

Homeschool 101 Planning - Considered Days

Wisdom begins in days full of wonder

Homeschooling is an avenue toward education! Use this simple 3-step process to consider your days, your children, your strengths and weaknesses, the reason you choose to homeschool, the laws within your state, and the vehicle you will use to convey that education at home! G.K. Chesterton says that, "for a child everything is wonder." Be sure to incorporate enough margin in your days so that you feel comfortable enough to let them wonder!

Step 1 | WHY - Everyone has a reason why they choose to homeschool, but so often we move from a reactionary "why" without really grounding our future considerations in a deeper, more considered statement. Make sure your "why" is positive and realistic so that you're grounded when storms come - and they will come.

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|----------------------------------------------|
| We choose to homeschool this year because... |
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Step 2 | STATE LAWS - Each state has specific laws and regulations governing home education. Some states have no regulation at all. Other states require minimal regulation such as the submission of attendance while a few states require mandatory testing, and subject and curriculum review. You will need to comply with your state's guidelines which can be found here: <https://hsllda.org/legal>. List your state's guidelines here.

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| STATE OF _____ |
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Step 3 | HOW - Adding and choosing curriculum is one of the most exciting and most overwhelming parts of homeschooling. There is a temptation to choose too much curriculum and activity out of fear of missing something. But the reality is - you're going to miss something - there are holes in every education! The goal of education is to give children tools to be lifelong learners. Choose curriculum that meets your child right where he/she is, and gently stretches forward. The first step in choosing curriculum is to identify where your child is, where he/she might need extra help, and don't forget to consider yourself in this equation!

STRENGTHS OF YOUR CHILD - list the strong areas and natural gifts of your children.

| Child _____ | Child _____ | Child _____ | Child _____ | Child _____ |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
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AREAS WHICH NEED GROWTH OR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE - list these areas. They can be academic, habit growth, special needs, developmental, natural tendencies.

| Child _____ | Child _____ | Child _____ | Child _____ | Child _____ |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
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KNOW THYSELF! As the parent educator, what are your needs? Are you introverted? Extroverted? Do you have a number of children under the age of 8 years old? Toddlers? A handful of teens? Do you work from home or outside the home? What are the challenges you're going to face this year? Consider them and list them.

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Step 4 | PUT IT ALL TOGETHER - Choose a curriculum by first choosing a homeschool method/style that fits your family's needs by:

- Reflecting on the different methods of homeschooling and choosing a style and method that:
 - Meets your child where he is
 - Is not overwhelming to you in carrying out, executing, and assessing
 - Allows for enough flexibility so that days can nurture wonder (read: don't over schedule!)

The different methods & styles of homeschooling:

- Unschooling
- Charlotte Mason Home Education
- Classical Home Education
- School-in-a-box | Pre-packaged | All-in-one curriculum
- Montessori at Home
- Unit Study
- Eclectic/Relaxed Home Education

Homeschool Method Notes - Consider Each

List the homeschool methods you're considering across the top. Follow the guided prompts to consider each method style before investing time, money, and effort. Once this activity is complete, you're ready for curriculum shopping!

| Method/ Style | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Benefits | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Concerns | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cost Estimate | | | | |
| Choice | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Note: It is not unusual for your choice to be a combination or mix of a couple of different styles that blend and work together naturally.