

HOW TO GET STARTED

HOMESCHOOL 101

*Information and resources
for local homeschoolers
May 28th- 6:00 p.m.*

WHY HOMESCHOOL?

Common Reasons

- Family values
- Bad experiences
- Learning or health needs
- Academics
- Personal interests
- Time together

ADVANTAGES

Family time

Specialized learning

Freedom of movement

Consistent value system

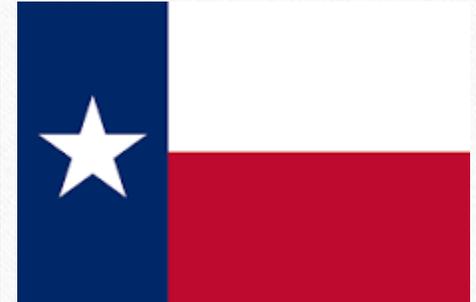
Incorporating life skills



Homeschooling in Texas

Getting Started

Texas Homeschool Laws



Leeper vs. Arlington ISD

Bona Fide

Visual

**Reading, Spelling,
Grammar,
Mathematics,
Good Citizenship**

Texas Education Code 51.9241

Homeschool is equivalent to Private School

- Consider membership in HSLDA

How to withdraw a student:

Texas Homeschool Coalition

- Texans for Homeschool Freedom Facebook Group
- National Center for Homeschool Liberty

Getting Started

Preschool or Kindergarten?

- Readiness
 - Simple
 - Fun
 - Focus on hands-on activities and learning through play
- Library books: *The Homegrown Preschooler*, *Before 5 in a Row*, *Everyday Play*, *Fine Motor Fun*
- If using a workbook, choose a series that emphasizes thinking exercises and developmental skills like [Rod & Staff's A-F](#), [Developing the Early Learner](#), [Building Thinking Skills](#) or Kumon's [Are You Ready for Kindergarten?](#)
 - Language development
 - Read, Read, Read

Transitioning from Public School

- Home, not School-at-Home
 - Classroom style learning through textbooks is not efficient for individual learning; modifications will be necessary*
- Strengthen the relationship with your child
 - You remain mom or dad when teaching and your role is to guide and encourage*
- Negative learning experiences from the child's past will need to be addressed
 - Determine learning style*
- Individual accomplishment is celebrated, not grades
- Independent study, freedom of movement, natural learning
- Combine subjects like Science and History if you have multiple students
 - Learning together encourages younger students to learn at a higher level and creates a family dynamic of teamwork and thoughtful discussion*

Other Considerations



Set goals for both the teacher and the student according to family standards and create a general plan on how to reach those goals.



Schedules are rarely completed exactly as planned. Leave room for adjustment and avoid getting bogged down in planning. Instead, concentrate on the child's success, not completion of a schedule.



Determine how much of your curriculum will be free (from the library, online or other sources), then purchase Core curriculum components and supplies. Consider how you will organize materials. Remember to include a variety of formats to maintain interest. IDEAS: Figures in Motion and a timeline book/ chart for history, video demonstrations and microscope for science experiments, lapbooks for unit studies, CD for learning foreign language, topic related cooking and crafts for cultural studies...



Life happens... homeschooling works best when it's naturally incorporated into your family's lifestyle. Measuring in the kitchen, current event conversations to teach history, throw books in bag and go to the park for a picnic, teach about science on a bike, make a craft for a gift to a hospital bound relative...

Local Homeschool Organizations

SUPPORT GROUPS

- PCCHE (Parker County Christian Home Educators) <http://pcche.org/>
- Parker-Wise Homeschoolers Group on Facebook
- ICAN Homeschool TX Group on Facebook
- Weatherford Homeschoolers Facebook group

Some of these organizations have Facebook pages as well for contact information and promotion

COURSES & ACTIVITIES

Sports Team: Weatherford Express

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

Homeschool Classes in Azle:

<https://www.nexuschristianacademy.com/>

Hybrid schools:

<https://www.pinnaclechristian.org/>

<https://www.seekcollaborative.com/>

<https://www.therockofsports.com/academy>

<https://www.mosaicacademyfw.org/>

Music: Band, Choir Ballet

<https://tafa.org/>

Piano Lessons, Guitar, Ukulele & more instruments, Art classes

<https://www.weatherfordmusicacademy.com/>



The Niche

This service at Bowie Learning Center is operated by WISD and open to the public. Get [homeschool supplies](#) like various paper sizes, lamination, tracing via a projector, and more for very reasonable [prices](#).

Film Alley Homeschoolers' Day Out

This fun local entertainment option should be highlighted. Every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., homeschoolers get a family price of \$15 (up to 8) to bowl and includes shoes. More information is also available on [Film Alley's Facebook page](#).

The Rock of Sports and Performing Arts

Remember that open gym time is available for homeschoolers on Thursdays from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Swim Lesson People

Swim lessons, water fitness and parties are offered year-round for all ages in an indoor facility. [Homeschool Open Swim](#) is the last Friday of each month for a two-hour period. Cost is \$5 per swimmer and place a reservation ahead of time.

Nock It Archery Center

Homeschool Archery Team meets every Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Decatur. Homeschoolers (ages 8-18) in the Parker-Wise area are welcome to attend. Participation fees apply.

Parker-Tarrant Home School Sports

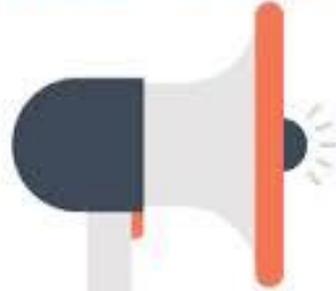
PTHSS offers volleyball, basketball, baseball, and football. Fees are required.

OTHER IDEAS: Fort Worth ZOO, DOSS center, resources in Tarrant, Wise and Hood counties all found at <https://ci.weatherford.tx.us/3150/Local-Resources>

Visual



Auditory



Kinesthetic



Take time to discover your child's learning style, sometimes referred to as multiple intelligences. Try a test online to help evaluate. Here's a link to one website with 3 tests:

www.whatismylearningstyle.com

- Watch for teachable moments in real life
- Think of curriculum as a “guide” and be flexible
- If a child understands a concept, move on instead of boring them with repetitious exercises
- Add in elements of interest and fun
- Provide unique, out-of-the-box experiences and electives
- Set reasonable expectations for each student based on their strengths

*If I had the chance
to do it again...*

WHAT I WISHED I'D KNOWN
FROM THE START

- Rather than focus on errors, explain the correction, ensure understanding, then encourage improvement
- Organize materials ahead to minimize distractions
- Praise is motivating to any student; notice and comment on good work
- Train children in housework & cooking tasks early on as a practical life skill & to reduce stress by “many hands make light work”



Grab N' Go Clean Up Method

Use the Clean up Song OR the Clean Up Race (Ex. 10 minutes on timer)

- Grab basket
- Clean room of items not belonging, on floor, etc.
- Return to proper place
- Tidy up area or room assigned to each child
- Day of the week job assigned to each child
- Daily job (done every day) assigned to each child



Optional: Reward system

Popular Homeschool Teaching Methods



School-at-Home Method



The traditional classroom approach

Blackboards & whiteboards

Textbooks & workbooks

Online & Co-op classes

Distance Learning... Testing, Grading & Record
Keeping, Video or Virtual Options

Library books: Some *Saxon Math*, *A Beka*,
Making the Grade series, *What Your ... Grader*
Needs to Know series, *Apologia Science Exploring*
Creation series, *The Big Book of Dolch Sight Words*

Advantages-Parents are comfortable and familiar to the way they were taught; plenty of teacher guided curriculum; great for strictly regulated states; distance learning option gives parents the option to have work graded by someone else through the service, record-keeping provided while freeing parent to concentrate on other things...very helpful if they are a working parent

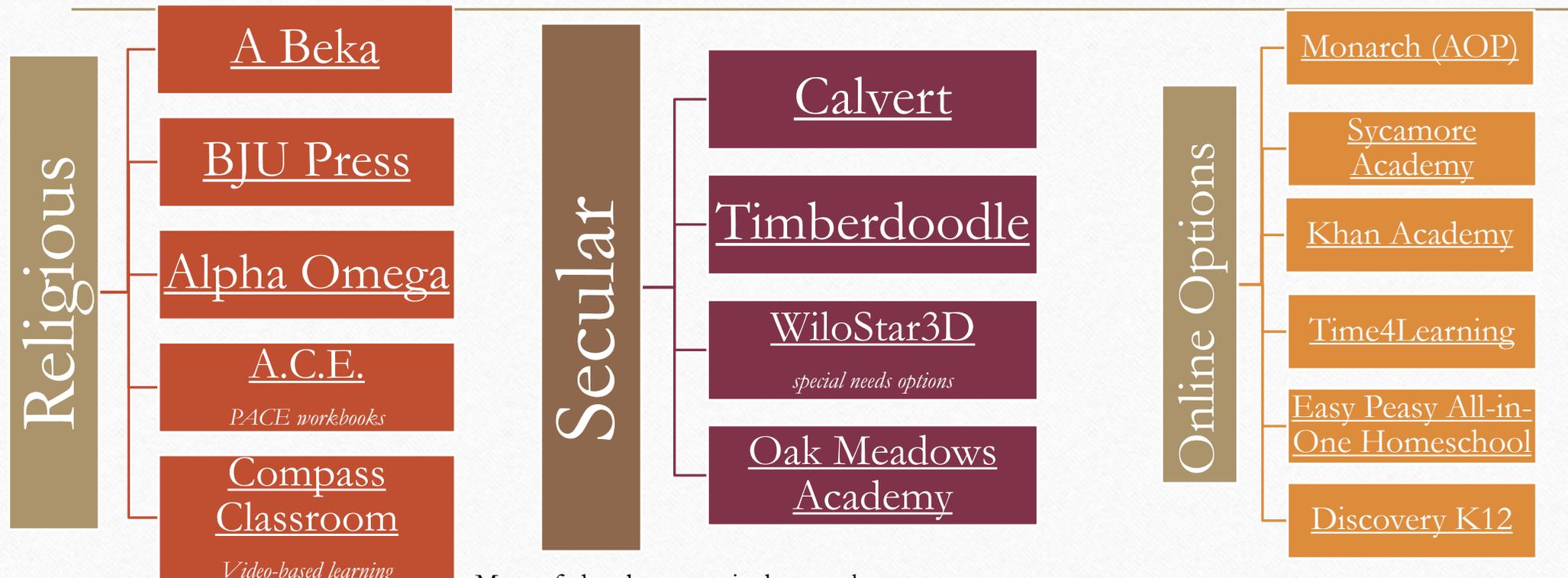
Disadvantages-children get bored quickly; teacher gets burned out, especially if you have multiple students at different grade levels; not ideal and often discouraging for home learning as it was not designed for individual but classroom based instruction, does not emphasize the advantages of homeschooling like individual interests and natural learning

PROS

VS.

CONS

School-at-Home Curriculum Samples



Most of the above curriculum packages offer distance learning options

Classical Education

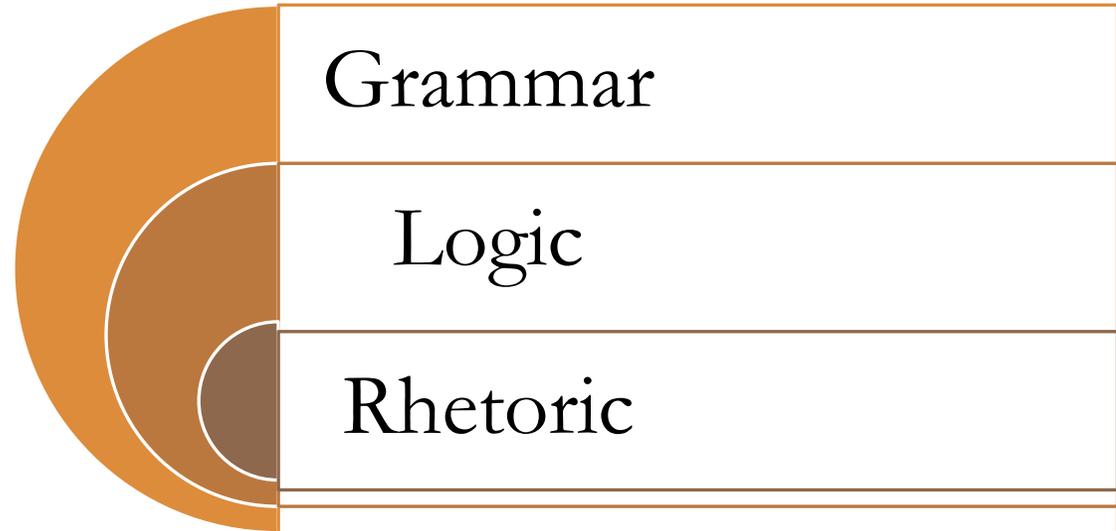
The goal of classical education is to teach students to learn for themselves.

STAGES OF THE TRIVIUM

The lost tools of learning

PRE-GRAMMAR	GRADES K-2 Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none">Excited about learningEnjoys games, stories, songs, projectsShort attention spanWants to touch, taste, feel, smell and seeImaginative and creativeEasily memorizes In the classroom Guided discovery; explore; find things; use lots of tactile items; sing; play games; chant; recite; color, draw, paint; build; use body movements; short creative projects; show and tell; drama; hear/read/tell stories; field trips.	GRADES 3-6 Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none">Excited about new, interesting factsLikes to explain, figure out, talkLikes collections and organizing itemsLikes clever chants and rhymesCan assimilate another language well In the classroom Lots of hands-on work, projects; field trips; make collections, displays, models; integrate subjects through above means; immersive language; recitations, memorization; drills, games.	
	LOGIC	GRADES 7-8 Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none">Still excitable but needs challengesCritical, enjoys debateWants to know "behind the scenes" factsCurious about why for most things In the classroom Time lines, charts, maps (visual materials); debates, persuasive reports; drama re-enactments, formal logic; oral/written presentations; guest speakers, trips.	GRADES 9-12 Traits <ul style="list-style-type: none">Idealistic, interested in justice and fairnessMoving toward special interests or topicsCan synthesize and do more independent workDesires to express feelings, own ideasConcerned with how others view them In the classroom Drama, oral presentations; guide research in major areas with goal of synthesis; speeches, debates; give responsibilities, e.g., working with younger students; in-depth field trips, even overnight; worldview discussions.

The 3 Stages of Learning



History & Science follows a 4 Year Cycle

Systematic and Rigorous

Classical Education Curriculum

Tapestry
of Grace

Veritas
Press

The Well-
Trained
Mind
Academy

Memoria
Press

Classical
Conversations
(find local group
using Search
Community)

**Online & Distance
Learning Options**

The Good
& The
Beautiful

← **Special
Needs**
packages

Library books:
*Ordinary Parent's Guide
to Teaching Reading*

Well-Trained Mind

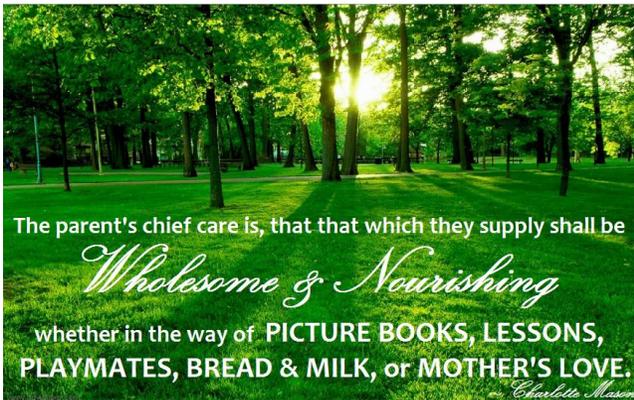
Story of the World

*Language Lessons &
Writing with Skill by
Bauer*

The Core

Charlotte Mason Method

- Atmosphere, Discipline, Life



“Learning for the sake of Learning”

- "living books"
- Narration
- Copy Work
- Dictation
- Nature journal
- Fine Arts
- Hands-on Math

Library books: *A Charlotte Mason Companion, For the Children's Sake, The Brave Learner, Life of Fred Math, 100 Backyard Activities*

Charlotte Mason Options

*Also, Ruth
Beechick's
philosophy
of the 3
Rs!*

Look for terms like
LITERATURE-BASED,
HANDS-ON, or
CHARLOTTE MASON
FLAVOR

Religious

[Sonlight](#)

[A Gentle Feast](#)

[Heart of Dakota](#)

[Master Books](#)

[My Father's World](#)

[Queen Homeschool](#)

[Winter Promise](#)

Secular

[BookShark](#)

[Build Your Library Curriculum](#)

[Moving Beyond the Page](#)

Online

[Ambleside Online](#)

[An Old-Fashioned Education](#)

[Mater Amabilis](#)

[Simply Charlotte Mason](#)

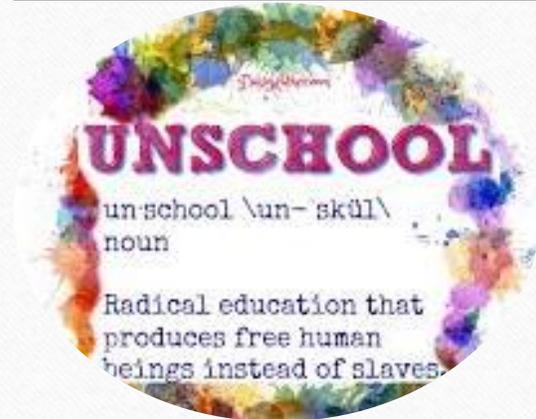
[Wildwood Curriculum](#)

Unschooling

"Delight Directed Learning"

Philosophy

Natural inclination to learn
Joy in self-motivation
Follow interests
Parent is a facilitator, not
an instructor
Child discovers materials



Put it in Practice

Facilitator, not
Teacher

- Books...not textbooks or tests
- Self-paced
- Discovery based
- Motivated by interests and strengths

Library books:

The Call of the Wild and the Free

Home Grown

Raising Lifelong Learners

Disadvantages:

Grade level assessment due to aversion to testing

Too easy for students to skip subjects and information they don't like but may need

Suggestions:

Some testing would be helpful to determine progress and gaps in learning Direct involvement is imperative for certain areas like phonics and math concepts

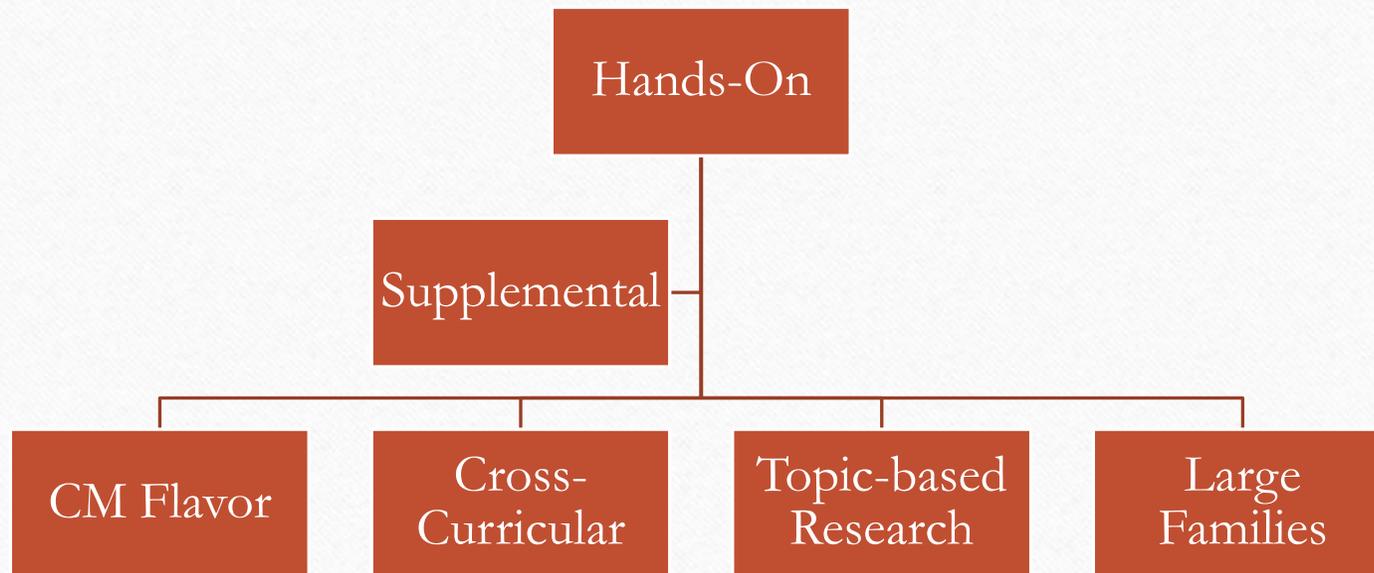
Other skills that are necessary but not particularly liked could still be presented in a digestible format that appeals to the student

Advantages:

Expert level knowledge in areas of interest

Most homeschoolers incorporate unschooling methodology without realizing it. Positive elements of this teaching method encourages children to select books and activities of personal interest. This boosts independent learning and personal responsibility.

Unit Studies



This is basically research on paper in a child-friendly format: for older students, try Notebooking!

Library books: Five in a Row, Interactive Notebooks

A Walk Through



Create Your Own Unit Study

[Pinterest](#)

[Measured Mom](#)

[Khan Academy](#)

[Homeschool Share](#)

[Brain Pop](#)

1. Choose a topic to search (e.g. flowers) and go to each website using related keywords
2. Select arts/crafts projects, experiments, videos, hands-on activities, lapbooks, printables and more that relate for each subject area (Language Arts, Math, Reading/Phonics, Literature, History, Science, Fine Arts, etc.)

[123Homeschool for Me](#)

[Confessions of a Homeschooler](#)

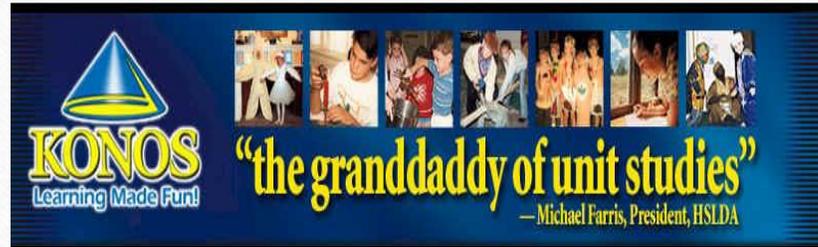
[Living Montessori Now](#)

[This Reading Mama](#)

[Usborne Quicklinks](#)

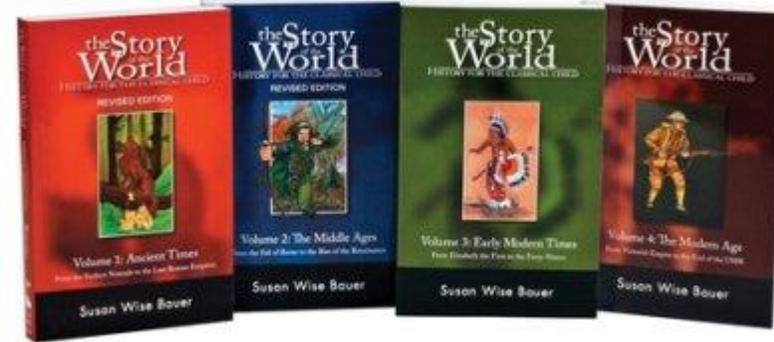
[Study.com](#)

Unit Study Options



The Weaver Curriculum®

The Weaver Curriculum logo, featuring the brand name in a stylized, cursive red font.



Montessori Inspired Homeschool

"Errorless"
learning

Child's pace

Hands-On
activities

Practical
Life
Skills

Prepared
and
Controlled

"Natural"
learning

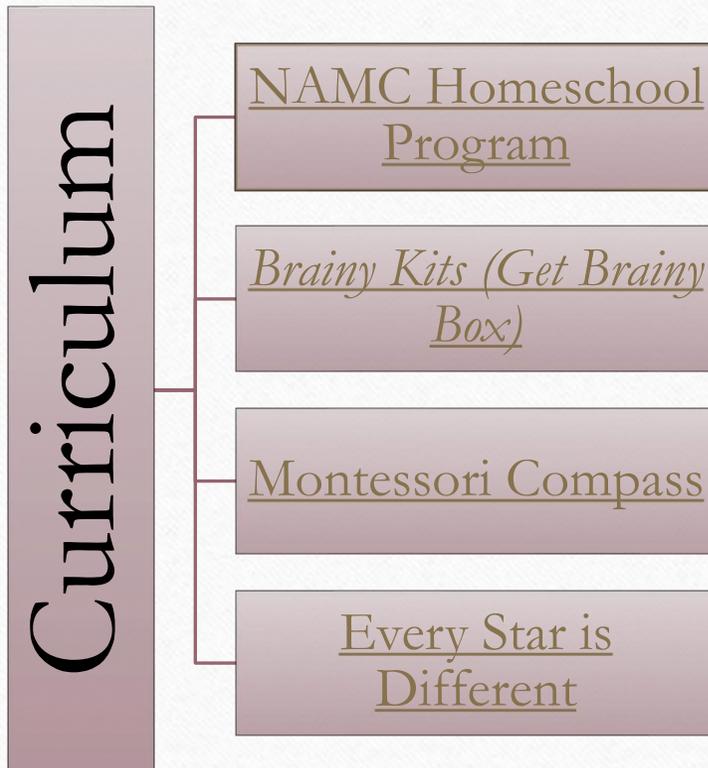
Wooden
toys and
tools

Beauty
and
Quality



Montessori Homeschool

Library Books: *Teach Me to Do it Myself*, *The Montessori Toddler*, *How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way*



Library books:

Teach Me to Do it Myself

The Montessori Toddler

How to Raise an Amazing Child the Montessori Way



Waldorf Education



- ❖ **MAKE-BELIEVE**
- ❖ **CHILD'S WELL-BEING OVER ACADEMICS**
- ❖ **FINE ARTS EMPHASIS**
- ❖ **NURTURES INDIVIDUALISM**
- ❖ **INCREMENTAL STEPS**
- ❖ **AVOIDS MODERN STRESS OF TECHNOLOGY WHEN POSSIBLE**

Waldorf Inspired Options

Christopherus
Homeschool

Oak Meadow
Academy

The BEarth
Institute

Supportive Sites

Waldorf Inspired
Learning

The Waldorf
Connection

The Online Waldorf
Library

Eclectic OR Relaxed Style

- Most Common

A mix of the best of what works for your children

- The Basics

- *Reading*
- *Writing*
- *Math*
- *History*
- *Science*

- Unique to Your Family

- Individual Child's Goals



Popular Curriculum by Basic Subjects

Reading

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons (L)
All About Reading
 Alpha-Phonics (L)
 Phonics Pathways (L)
Explode the Code
Primary Phonics

Handwriting: HWT

Literary Analysis:

IEW OR Essentials in Literature

Language Arts

First Language Lessons (L)
Saxon (Hake) Grammar & Composition
Logic of English series (Foundations-Essentials)
Building Christian English Series (Rod & Staff)
Learning Language Arts Through Literature

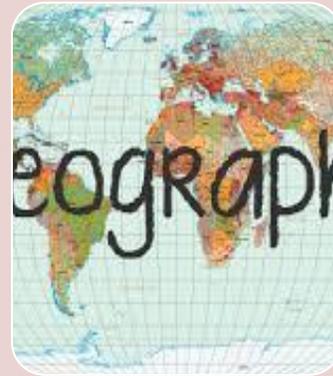
Grammar	Composition	Spelling	Readers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Easy Grammar</u> • <u>Analytical Grammar</u> • <u>Winston Grammar</u> • <u>Grammar Ace package</u> • <u>CP Language Arts (CM)</u> • <u>Language Lessons for Today (CM)</u> • <u>Warriner's Handbooks courses (Secular)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Essentials in Writing</u> • <u>Complete Writer (Bauer) (CM) & (L)</u> • <u>Wordsmith series</u> • <u>WriteShop</u> • <u>Writing Skills for Today (CM)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>All About Spelling</u> • <u>Sequential Spelling</u> • <u>SpellingYouSee</u> • <u>Spelling Power</u> • <u>Wordly Wise 3000</u> • <u>Vocabulary from Classical Roots</u> • <u>English from the Roots Up</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Pathway Reading</u> • <u>Bob books</u> • <u>CLP Nature Readers</u> • <u>I Can Read It! (Sonlight set)</u>

*(L) Copies of this item at Weatherford Public Library

*(CM) Charlotte Mason or Classical approach

Math

Saxon Math (L)
Singapore Math (L)
Math Mammoth
Life of Fred (L)
Math-U-See
Teaching Textbooks
Horizons Math
Touch Math
Shiller Math
RightStart Math
Math Lessons for a Living Education
CTC Math



Apologia Science
(Christian)

Berean Builders
Science (Christian)

Awesome Science
DVDs or 101
DVD series

Elemental Science
(Classical)

Holt McDougal
(Secular)

Science Fusion
(Secular)

Story of the World
(CM) & (L)

TruthQuest History

The Mystery of
History

Notgrass History
(Christian)

HMH History
(Secular)

Drive Thru History
DVDs (Christian)

Figures in Motion
History through the
Ages projects

Map Trek

Draw & Write
through History

Draw Around the
World

Memoria Press
Geography

Trail Guide to
Learning

Rosetta Stone Foreign
Language

KidCoder &
TeenCoder Kits

Artistic Pursuits

See the Light Shine Art
Class DVDs (Christian)

Maestro Classics

Piano Adventures

Excelerate Spanish

The Challenging Student

Learning Differences

- Dyslexia-Dysgraphia-Dyscalculia
- Apraxia of Speech-Language Processing Disorder

Disabilities

- Down Syndrome
- ASD (Autism)

Behavior Issues

- ADD/ADHD
- Defiant behavior

Solutions For Students

THE CHALLENGING STUDENT

- ❖ Games, computer support and software as alternative formats
Ex. type out words with spell check on Reading Rockets
- ❖ Incorporate therapy into schoolwork
Ex. Counters as fine motor, ABA Therapy

- ❖ Frequent breaks from work
- ❖ Work at own pace with modifications at a level child is comfortable
Ex. Use a timer (open-ended vs. closed activity)
- ❖ Incentive-based plans & reward system
Ex. Token boards, work box systems Samples
- ❖ Personally useful
- ❖ Fun
Ex. Sight words games
- ❖ Hands-on
Ex. Jumping Game

More information on teaching special needs students in August event *SPECIAL NEEDS HOMESCHOOL TIPS*

Sample Token & Choice Boards

Token Boards



Typical Token Board

- Coins, counters placed on board (start one to one correspondence then expand to increase difficulty)
- Include a prize “working for” if desired



Ruler style

- Velcro a ruler with images to move to “The End” or “working for” prize at the far end
- Move as needed (small to larger moves based on difficulty)



Puzzle Style

- Photo of a favorite activity cut into puzzle pieces
- Child earns 1 or more pieces in order to gain access to the favorite activity

Choice Boards



Typical Choice Board

- Loose images to select from and complete as desired
- Include a timer for open ended tasks



Schedule, List, or Chore Chart

- Check off task as completed
- Reward upon completion (ex. free time, allowance)



Work Boxes

- Prepared images, folders, boxes to complete tasks
- Organized and easy to locate materials for work

For Discrete Trial Training, pair tokens and rewards with verbal praise; eventually reduce rewards and substitute praise as prize

Solutions For Students

- take a break from frustration: enjoyable activity, take a walk, change task
- develop a solution strategy or use a different approach
- schedule a deadline for assignments
- understanding the work takes precedence over grade levels, which are arbitrary

THE STRUGGLING STUDENT

Library Books: *The New Social Stories Book, Success Strategies for Teaching Kids with Autism, How do I teach This Kid to Read, How to Teach Life Skills to Kids with Autism, Teaching by Design, Overcoming Dyslexia, Reversing Dyslexia, Cut Color and Paste Categories, Teaching Tips for Challenging Behaviors, Early Literacy Intervention Activities, Pay Attention Please, Gross Motor Fun, Signing TimeDVDs, Parent's Guide to In-Home ABA Programs*

- provide motivators for finishing work
- incorporate natural and hands-on learning
- allow more personal interest school selections
- freedom of movement
- determine issues of learning gaps or deficits
- integrate organization skills

Hands on Idea Spots

Explore the library's website page.

Try Pinterest to locate specific topic items quickly.



<http://www.weatherfordtx.gov/WPLhomeschoolresources>

Homeschool Stores & Fun Supplements

Homeschool Education Stores

Christianbook.com

[The Curriculum Store](http://TheCurriculumStore.com)

[Milestone Books](http://MilestoneBooks.com)

[Rainbow Resource Center](http://RainbowResourceCenter.com)

[Timberdoodle](http://Timberdoodle.com)

Used Curriculum & Swap Options

[Homeschool Buy-Sell-Trade Facebook Group](https://www.facebook.com/HomeschoolBuySellTrade)

[Second Harvest Curriculum](http://SecondHarvestCurriculum.com)

Online Subscriptions

[Around the World Stories](http://AroundtheWorldStories.com)

[Art History Kids](http://ArtHistoryKids.com)

[Curiosity Stream](http://CuriosityStream.com)

[Field Trip Zoom](http://FieldTripZoom.com)

[The Great Courses Plus](http://TheGreatCoursesPlus.com)

[No Sweat Nature Study](http://NoSweatNatureStudy.com)

[Read Aloud Revival](http://ReadAloudRevival.com)

[Squilt Music](http://SquiltMusic.com)

[You Are an Artist](http://YouAreanArtist.com)

Subscription Boxes

[Bitsboxes by CrateJoy](http://Bitsboxes.com)

[Groovy Lab in a Box](http://GroovyLab.com)

[Little Passports](http://LittlePassports.com)

[My Educrate](http://MyEducrate.com)

[Tinker Crates by Kiwi Company](http://TinkerCrates.com)

[Universal Yums](http://UniversalYums.com)

LOCAL:

Mardel's (several metroplex locations)

Half-Price books

The Learning Den (Decatur)

Center for Home Education (Watauga)

ANOTHER OPTION:

Amazon.com

How the Library Can Help

Resources

- Books & Materials
- Distance learning & equipment use
- Research skills & testing (TexShare database)
- Community information
- Library tours
- Librarian assistance
 - Literature selections*
 - Resources*
 - Technology help*
- Inter-Library Loans
- Book sales (2-3 annually)

Programs & Activities

- Children's Programs-Storytime (2)
- Program reminders-Notify Me or Facebook
- Teen Programs-WPL Tribe, Ex Libris, Anime, Gamer's Circle, Writing Workshop
- Summer Reading Challenge (register June 1)
- Summer Programs-Discovery Station (STEAM), Movie, WPL Players, Teen Legion
- Family Programs-Family Science Day, Summer Spectacular
- Homeschool Supports (Eventbrite, hand-outs & virtual programming)
- Volunteer opportunities (teens 14 & up)

LIBRARY WEBPAGE

→ www.weatherfordtx.gov/WPLhomeschoolresources

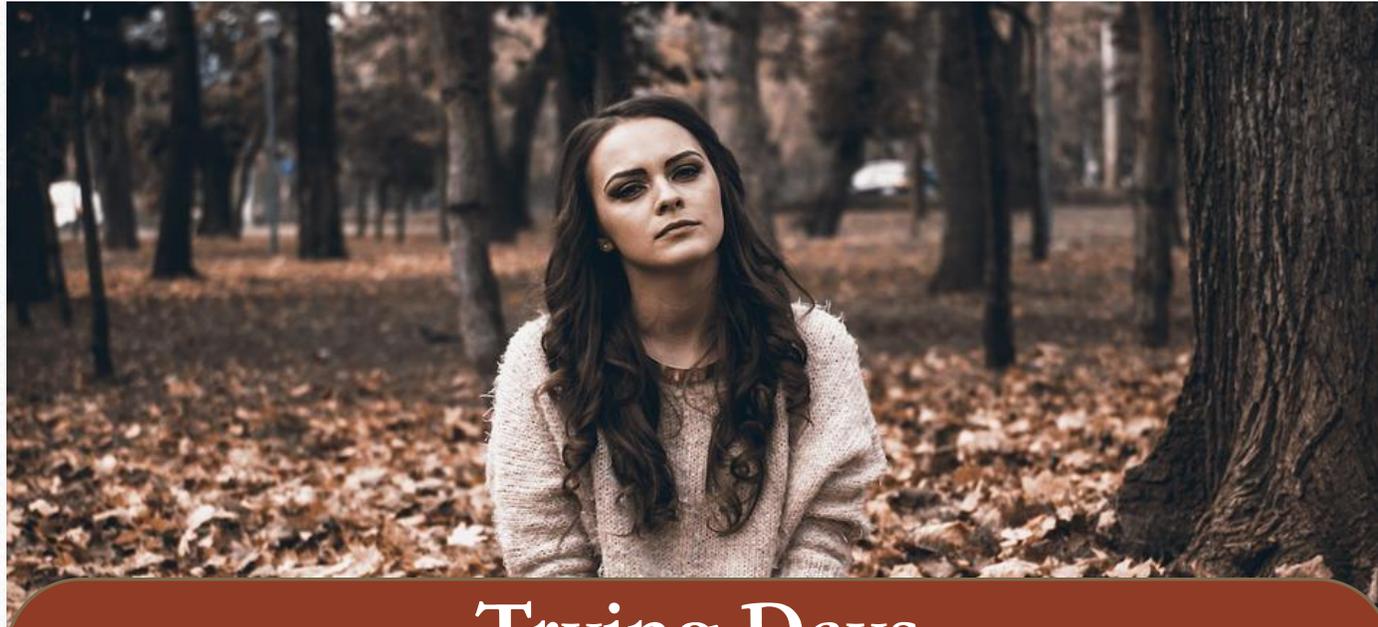
How You Can Help the Library



Expect changes in:

- *Lifestyle*
- *Perspective*
- *Worldview*
- *Priorities*
- *Time management*
- *Interests*
- *Goals*
- *Plans*

Helpful Hints for Burnout & Stress



Trying Days

- Unexpected interruptions
- Burn-out
- Lack of time for household duties
- Life happens
- Feeling inadequate

- Ringer off on phone
- Children help with housework
- Learn the heart of a servant
- De-clutter and organize
- Exercise
- Take a power nap OR take a break
- Find “praises” each day
- Uplifting music
- Ask for help from a local homeschool group or a friend
- Something fun each day
- Personal project or hobby
- Avoid comparisons
- “Alone” time
- Choose different teaching options OR reduce activities
 - Online
 - Limit extra-curricular choices

Standing Firm in Your Resolve

The Skeptics

- Friends
- Family
- Neighbors
- Authorities

HSLDA's phone number (540) 338-5600

*Prepare a Defense Statement
Keep a Record or Transcript of Students' Work*

Homeschool 101

WPL Homeschool Webpage

<https://ci.weatherford.tx.us/2999/Homeschool-Resources>

WPL Homeschool Booklet

<https://ci.weatherford.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/17392/HomeschoolResourcesBooklet2020update>

WPL Homeschool Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YLKTJG6>