly enforce the self-executing provisions of the treaty.
5. A committee of 18 experts from other nations, sitting in Geneva, has the authority to issue official interpretations of the treaty which would be entitled to binding weight in American courts and legislatures. This would effectively transfer ultimate authority for all policies in this area to this foreign committee.

The Substance:

1. Parents would no longer be able to administer reasonable spankings to their children.
2. Children would have the ability to choose their own religion while parents would only have the authority to give their children advice about religion.
3. The best interest of the child principle would give the government the ability to override every decision made by every parent if a government worker disagreed with the parent's decision.
4. Children would have the right to reproductive health information and services, including abortions, without parental knowledge or consent.
5. Religious schools that refuse to teach "alternative worldviews" and teach that theirs is the only true religion "fly in the face of article 29" of the treaty, says the American Bar Association.

THE SOLUTION: THE PARENTAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SECTION 1

The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children is a fundamental right.

SECTION 2

Neither the United States nor any State shall infringe upon this right without demonstrating that its governmental interest as applied to the person is of the highest order and not otherwise served.

SECTION 3

No treaty may be adopted nor shall any source of international law be employed to supersede, modify, interpret, or apply to the rights guaranteed by this article.

**Join the network at ParentalRights.org
Protecting Children by Empowering Parents**

Associations, Groups, and Enrichment Resources

1. Home School Protection and Advocacy

Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) - is a nonprofit advocacy organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children and to protect family freedoms. Through annual memberships, HSLDA is tens of thousands of families united in service together, providing a strong voice when and where needed. Sign up on HSLDA's e-lets and proactively make a difference. You can be an effective part of the team by just simply making a phone call to a local or state representative, when needed. HSLDA provides the piece of mind you need to free you up and do the most important job, parenting, and educating your child. HSLDA also offers: Constitutional Law for Christian Students, Curricula Market, Court Report Magazines, Webinars-web seminars, parent/teacher and student ID cards. Check them out on the web at www.HSLDA.org © Site Copyright 1996-2007 Home School Legal Defense Association P.O. Box 3000 · Purcellville, VA 20134-9000 · Phone: (540) 338-5600 · Fax: (540) 338-2733 · E-mail: info@hsllda.org

****We/ERCB offer the group discount rate for you.
Just go to hsllda.org and reference ERCB #299206.**

2. State Home School Group/Association

Florida Parent Educators Association (FPEA) - A state wide group that exists solely to serve home-schooling families in Florida. The FPEA executes that mission through support for the legal right to homeschool, local school-board education and interaction, state and local support-group networking and listings, an amazing state convention, local conferences and events, informative communications, and, most importantly, by giving individual encouragement. Upon registration you will be sent "The Guide to Homeschooling in Florida"; a comprehensive education for the parent. Mine is worn out from use. www.fpea.com

****We/ERCB offer the group discount rate for you. Download an application from www.educationalrcb.org and follow the directions.**

3. Local Homeschool Support Groups

Current and active listings at www.fpea.com

4. Homeschool Testing, Evaluations and Consulting

Educational Resource Center of Broward (ERCB)- Equipping home-educators to run the race. **Homeschool friendly year end testing and evaluations** that comply with Florida Homeschool Law. Schedules are posted in the Fall of each year. **Scoring-High Test Preparation** Program and teacher manuals, available for grades 3-8.

For information on test registration, test preparation, etc.

Go to: www.educationalrcb.org

5. Homeschool Enrichment Classes and Programs

Christian Homeschool Athletic Association of Florida (CHAA) - "Where Jesus is Lord and every child is a winner." C.H.A.A. is an Athletic Organization created for the sole purpose of giving homeschool children all the benefits of an athletic curriculum under the guidance of professional instructors. The Presidential Physical Fitness Challenge and Field Day is provided each school year. P. E. programs are offered at various and numerous locations from Homestead to Port St. Lucie, from Naples to Hollywood. www.chaasaints.com

S F Heat (Home Educated Athletic Teams) is a Christian based community for kids and young adults to gain life skills and perspectives through competitive athletics. www.sfheat.net

Homeschool-Mentor Moms Coordinator: Email Mia at miasteve@comcast.com

Homeschool Fellowship and Fieldtrips: Email Nuirka at notofthisworld7@bellsouth.net



Sunshine Learning Center - 7 Years of Experience teaching South Florida homeschoolers. Specializing in Math, Science, English, Foreign Languages, Prelaw, Premed, and College Entrance SAT Prep. Weekly classes include homework, quizzes, tests, progress reports, and report cards. Workshops and private tutoring are available Monday - Friday for extra help at no additional cost. 7 day a week access to teachers by phone and email. Excellent for both the struggling student, and the student who wishes to excel further. A place where hundreds of homeschool students are excited about learning! One of the best things at the Sunshine Learning Center is the student! Call 954-971-7370 or visit the web site: www.homeschoolclasses.com

Equip Education—Christian-Homeschool-Classical-Enrichment program, 1 day per week, for 7th-12th grades. We utilize the tools of classical education, the Trivium and mentoring to build disciples of Jesus Christ. A leadership education is provided because each student needs the skills and confidence to become a leader of their own life. In addition, we want students to develop the desire and determination to find God's will for their life and the strength to follow Him wherever He leads. We believe students are served well by acquiring the ability to think and reason and in turn develop the internal desire to educate themselves. To learn more, Visit: www.equipeducation.com or call Don McChesney at 786-863-0498.

Heed Education— Home school Enrichment Classes HEED assists parents by providing the opportunity to join with other families to participate in weekly academic classes, offering the great educational experiences for their children. Visit www.takeheed.org

H.O.M.E.-Homeschoolers of Miami Enrichment—Offering group and private classes for homeschooling families. www.home4homeschoolers.com

BEC: Broward Enrichment Classes ***Up and coming Fall 2010 Details TBA when finalized.

His Players Drama: Contact Lorri @ Visit www.HisPlayers.com

Standing Ovations Theatre: Contact Kelly @ www.BrowardHomeschool.com or email: StandingOvationTheatre@gmail.com

6. Ministry Opportunities

Ministry offers a great opportunity to develop leadership qualities in your children.

It's also a great way to earn volunteer hours.

Church/ministry opportunity ideas that can be done in a small self-initiated group or with your family are visiting nursing homes, children's hospitals, blessing a military family that has a parent absent, sending packages to those serving in the military and serving or helping elderly people in your own neighborhood that are lonely or in need of some service.

Ministry Opportunities are a great way for your child(ren) to step outside of themselves and make a difference in the lives of others, while helping them develop a spirit of compassion and love for those in need. Activities that help others are sometimes better than activities that are merely fun. Fun is good, but service is best.

**Pray about the direction your family should go and be wise when discerning different opportunities. Think about your child's age, maturity level, and abilities. It is the parent's responsibility to use caution and discern each activity by considering what you will be exposing your children to and then preparing them for what they may encounter before hand. We would never put our children at risk, (physically or morally), for any reason. Consider safety when evaluating the appropriateness of any service.

**Never assume that an activity is appropriate because of who is offering it.

Research all the details for yourself.

***Keep your families goals and needs in mind as you evaluate the different resources available. Some offer more social or spiritual activities and others offer more academic. Sometimes it works better to join more than one group in order to get more of your families needs met, some seasons you may not join any. Pick and choose activities carefully and don't get caught up on the activity bandwagon. Raising our children to be leaders who are responsible, marriageable, employable adults with a vision for a life of serving the Lord, their families and others, is the best you can do for them.**

Remember: Good is the thief of BEST!!



I included this article because I felt it summed up educational models in a simple and concise manner.

Three Kinds of Education: A Buyer's Guide

By Adam Andrews

When you decided to homeschool your children, you made a shrewd move: you chose to treat education as a commodity. Not content meekly to accept the government's general issue brand, you declared yourself a consumer in the education market, with the same rights and privileges of all consumers everywhere – namely, the right to choose between options; the right to decide whether, and what, to buy. Boy, the decisions came thick and fast after that, didn't they? What books to read? What tests to take? Which math curriculum is best? Which book prepares Johnny for the college boards? What about phonics? Latin, French, both or neither? Science now or science later? Every homeschooler is of necessity a curriculum designer, and these are all important decisions. It may be helpful to consider that although the number of curriculum choices on the market increases daily, there are really only *three types of education* to choose from.

Practical

First, there is "practical" education. This kind of education is designed to give students a basic set of skills that will enable them to function in society and will help them avoid becoming a burden on the public weal: skills like reading a newspaper, driving a car, balancing a checkbook, operating a computer, playing on a basketball team or filling out a job application.

The ultimate goal of "practical" education is the creation of good citizens. Students who are the products of such education learn how to *behave*, and their parents and teachers are primarily concerned with having them turn out to be well adjusted citizens of their neighborhoods and communities.

Professional

The second type is "professional" education. This kind of education is designed to produce experts in a particular discipline. The fields of engineering, higher math and science, advanced computer programming, architecture, medicine, law, business and information technology team with students who have this sort of training.

"Professional" education produces students who know lots and lots of information about a relatively narrow field of inquiry. These students are experts - specialists. They have been taught more than simply how to behave; they've also been taught how to *perform* – that is, to apply their specific knowledge, when asked or hired to do so, to a specific type of situation. Parents who desire this kind of education for their kids are often primarily concerned with having them get good, high paying jobs.

Philosophical

The third type of education available to the choosy consumer is "philosophical" education. This kind of education is concerned primarily with reading great books, studying world languages, and writing about ideas. It's designed to give students the ability to tell the difference between truth and falsehood; to recognize the timeless principles that make successful societies possible and to communicate these ideas to their neighbors.

A "philosophical" education produces students who are not only capable of choosing good over evil but also capable of leading their fellow men in the pursuit of good. In short, while the practical student knows how to *behave* like a good citizen, and the professional student knows how to *perform* like a specialist, the philosophical student knows how to *think* - like a statesman.

Education Shopping

Of the three types of education mentioned here, the first is the easiest to get. It is available in every public school in America, though you really don't need to go to school in order to get it. Indeed, most parents who have decided on homeschooling have probably also decided that they can provide a sound "practical" education on their own – perhaps without any curriculum at all.

The second kind of education, however – the "professional" kind – requires intensive study and training, and is usually undertaken at the college level or above. If you're after this kind of education for your student, the most productive thing you can do is to help him develop good study habits, so that when he goes to college he'll be able to handle the mental workload.

To do this, you should choose curriculum materials whose reading assignments are challenging, plentiful and continuous. The ability to concentrate for extended periods of time on what one reads is absolutely essential for success in a professional field, and practice is the only way to get there.



In the final analysis, parents who choose a “philosophical” education get the most bang for their curriculum buck. This is because a philosophical education does not neglect the kinds of skills that make a good citizen and it also provides necessary training in the habits of mind that make good specialists. In other words, the goals of both the practical and professional education are almost automatically met by the student who pursues a philosophical education.

But a philosophical education provides much more. The term *philosophical* means “pertaining to the love of wisdom.” A philosophical education is therefore an education in *ideas* rather than skills or habits only – ideas like Liberty, Virtue, Sacrifice, Love, Beauty and Truth.

While these may seem like greeting card clichés, the truth is that such ideas have ruled human society since the dawn of time. The history of their rule is preserved for us in the literature of the civilized world, and it’s here – in literature – that a philosophical education begins.

Here are three questions you can use to determine whether the curriculum choices you’re considering will contribute to your student’s philosophical education:

1. Will these materials require my students to read extensively? Will my students encounter classics of the English language such as the works of Milton, Shakespeare, Dickens, Wordsworth or the King James Bible? Will they encounter classics of ancient literature, such as the works of Homer, Sophocles and Virgil? If not, why not?
 2. Will these materials require or facilitate the discussion of ideas? What kind of writing will they demand? Will my students be taught to respond to their reading out loud and on paper on a regular basis in order to develop skills of analysis and self-expression? If not, why not?
 3. Will these materials teach ME to lead my students in these areas?
- Keeping these questions in mind can help you choose wisely and become an effective consumer in the education marketplace.

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Some authors may have a different name for an educational model described here. Some may call the “philosophical” education the “leadership” education, as in the book **“A Thomas Jefferson Education”** where Oliver Van DeMille also sums up education into three tracks. It’s a great read for understanding education, as well as suggestions for the implementation of the “leadership” model, (mentorship education).

“A Thomas Jefferson Education”—inspire not require
By Oliver Van DeMille

1. **Conveyer Belt Education**—which tries to prepare everyone for a job, any job, by teaching them **what to think**. Most public schools are conveyer belt schools, though there are many excellent teachers in the public system who use leadership methods.
2. **Professional Education**— from apprenticeship and trade schools to law, medical and MBA programs—which create specialists by teaching them **when to think**.
3. **Leadership Education**—**“Thomas Jefferson Education”** , teachers students **how to think** and prepares them to be leaders in their homes and communities, entrepreneurs in business, and statesmen in government.
Keys to Leadership Education: Individualized Curricula, Phases of learning, Mentors & Classics.



Methods of Home Education - Summary

Learning is defined as, "to acquire knowledge or skill by study, instruction or experience." (Random House College Dictionary)

There are many different ways or methods of educating your children. Many of us use a variety in order to meet our child(ren)'s needs, which will change with their seasons of life. The beauty of homeschooling is the freedom to choose and modify as we see necessary. Many resources can be used across learning methods. Below are some examples...

Unit Study/Literature Based Study: Typically contain all or most of the academic subjects through the study of one topic. Some are packaged and sold as complete kits, some are books with instructions and plans, where the materials and books need to be collected. *Some resources are Konos; guides or in a box/complete, FIAR-Five in A Row, Weaver, mediaangels.com, sonlight.com, Learning Language Arts through Literature, the-homeschoolmom.com for free unit studies, happyhomeschool. Home-educate.com, family-classroom.net, google unit studies for other freebies and predesigned unit studies or make your own.*

Unschooling/Child-Directed/Delight-Directed/Relaxed Homeschooling/Gentle Approach/Delayed Academics: A mindset. One of the more difficult to define, for obvious reasons. Unschooling varies from those who refrain from using any curricula or textbooks to those who allow their children to direct the learning. Unschoolers typically use the learning opportunities that present themselves in daily life. If you surround your child with learning opportunities, they will use them to learn. If you surround them with piddle, they will piddle the day away. The best thing to do is educate yourself, provide a rich learning environment and seize the opportunities. As the parent, you are still responsible to provide a learning environment rich with opportunities.

John Holt, first to use the term unschooling in his 1977 article, *Growing Without School*. At the time he was referring to all homeschoolers, as he felt the school system was fundamentally flawed and felt parents should pull their children out of the school system and create an environment that allowed the children the freedom to explore their own interests.

The late Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore believe in a better way. After 55 years of teaching teachers and students, and managing education at all levels, they provide *"The Handbook, secrets to avoid and cure burnout and failure, www.moorefoundation.com. After basic research at Stanford University and the University of Colorado Medical School, they analyzed over 8000 studies of children's senses, brain, cognition, socialization, etc., and found that no replicable evidence exists for rushing children into formal study at home or school before 8 or 10.*

Some useful resources are The Unschooling Handbook" by Mary Griffith, The Relaxed Homeschooler, Home Grown Kids and The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook, by Raymond and Dorothy Moore, Mary Pride's Complete Book to Getting Started in Homeschooling.

Charlotte Mason: using living books and narration, and how to teach reading, composition, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, history, poetry, nature study, art, music appreciation and Shakespeare. *Charlotte Mason Companion* by Karen Andreola.



Traditional/Conventional or Text Book: Systematic approach that follows a specific scope and sequence. This approach comes in a variety of packages; only for one subject, such as math, for all subjects, or just a few. It can be text book, work book, work text or computer based. This method can be modified by choosing how much you use of it, as well as how you use or enrich the portions you choose to use. In addition, you can mix and match publishers choosing the books/subjects from the publisher the fit your children best. A cream of the crop idea. *Some examples are Alpha Omega, Christian Liberty Press, Rod and Staff, School of Tomorrow, A Beka, Calvert School, Bob Jones University Press, Apologia-older grades.*

Classical: Involves teaching based on the Trivium or three stages of learning: the Grammar stage; involves learning facts, memorization and gathering facts, the Logic stage: reasoning and logic begin to be applied to the knowledge, and the Rhetoric stage: student learns the skills of wisdom, debate and judgment. *Some resources are: Teaching the Trivium by Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn, The Well-Trained Mind by Susan Wise Bauer, www.classical-homeschooling.org, www.memoriapress.com, Classical Conversations is a nationwide network of classical communities providing local services to homeschoolers, and Equip Education: a local classical education provider—www.equipeducation.com*

Principle Approach: Using the methods of our founding fathers: Applying God's Biblical Principles to all areas of education, using the bible as our text-book and teaching. The idea is to ground our children in the Truth so they will become discerning leaders of character. Uses 1. exploration, 2. the 4 R's: research, reason, relate and record, 3. Notebooking, 4. All through a biblical world view. *Some resources are "The Noah Plan", www.crosswalk.com.*

Eclectic: Selecting or choosing from different systems. Picking the cream of the crop. (Many of us fall into this category).

Learning Styles

When we consider learning and styles, remember learning is more effective when we move from the known to the unknown; bridging the gap. Teach to the preferred learning style with new information and practice that information in the other learning styles, as those need to be developed also.

1. Visual—Learn better by seeing
2. Auditory—Learn better by hearing.
3. Kinesthetic/Tactile—Learn better by doing.

"How am I Smart" by: Kathy Koch www.authenticanswers.com

"The Way They Learn" by: Cynthia Tobias www.

"Discover Your Child's Learning Style by: Mariaemma Willis, M.S. and Victoria Kindle Hodson, M.A.

As you set off or continue on your journey in researching all the possibilities there are for your family, remember there is no fixed equation. Modify as needed and be confident that you are the one who knows what is truly best for your family.



Great Books and Teacher/Parent Resources

There are many great books that can really help shape the way we think, do marriage, parent, home-educate, and basically do life in general. Reading is a great family activity that helps us grow, learn, and just experience many things, places and time-periods. Read at your own pace, one chapter a night is sufficient and better than none at all. Be sure to follow up with discussions that foster good thinking and understanding of the material read. Don't be afraid to share your experiences and growth, as developmentally appropriate, with your children.

**"Incline your ear to wisdom; and apply your heart to understanding...
for the Lord gives wisdom..." Proverbs 2:2-6**

1. **YouCanHomeschool.org—An informative website for the beginner and novice.**
2. **"Thomas Jefferson Education" and the "T.J. Education Home Companion"**, Teaching a Generation of Leaders for the Twenty-First Century", By Oliver Van DeMille , founder and president of George Wythe College. He and his wife Rachel homeschool their eight children, applying these principles. Included are: The 7 Keys of Great Teaching, The 4 Phases of Learning, The 5 Environments of Mentoring, How to Apply the Thomas Jefferson Education and much more. www.gwc.edu
3. **"The Seven Keys of Great Teaching"** – Face to Face with Greatness Seminar Series by Oliver DeMille. Do you want to raise leaders? This is a great resource to incorporate into your home-education or any education. It is a different approach to learning that will empower you to give your children and/or students a leadership education. www.gwc.edu
4. **"Teaching Writing Structure and Style": www.excellenceinwriting.com**
5. **"Teaching the Classics": www.centerforlit.com**
6. **"Parenting On Purpose"** by Dr. Bob Barnes (1) 101 The Balance of Love and Discipline and (2) 201 The Parent's Training Wheel. Dr. Bob Barnes is the executive director of Sheridan House Family Ministries. He and his wife Rosemary live in Florida and have successfully raised their two children to be solid responsible adults. For other parenting and marriage resources visit: www.shfm.org.
7. **"The Well Trained Mind"** –A Guide to Classical Education at Home, By Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer –www.susanwisebauer.com Instruct your child from preschool through high school in all levels of reading, writing, history, geography, math, science, foreign languages, rhetoric, logic, art, music. This priceless resource contains a plethora of book lists and curriculum suggestions. A great resource, even if you're not technically classical.
8. **"From Playpen to Podium"** – Jeffrey L. Myers, Ph.D. is a leadership development coach and home-education father. His training strategies have helped thousands of parents equip their children with positive social and communication skills, as well as leadership confidence. www.noblebookstore.com
9. **"The Homeschool Manual"** by Theodore E. Wade Jr., and Others. A great how-to homeschool resource full of plans, pointers, reasons and resources.
10. **"The Big Book of Family Fun"** - by Gwen Ellis Includes fun things to do together from a-z, creating time for fun, freeing up money for activities, organizing household chores and more.
11. **"The Successful Homeschool Family Hand Book"**, by Dr. Raymond and the late Dorothy Moore. A creative and stress-free approach to homeschooling. Especially a good read if you have young children. Also, **"Home Grown Kids"**, A practical Handbook for Teaching Your Children at Home, **"Better Late Than Early"**, Supports the contention that most children are not psychologically ready for formal learning until age eight to ten.
10. **"The Way They Learn"**, by Cynthia Tobias. How to discover and teach to your child's strengths and learning style.
11. **"Gaining Confidence To Teach"**, by Debbie Strayer. Forty-two confidence builders to encourage Christian homeschoolers.
12. **"Making Brothers and Sisters Best Friends"** How to fight the good fight at home! By: Sarah, Stephen, and Grace Mally. A great book told by kids, to kids.
13. **"The Unschooling Handbook"**, by Mary Griffith, Use the world as your child's classroom.
14. **"Homeschooling on a Shoe String"**, by M.Morgan and J. Allee For those who want to homeschool, but don't think they can afford it.
15. "The Difference Maker", "Developing the Leaders Around You", "Make Today Count" all by John Maxwell. All his books are excellent.



13. **"How Am I Smart?"** by Dr. Kathy Koch A Parent's Guide to Multiple Intelligences. The question is NOT am I smart, but HOW am I smart. We are all given gifts from our divine creator and are all created for a reason. Dr. Kat will help you; identify how your child can best learn and study, explore your child's characteristic spiritual struggles and his way of connecting with God, learn how you can awaken and nurture your child's weaker intelligences, uncover how your behavior can paralyze your child's smart and what you can do about it, recognize how your child's misbehavior may be connected to her strengths and discover creative teaching methods and potential careers that are a perfect fit for each intelligence. www.authenticanswers.com
14. **"The Well-Adjusted Child: The Social Benefits of Homeschooling** Rachel Gathercole is the an author and homeschool mother of three. She has done her homework and dispelled the socialization misconceptions and myths in a clear, concise and factual way. www.rachelgathercole.com
15. **"Dumbing Us Down" & "Weapons of Mass Instruction"** The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling. By: John Taylor Gatto An accurate depiction of "the system".
16. **Home Educated and Now Adults:** by Brian D. Ray, Ph.D. Their Community and Civic Involvement, Views About Homeschooling, and Other Traits. www.nheri.org
17. **Worldwide Guide to Homeschooling:** by Brian D. Ray, Ph.D. Facts and Stats on the Benefits of Home School. www.nheri.org
18. **Home-Based Education: The Informed Choice DVD** by: Brian D. Ray, Ph.D ...why there are ~1.9 million U.S. homeschooled students and the number is growing internationally. www.nheri.org - National Home Education Research Institute

Organization and Time Management

1. **"Managers of Their Home"** – by Steven and Teri Maxwell A well organized home-management system. www.Titus2.com
2. **"Edu-Track"**- A computerized home school record keeping and lesson planning software. This program keeps track of everything and is very user friendly. Some of the features are: lesson plans, unit studies, assignment sheets, book and movie logs, hour and grade tracking, progress reports, report cards, transcripts, awards and certificates, forms and Diplomas. www.Edu-Track.net.
3. **Donnayoung.org**—My all time favorite. She has lots of FREE downloads for every subject and age/grade, including journals, record keeping, organization and many more. Definitely worth the online trip.

Special Needs, Struggling and Gifted Students

1. **"Understanding and Helping the Struggling Learner" & "The Biology of Behavior"**, DVD set By Diane Craft @ Child Diagnostics, Inc. Dianecraft.org
2. **HSLDA.org** has a "Struggling Learner" section on their website, with special needs coordinators, legal advice, skills test rental/Brigance Skills Test, lots of Specific Educational Therapy Links and lots of information to help you help your child.
3. **Learn Differently, www.learndifferently.com**
4. **Nathhan.com**—A site to encourage, inform and help you make it work.
5. **Ricki London**, 305-757-3482, Trained in and providing intensive instruction in LMood Bell
6. **"Falling Through The Cracks"**, Steven R. Shapiro, M.S. Why Intelligent Students Struggle In School.
7. **Gifted ideas** and loads of other gifted resources: www.hoagiesgifted.org

"Lay down true principles, and adhere to them inflexibly. Do not be frightened into their surrender..." —Thomas Jefferson



High School—How To...

1. **"Piecing Together The High School Puzzle" by Joanne Mastronicola** A comprehensive step by step guide, specifically written for Florida Students, but adaptable to any state. Go to: www.RockSolidinc.com—1800-705-3452
2. **"Transcripts Made Easy"**, by Janice Campbell The Homeschooler's Guide to High School Paperwork.
3. **HSLDA: Homeschooling Through Highschool** www.hslda.org/highschool/default.asp, Check out the **free** SAT/ACT preparation offer—only pay shipping.
4. **Florida Academic Counseling & Tracking** Middle School—College: www.facts.org
5. **Collegeboard.com** - College level testing information, preparation, examination schedules and registration. (AP, SAT and ACT)
6. **www.actstudent.org**—ACT college entrance exam info. and sign up.
7. **www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org**—links to government loan info., Bright Future Scholarships and more.
8. **www.fafsa.ed.gov**—free application for federal student aid.
9. **Course codes and numbers:** www.fldoe.org/bii/curriculum/Course_Descriptions/
10. **www.fastweb.com**—list and descriptions of student scholarships.
11. **Educational Testing Services:** www.ets.org
12. **Scholarships for Volunteering/Com. Ser.** www.finaid.org/otheraid/service.phtml
13. **Florida State Statutes:** www.leg.state.fl.us/
14. **Dual Enrollment:** www.broward.edu/locations/dtc/aa/accel/dualenrole.jsp
15. **Homeschooltranscripts.com**-Inge Cannon has 35 yrs. of professional experience guiding you from junior year high school-college-presenting professional credentials.

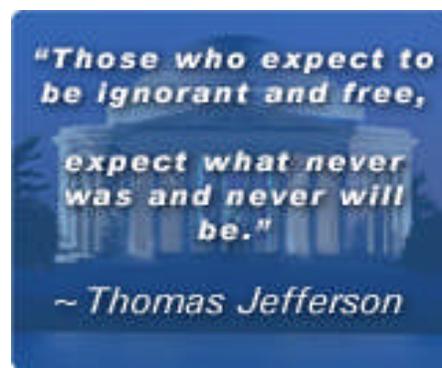
A Word About Test Preparation...

In the lower grades, if you choose to standardize test and a test preparation program would help prepare your child, make them feel more confident and comfortable, and help you to know that you covered all the skills being tested, use the test preparation program. If you simply want to know where your child is based on what you are already doing and your child is comfortable with testing, then it may not be necessary. It's really a personal preference and should be that simple.

In the older years and for tests that will have a direct impact on scholarships, college entrance and placement, I absolutely recommend test preparation.

The following are at home test preparation programs, online test preparation programs and local classroom setting test preparation programs.

1. **www.CollegeBoard.com** has recommendations as well as online programs.
2. **www.CollegePrepgenius.com** is a DVD/Workbook/Reader + Vocabulary program, plus many online tips and even test prep hosting opportunities in your local area.
3. **SAT/ACT Power Prep**—Free, only pay shipping. www.eknowledge.com/hslda.asp
4. **Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions**—www.kaptest.com
5. **Princeton Review**—www.princetonreview.com
6. **Sunshine Learning Center** offers test preparation classes in Margate. Go to www.homeschoolclasses.com



About Testing

For more testing information, dates, study courses, state codes, links, and other details visit: www.hslda.org/highschool/testing.asp and www.collegeboard.com

Standardized Achievement Testing

Commonly taken in grades 1-10, can be 11th and 12th. Examples are Stanford Achievement Test, Iowa Test of Basic Skills and Educational Development, California Achievement Test. www.educationalrcb.org

AP Testing- Advanced Placement Tests

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses are rigorous courses taken during high school but taught at a college level. The courses typically require an extensive amount of study, reading, and writing. There are 37 different AP courses across 22 subject areas that culminate in the taking of a standardized AP test for each course given nationwide in the late spring, (usually May).

College Preparatory and Scholarship Tests: PSAT

At grade 10, college-bound students may take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) for practice. Students must take the PSAT again in 11th grade in order to qualify for the National Merit Scholarships. If your child qualifies as a semifinalist/finalist for the National Merit Scholarship and you have questions regarding the completion of the application, do not hesitate to call the National Merit Scholarship Corporation at 847-866-5100

College Entrance Examinations: SAT and ACT

The SAT and ACT are college entrance tests that most colleges use for admissions purposes. Most students begin taking the college entrance tests in the 11th grade. The SAT is a reasoning test whereas the ACT tests knowledge in four subject areas (Math, English, Reading, and Science). The SAT includes a mandatory writing section; however, the ACT's writing section is optional. (Check with specific colleges to see if the writing section is required.) Most colleges accept either test, however check with and individual college to ascertain which test they prefer, if any.

There is no minimum age required to take the SAT. However, we recommend a student should complete Algebra 1 and Geometry before sitting for the test. Students may take the test more than once to improve their score, (only the highest score will count). Using preparatory courses are highly recommended. A student must be in at least 6th grade to take the ACT.

Homeschool high school code for SAT(CEEB) is 970000 and for ACT is 969999

College Board SAT Subject Tests (Formally called SAT II Tests)

Used by some colleges either for admission or placement purposes. Not to be confused with the general SAT Reasoning test. The homeschool high school code is 970000.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

Evaluations of student's achievement of college level work. Check out CollegeBoard.com for information regarding how to receive college credit for what your child already knows.

GED

Evaluates whether an individual who has not graduated from high school has achieved the "academic skills and knowledge typically developed in a four-year program of high school education. Because the GED is primarily taken by high school drop-outs it continues to carry a stigma. If your student has finished the high school program you designed for him, he deserves to be awarded a high school diploma, not a GED. With rare exception, parent-issued high school diplomas are accepted as proof of completion of high school.

Personality/Aptitude/Career Test

Perhaps your teen isn't sure what he wants to do with the rest of his life. He may benefit from taking a personality/aptitude/career test to discover his talents...gifts...passions...interests.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS AND IDEAS

"Slow and Steady, Get Me Ready" by June Orberlander

"Five in a Row" Nicely done thru elementary and beyond. Fiveinarow.com

"Homeschooling The Early Years", by Linda Dobson, *Your Complete Guide to Successfully Homeschooling your 3-to-8 year old child.*

Homeschooling the early years pre—middle school www.Hslida.org/earlyyears/default.asp

To develop fine motor skills, strengthen hand muscles and help pencil grip,

Use "Modeling" Clay to...

1. Cut with blunt scissors, (not sharp—for obvious reasons).
2. Mold, squeeze and roll.
3. Roll into snakes and make shapes or letters on pre-printed mats or make your own with tag board and colorful markers. Laminate.

For a textured finish:

1. Cut out letters in sandpaper and glue to tag board.
2. Cut out numbers and correct amount of dots/shapes in sandpaper and glue to tag board.

Activities for the younger siblings, when the older ones need your time
or you just need time.

Store in clear plastic shoe boxes or clear plastic drawers, for easy view.

1. Clay, clay cutters and tools and clay mats.
2. Stamps, stamp pads and paper.
3. Markers and paper.
4. Blocks: wood, plastic or foam—it's quiet.
5. Legos
6. Trains and tracks.
7. Board Books
8. Chalk board, chalk and eraser.
9. EXTRA-LARGE magnetics. The ones they can't fit in their mouth.
10. Book on Tape—Age appropriate
11. Cheap shaving cream letters/numbers/shapes on a large, old cookie sheet.
12. Discoverytoys.com—Lots of great educational toys.

Many things you may already have in your house. Clearance sales and consignment shops are great places to get good stuff cheap. Just check it out well.

ALWAYS USE WISE JUDGEMENT WHEN SELECTING SUPPLIES FOR ANY CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY YOUNG CHILDREN. CHOOSE NON-TOXIC AND STAY AWAY FROM ANYTHING WITH SHARP EDGES OR TOO SMALL OF PIECES.

Also, keep small children in view and close proximity, a close by high chair or small table and chairs work well. This way they don't have the opportunity decorate your walls and furniture without your input. It also keeps them safe.



Curriculum Resources

Reading

The following four resources, when used together, make an effective beginning/emergent reading program. This also works well as a remediation program for older children.

- **“Reading Reflex”**- It’s not flashy or fancy, but is definitely effective for building strong readers. ISBN 0-684-85367-1 Book and accompanying activity book can be purchased from readamerica.net.
- **“Turbo Reader”**- an excellent, sequential, beginning to end, user-friendly reader.
- **Explode the Code**- Plain, effective and inexpensive workbook series. _Optional, may not be necessary if using accompanying R.R. book above.
- **McGuffey Readers**, high level and good moral stories.

Spelling

1. **“The Phonetic Zoo”**: A Self-Teaching Spelling Program on CD.
By: James B. Webster and Andrew Pudewa, using ideas and material from the Blended Sound-Sight Program of Learning”
by A.G. Ingham, C.M. www.writing-edu.com
2. **“Spelling Power ”**-An effective sequential spelling program.

Writing

The Institute for Excellence in Writing—I EW: www.writing-edu.com.

They have many great and effective resources.

1. **“Writing Structure and Style”** A “How to” teach writing for parents and
2. **“Student Intensive Writing”** for students. both 1 & 2 by Andrew Pudewa
Both programs come on DVD and are taught by Andrew himself.
As always, it is a good idea for a parent to observe and be involved.
3. **“Story Starters”** Helping children write, when they’re not creative by nature By: Karen Andreola- www.Christianbook.com

Grammar

1. **“The Grammar Key”** CD ROM www.thegrammarkey.com
2. **Royal Fireworks Press** “Grammar Island”, “Grammar Town”, “Grammar Voyage”, and “Magic Lens 1-3”. This curriculum starts out in story form and progresses to think and fill in the answers, as the levels progress. www.rfwp.com.
3. **“Fix-It Grammar”**- www.excellenceinwriting.com

Vocabulary

1. **“Vocabulary Cartoons”** are mnemonics designed for learning new words. The books have strong visual aids and are lots of fun. The pictures help the child store the words and meanings in long-term memory. www.vocabularycartoons.com

Communication

1. **“From Playpen To Podium”** younger children and
2. **“Secrets of Great Communicators”** older kids By Jeffrey L. Meyers, Ph.D. www.noblebookstore.com

Thinking and Reasoning Skills

1. **“The Fallacy Detective”** and **“The Thinking Toolbox”** By Nathaniel Blueborn & Hans Blueborn
The Blueborn brothers have put together an awesome set of books to help your children and you see through propaganda, as well as, recognize bad reasoning.
2. **“Understanding the Times” & Lightbearers** www.Summit.org

Audio Learning

Just about every subject on CD to music, with guide. www.audiomemory.com

Homemaking

1. **Breadbeckers.com**: Wheat, beans, rice plus more in bulk. Contact our local coop coordinator at: MiaSteve@comcast.com



Curriculum Resources

Literature/Readers:

1. **"Teaching The Classics"**- By Andrew and Missy Andrews. This is a great resource for anyone who reads or thinks. Learn how to teach yourself and your children to analyze literature at any age and then follows up with a 2nd: Worldview Supplement. Manual includes: Story Chart, Socratic List; exclusive set of graded discussion questions designed to help you analyze any book on your reading list, Curriculum Guide, **Reading Lists by age group**. Go to www.CenterForLit.com for age/grade guidance and more.
2. **Sonlight.com** - offers great grade leveled language arts readers, with optional dictation and creative writing. Check out the site, it is an education in itself and well worth the trip.
3. **LifetimeBooksandGifts.com** - For great books that put teaching character first.
4. **"Invitation To The Classics"** Edited by: Louise Cowan & Os Guinness
5. **"McGuffey's Eclectic Readers"** by John Wiley & Sons. High leveled progressive readers with good moral lessons. I found the full set for \$35. At Overstock.com.

Math

1. **Singapore Math: U.S. Edition:** Great advanced math program. Has home-instructor guide and extra practice books, if needed. Doesn't overdo with drill and kill. Has great CD-ROM supplements. Rainbowresource.com
2. **Math U See:** Great math program for building a strong number sense. Free online math drills. Mathusee.com
3. **Teachingtextbooks.com**—Great CD curriculum and online placement test.
4. **Video Text:** A Video/DVD math curriculum for mastery. www.videotext.com

History

1. **The Story of the World:** Multi-Grade on CD peacehillpress.com
2. **The Mystery of History:** Multi-Grade Brightideapress.com
3. **Green Leaf History:** Elementary/Middle School greenleafpress.com
4. **Truth Quest History Guides:** TruthQuestHistory.com
5. **Constitutional Law—High School Level Online Class:** www.hslda.org/cms/

Science

1. **Apologia Science Curriculum:** www.apologia.com
2. **Great Science Adventures Series:** Lap books. Greatscienceadventures.com
3. **Home Science Tools, Science Lab Equipment:** www.hometrainingtools.com

Unit Studies

1. **Konos.com**—God centered unit studies from a classical point of view.+++

Self-Contained Curriculum-Teaches all subjects in one package.

1. **Sonlight Curriculum:** Sonlight.com
2. **Abeka Books:** Abeka.com
3. **Bob Jones University**—BJUPress.com
4. **Alpha Omega**— aophomeschooling.com
5. **Calvert School**—www.calvertschool.org

Grade Leveled Skill Guides & Standards

1. **What your _ Grader Needs To Know. Updated. By: E.C. Hirsch Jr.**
2. **What Your Child Needs to Know, When By: Robin Scarlata**
3. **Sunshine State Standards—FL** www.floridastandards.org or www.fldoe.org/ESE/corguide.asp

*****Just a GREAT SITE** with a little of EVERYTHING: **www.DonnaYoung.org** provides many free resources in planning and subject areas, as well as a CD for purchase. ***



Curriculum Resources

Character Education: Growing Up and All the "Stuff" That Goes With It.

Sometimes, even as parents, we may feel we have to just accept what is out there as "normal", especially if it comes from a "good place or source" or is a part of a "popular opinion."

Well, we don't.

We can go above and beyond to teach our children what is BEST, even if we are the only one.

Below are some curriculums that have, "enlightened" me to **what is best.**

Don't take the lax approach. It will only teach your children the wrong thing by default.

Be deliberate about teaching your children to be LEADERS that will stand for what is right and who will not grow weary of fighting the good fight.

YOU WILL TEACH YOUR CHILD(REN), EITHER BY DELIBERATE INSTRUCTION OR BY LACK OF.

Example is a good way, but deliberate instruction is a must. You Choose!

Regret is a lot more painful than discipline, with none of the benefit.

1. **"God's Design For Sex" **Pre-Read, before reading to your child.**

- Book 1: "The Story of Me" (ages 3-5)
- Book 2: "Before I Was Born" (ages 5-8)
- Book 3: "What's the Big Deal? Why God Cares About Sex" (ages 8-11)
- Book 4: "Facing the Facts: The Truth About Sex and You" (ages 11-14)

The above are available from Focus on the Family, www.family.org or try www.focusonyourchild.org for other child rearing information and encouragement.

2. **"The Princess and the Kiss"** and "Life Lessons from The Princess and the Kiss" a companion guide.

"The Squire and the Scroll" and "Life Lessons from The Squire and the Scroll" a companion guide. By Jennie Bishop and Susan Henson. Both are great resources for planting seeds of purity in the hearts of your children. www.ReviveOurHearts.com

3. **"So You're About to be a Teenager"**, By Dennis and Barbara Rainey with Samuel Rainey and Rebecca Rainey. www.thomasnelson.com or www.familylife.com

4. **"Rules For Young Friends"** by Gregg and Joshua Harris. Provides simple rules and proverbs for friends.

Devotions:

There are lots of great devotions out there. Here are just a few that take about 10 minutes to do. These are great for a quick devotion in a pinch or as a regular before bedtime.

Remember to include prayer.

1. **"Just For Kids" Series"**: Forgiveness, Honesty, Patience, and Kindness are a few in this series. www.familychristian.com

2. **"For Kids Only" Series"** We found them at FamilyChristian.com

3. **"My Utmost For His Highest"** By Oswald Chambers The classic and updated/pre-teens and teens edition. We read the regular version ourselves and the updated as a family devotional with our kids each day. The days in both editions correlate, parents get a better understanding of the day's read before presenting it to the kids.

Teens:

He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm...Prov 13:20

1. **"Do Hard Things."** Join the REBELUTION: rebel against rebellion and culture's low expectation of teenagers. Featuring Alex and Brett Harris The book and DVD cover: The Myth of Adolescence, True Character, The Power of Companionship and much more. Well written and priced. *****

3. **"Passport 2 Purity"** Dennis & Barbara Rainey Book/CD set www.familylife.com/passport/

4. **"Teknon and the Champion Warriors"** by Brent Sapp 11-16 yrs. boys contains mature subjects. generationsofvirture.org

...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Heb.11:27



Links to various helpful academic and organizational web sites

1. **DonnaYoung.org**- Great website for all types of forms, calendars, lesson plans, planners, journals and lots more. It is definitely worth the trip.
2. **Writing-edu.com** - The Institute for Excellence in Writing, directed by Andrew Pudewa, has an amazing collection of QUALITY products to teach you and your children. Leadership and Language Arts K-12.
3. **Peacehillpress.com** The Story of the World, by Susan Wise Bauer, is an awesome history program. Told in a straight-forward, engaging style that has become Susan Wise Bauer's trademark. It covers the sweep of human history from ancient times until present. This read-aloud series is designed for parents to share with elementary-school children, or for older readers to enjoy alone. Each of the four volumes is also available CD for your children to listen to independently while coloring the activity sheet or following along in the book. Each lesson also includes geography/map work pertaining to the history being studied. My kids love it and can't wait to "do history" every day. It also helps their history challenged mom to learn right along with them.
4. **Mathusee.com** - A great foundational math curriculum, accompanied with an instructional DVD, great manipulative and online math drills. The drills are an effective way to help enrich and/or remediate basic math facts.
5. **Teachingtextbooks.com**—Great math curriculums and solutions on DVD. Online placement test.
6. **Videotext.com**—Video Math Curriculum that teaches mathematical mastery.
7. **Sonlight.com** - Their catalogue is a lesson in itself. They have a great program with lots of reading. The graded readers in the Language Arts Program are carefully selected and correlate to the History starting in 3rd grade. All the planning is completed for you. All you do is teach. You can order the entire program or select only certain subjects. Order a free catalogue online it's worth it.
8. **Rainbowresource.com**— An online book/curriculum store that gives FREE shipping deals and the prices are reasonable.
9. **Christianbook.com**—+++Great books/curriculum at great prices. Shipping Deals.
10. **LifetimeBooksandGifts.com** - Books you can trust to teach your children great character and values.
11. **Visionforum.com**— Great readers, educational cd's and toys.
12. **LampPostPublishing.com** Mark Hamby and Lamplighter Publishing has done a great job selecting books for their Rare Collector's Series-Literature reprints from 17th, 18th, & 19th Centuries.
13. **Audiomemory.com**—For that audio learning style, as well as anyone who loves music. You never forget what you sing.
14. **bfbooks.com** - Beautiful Feet - Beautiful books and history curriculum.
15. **Thepotterygirl@cs.com**—Clay/Art Classes
16. **Textbooks.com** Used textbooks, college textbooks, Cheap textbooks.
17. Breadbeckers.com wheat Coop. Email Mia our Coop Coordinator and Pick Up Site: MiaSteve@comcast.com
18. **Homeschool.com**, Homeschool community group, online.
19. **TheHomeSchoolMom.com**—Great site with tons of unit studies, planners, newsletters, resource calendar/activities by month, online books, the school room-by subject, Teachers'/Moms' Lounge full of resources.
20. **SHFM.ORG**-Sherdian House Family Ministries - Parenting resources and assistance. Single mom's ministry.
21. **FPEA.COM-Florida Parent -Educators Association**
22. **HSLDA.COM**-Homeschool Legal Defense Association. Also has new and used books and curriculum available.
23. **EDUCATIONALRCB.ORG**—End of the year testing, evaluations and consulting, as well as Test Preparation Materials, workshops and newsletters full of educational information and resources.
24. **NHERI.org**—**National Home Education Research Institute** High quality research on home-education that will encourage you and show you that you can do.

The resources listed in this packet are only suggestions, a starting place.

Research these options and others to see what works for your family.

You may find a great book that contains a topic you want to skip or at least hold off on for a while. Likewise, you may want to research other curriculums based on your family's unique situation and personality.

Be excited about your endeavor. There are a multitude of curriculums out there and there is something that will work for you, if you are willing to look for it.

Remember... Enthusiasm Is Contagious!!!





Thoughts and Encouragement...

1. **...Get wisdom, though it costs all that you have, get understanding... Prov.4:7**
2. **Be transformed by the renewing of your mind... Rom 2:12**
3. Kids usually value what their parents value. Value education enough to be a life-long learner and let them see you reading, (worthwhile material).
4. Pray together. It does make a difference.
5. If it's worth doing, it's worth failing at first.
6. If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well. PERSEVERE through growth and even failure!
7. Don't try to eat the whole cake in one bite.
8. Don't compare yourself to anyone, you don't know where your "idol" has been or is.
9. The winner is not the one who never fails, he/she is the one who will get back up.
10. The winner is not always smarter, richer or more privileged, just more PERSISTENT.
11. Educate yourself in what you are doing, whatever it is.
12. The days are long, but the years are short.
13. You're never alone... even when you feel like you are.
14. Accept that people who don't home-educate may not understand.
That's o.k. Keep going anyway.
15. Do not take to heart everything people say. Just because they say it doesn't make it true.
16. Meditate on what is good...
17. Learn to say "No" and be o.k. with it.
18. Let your NO be NO.
19. When you say "yes" to something, you say "no" to something else. Choose Wisely.
20. Balance
21. Progress, not perfection. You're not Jesus... this should relieve you.
Just do your best.
22. "I don't care what "they" are doing. You're not them."
We need to take our own advice.
23. Organize to your personality. Some like schedules, some like checklists.
Just get the job done. (see #5-6)
24. You have the same 24 hours in your day, CHOOSE WISELY.
25. When God said "SEEK" wisdom, He was implying action. Seek and learn.
26. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
27. Sometimes, less is more. Contemplative thinking time is mandatory.
28. A lack of preparation on your part, does not constitute an emergency on mine.
29. Consider your resources of: time, money, skill and desire, then decide accordingly.
30. Be excited or at least motivated...Enthusiasm is contagious.
31. Good is the thief of BEST!!!
32. Think about why you do what you do and what you get out of it or give up.
33. A word to the wise is sufficient.
34. It's hard and that's o.k. Do it anyway!
35. YOU CAN DO IT!!!! YOU CAN DO IT!!!! YOU CAN DO IT!!!! YOU CAN DO IT!!!!

Follow the Home-Education Law, get your paperwork in on time and the rest is up to you.

† Prayerfully, Run With It!



PARENTAL RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK the battle of our time.

The Threat : UN Convention on the Rights of Child

The Solution: Parental Rights Amendment

Visit: www.parentalrights.org - Anyone 13 years or older can sign the Petition.

Also, visit: www.ParentalRightsFL.org for local updates and information.

This is Doable, Meaningful & Urgent!

The Supremacy Clause—Article 6 of the U.S. Constitution mandates that any International Law or Treaties that we ratify will become Supreme Law of The Land Our own constitution will bind us to this treaty.

Only the U.S. and Somalia have not ratified this treaty. Understand that America is bound to adhere to ratified treaties, by way of our own constitution. Other countries are not bound to obey this treaty, because they do not have a constitution like the U.S. American's have freedom in the very fabric of their souls, we were born into freedom, so it should come as NO surprise that we have not signed this bogus Treaty.

Education and parenting laws are currently handled at the state law level. If the U.S. Senate ratifies this treaty, anything in **this treaty would supercede our state law.** The 10th Amendment on State Law has been eroded due to decisions made by John Marshall. And the U.S. Federal Government can do anything as long as they say it's "beneficial."

The effects of this treaty would be **binding on every family in America.** "We the people" will not have to abide with any of the laws that are passed or modified as a result of this treaty.

This treaty will do absolutely nothing of value for anyone and would do nothing to help children of other countries or this country if the United States ratifies it.

Anything good thing mentioned in the treaty is already protected in U.S. Law or State Law.

The main premise of this treaty is that the "AUTHORITIES will have the right to determine what is in the best interest of the child."

Any government worker could over-ride any decision made by parents if **they feel** it's in the "child's best interest."

18 NON-AMERICANS, who were appointed, NOT voted into the U.N. Committee would be able to modify and *issue policies over Americans* regarding the way we raise our children.

Troxel vs. Granville - One Case=6 different decisions by Supreme Court Judges

Supreme Court Justice Thomas was the only 1 of 9 Supreme Court Justices to state that Parental Rights receive the same high legal standard of protection as other "Fundamental Rights" that would not be infringed upon. **Supreme Court Justice Scalia** himself voted to deny parental rights the status of an enforceable constitutional right. And other federal court judges are following in his footsteps, citing a mounting belief that **no right can be protected by the federal courts unless explicitly stated in the constitution.**

If parental rights were, he would fight for them to the end as he believes that parental rights are among the "inalienable rights" of Americans. These judges are finding it increasingly harder to rule in favor of parental rights when it is not explicitly included in the language of the U.S. Constitution. There is a "Fundamental" weakness in regards to parental rights.

Do we really need an Amendment and why? Absolutely...

- The Problem of International Law
- Waiting will only make things worse.
- This can really happen and wishful thinking will not protect us.
- United we stand and we need to stand together to protect our children.

YOU CAN HELP BY SIMPLY CALLING TO...

1. Continuously let our Senators know that we do NOT want them to vote for this intrusive U.N. Treaty. And that you will hold them accountable for the way they vote on parents' rights to protect their children.

2. Ask your Senator to Support the Parental Rights Amendment.

Your children will thank you!