

Home Education Philosophies

Charlotte Mason

Philosophy	Methods	Resources
Based on the writings and body of work shared by Charlotte Mason, a 19th century educator, and centered on the idea of the child as a person made in the Image of God.	Focuses on building good habits which allow a child to develop to their full potential. An example would be the habit of attention, truthfulness, obedience, courtesy, kindness.	Websites & Curriculum Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Mater Amabilis (Catholic Charlotte Mason) * Ambleside Online * Simply Charlotte Mason
A Liberal Education (encompassing a wide and generous curriculum with great variety) based on the three ideas that “Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, and a Life”.	Short lessons nurture the habit of attention by allowing a reasonably short time for a child to focus on a lesson and then moving on. Short lessons allow for a liberal (wide) course of study.	Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>Charlotte Mason Education</u> by Catherine Levison (practical help) * <u>When Children Love to Learn</u> by Elaine Cooper (practical) * Charlotte Mason’s 6 volumes
Uses living, worthy books as the vehicle to convey an education, and encourages the child to recognize “connections” on his own through his reading without being fed or forced the connections through text blurbs.	Language Arts methods differ significantly from standard workbook approaches - patterned on classical principles. Language Arts methods are centered around the context of the living books being read, and the cornerstones are narration (oral and written), copywork, studied dictations.	Other Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 4Real Home Education Message Boards (4real.thenetsmith.com) * Ambleside Schools International maintains a helpful database(www.amblesideschools.com) - be sure to check out their instructive videos.
Education is focused on ideas encountered in living books - not texts, workbooks, facts, quizzes, tests or grades	A gentle appreciation for Natural History is encouraged through frequent Nature walks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Charlotte Mason Language Arts ebook - available at https://wildflowersandmarblesdotcom.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/considered-language-arts.pdf

Classical Education :: Good Books to Great Books

Philosophy	Methods	Resources
Liberal Education which has its roots going back to the 5th Century BC in the Greek Paideia (schools which taught by the great Greek scholars like Aristotle who taught Alexander the Great)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The aim of education is to cultivate wisdom and growth in virtue. * Makes use of Socratic discussions - asking questions to understand and own an idea. 	Websites & Curriculum Providers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Angelicum Academy * Mother of Divine Grace (based on a neo-Classical approach) * Circe Institute (not Catholic, but a wealth of information)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * For centuries this was the ONLY curriculum. (oldest curriculum) * Experienced a Renaissance in the Middle Ages under the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne and was nurtured by and imbued with the Catholic faith. 	Emphasis on “the Great Books” - a collection of books from authors such as Aristotle, Plato, St. Thomas Aquinas, Dante, Shakespeare and many others who are seen as having contributed to “the Great Conversation”	Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * <u>Climbing Parnassus</u> by Catherine Levison * <u>Beauty for Truth’s Sake</u> by Stratford Caldecott * <u>Beauty In Word</u> by Stratford Caldecott
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Based on the model of the three skills or tools of the Trivium: Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric...or reading, thinking, speaking. * These are not stages, but skills. 	The skills of the Trivium are learned through reading of worthy books. (Good Books before Great Books). Emphasis placed on Latin and Greek languages.	Other Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 4Real Home Education Message Boards discussion on Classical Education: http://4real.thenetsmith.com/forum_posts.asp?TID=42355&PN=1&TPN

Unit Studies

Philosophy	Methods	Resources
Takes a theme of interest and incorporates and connects all the other subjects (math, language arts, history, science, poetry, etc.) around the theme or topic of interest.	Lapbooking and Notebooking are often methods enjoyed by those that employ Unit Studies. These tools help build a body of work based on the connected studies, and do so in ways that some families find attractive and engaging.	Websites * UnitStudy.com - Amanda Bennett's website offers Unit Studies on a variety of topics. * NotebookingPages.com * HomeschoolShare.com offers many free lapbooking templates
Provides the common denominator and many of the connections across the curriculum through the theme which unites and connects the studies.	Examples of Unit Study Themes might be: * Native Americans * Animals * Ancient Rome * Civil War	
Particularly helpful when teaching across many ages at once because the topic or theme connects and provides a common starting point, while the reading and activities can be age appropriate.	Generally makes use of living books and invites a great deal of art, crafts and creative experiences to polish the collection of work within the Unit Study	Other Resources * 4Real Home Education Message Boards (4real.thenetsmith.com) - Find ideas and resources for building themed Unit Studies here.

Montessori Education

Philosophy	Methods	Resources
Based on the understanding and teaching of Dr. Maria Montessori, a Catholic doctor turned educator that believed that all children (poor and privileged) deserved an education. Recognizes the child as a person made in the image of God.	Specific tools and materials are often used in a Montessori education. These have been thoughtfully considered because of the great emphasis on the concrete and the work and presentations completed, but the frugal and creative homeschooling mother can often find ingenious and/or homemade substitutions around the home.	Websites * Montessori For Everyone * Our Father's House (offers many materials for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd instruction)
Focuses on moving a child from the concrete to the abstract through the child's work. The child forms connections between the concrete tools and work and builds an understanding in their learning.	* Emphasis is on environment. * Presentations of a work or material are given and then the child is invited to work with the objects independently. The child can choose to work with materials....or not.	Books * <u>Teaching Montessori in the Pre-School Years</u> by Elizabeth Hainstock * <u>Montessori Play and Learn</u> by Lesley Britton * <u>Mommy, Teach Me</u> by Barbara Curtis
Recognizes and takes advantage of a child's "sensitive periods", periods which a child may be particularly open to a kind of work or understanding.	Materials are presented thoughtfully, arranged in inviting ways, and the mother/teacher observes quietly, noticing how a child works. She may adapt the environment based on her observations.	

Unschooling

Philosophy	Methods	Resources
This term and philosophy was founded by John Holt and is based on the idea of a child-led learning experience and the child interacting with his/her natural environment. The child communicates interest, the parent facilitates learning opportunities around that interest.	A child communicates a desire to learn a skill or a topic of interest. The parent then brainstorms with the child various experiences and books that facilitate that learning and provides a rich group of resources to the child. A skill may require learning across a wide body of other basic educational skills in order to communicate the skill or topic the child has interest in.	Websites * 4Real Home Education Message Boards (4real.thenetsmith.com) - offers support for families that emphasize living books and opportunities, and often design their own curriculum. Unschoolers will find book ideas and resources here.
A self-directed education which takes place in real world environments based on the idea that curiosity is natural in children. Takes into account a child's individuality in his/her propensity to learn a particular skill.	Parents may "strew" books (sometimes called "strewing"), a term which indicates thoughtful placing of particular books around the home in order to invite a child to read on a given topic.	Books * A Little Way of Homeschooling: Thirteen Families Discover Catholic Unschooling by Suzie Andres * Growing Without Schooling newsletters by John Holt
Focuses on HOW to learn, rather than WHAT is learned.	Use of real world experiences and activities is emphasized.	

All-In-One Curricula

Philosophy	Methods	Resources
Based on a traditional school experience and is often called "school in a box". These often require minimal preparation for the homeschooling mother since they come with pre-written lesson plans, but can be inflexible since they were not written to take into account the individual child. They can also be expensive.	Textbooks, workbooks, tests, quizzes, reading comprehension questions, homework, book reports, essays	All-In-One Curriculum Providers * Catholic Heritage Curricula * Kolbe Academy * Seton Home Study School * Our Lady of the Rosary * Our Lady of Victory * Regina Coeli Online Academy
This approach would be similar or identical to the work, text books and assignments a student would find in a public or private school. Most often, there are few "extras" included and these curriculum stick to the basics. (There are exceptions to this from provider to provider)	Most curriculum providers usually offer support tailored to their own curriculum and requirements, record keeping, grading and transcript services as part of their package. Some curriculum providers require mailing in of course materials; others allow for submission online.	

Eclectic Homeschooling

** Any combination of the above that makes sense in your family