

All Things Homeschool

...helpful curriculum info and other useful stuff

SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Now that spring has arrived, what are some of the ways that your homeschooling has changed?



Our lunch breaks take place on the deck now since meals just don't seem to taste as good unless eaten outdoors these days.

More field trips are in

order as we look for legitimate reasons to spend more time outside.

Science lessons involve all sorts of projects that we can accomplish outside, mainly in the flower and vegetable gardens.

Our sons have gotten to help friends build raised flower beds and learn about composting, too.

We have even had to al-

ter the care of our animals since this change in our weather.

They are outside pets so we have to be more diligent with their water and shade needs.

Since the arrival of our warmer weather, we have been struck with a stronger desire to take our learning outside our home and beyond the textbooks, too.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Front Page Story	1
Exhibit Hall Shopping	2
Site Additions	3
Choosing Curriculum	3
Back Page	4

HOMESCHOOLING TIP

WRITING LESSONS

It is much easier to teach writing when I model exactly what I want my children to do.

Recently, I wanted to work on writing great paragraphs with a clear *beginning,*

middle, and ending.

I chose capital punishment for our essay topic because I knew they would have strong opinions about that subject.

Look [here](#) for a copy of a homeschool worksheet we used during this lesson.

EXHIBIT HALL SHOPPING

When you walk into a [homeschool curriculum fair](#), it is easy to be overwhelmed by all the [home school curriculum](#), art supplies, and everything else in the exhibit hall.

It's a lot like taking a kid to *Toys 'R Us* or someplace really cool like that.

Typically, the place will be buzzing with vendors, other shoppers, and workshop speakers, who all have an opinion about the curriculum you should use to teach your children.

STEPS

Start with the basics first—plan for your [Bible](#) and other core subjects and select the materials that will help you fulfill those requirements.

Check out any resources for electives, such as a foreign language or fine arts curriculum.

Plan to purchase some fun, creative supplies—such as specialty paper, science

or building kits or something you might learn from attending a workshop.

Our children are always excited when I bring back the blank, hardcover books from *Miller Pads & Paper* so they can create their own books.

A FEW OTHER TIPS

If you decide to purchase homeschool computer software, be sure the version is compatible with your home computer or laptop.

Try not to "*impulse buy*" at the fair or your children could suffer because you may not have enough funds left to purchase everything they actually need for the upcoming year.

Even if it seems like you have found the perfect curriculum for the upcoming school year, resist the urge to buy materials for subsequent grades if offered a volume discount.

Your "perfect find" may not work as well for older grades or it might not be a good fit

for your family later on.

SUMMARY

Realize that there will be many more resources at the curriculum fair than you need so don't fall victim to overspending.

Be sure to get the materials that you truly need for the next year and hold off on others.

Make sure you understand that your time spent in the exhibit hall is to explore options and finalize your decision, ultimately making a purchase if possible.

Many homeschoolers go with a spouse or friend to help in the decision making.

You need to try to carefully pinpoint the needs of your family to have a successful school year.

There will be many choices to be made but stay focused and enjoy the homeschool curriculum fair shopping experience.

NEW LINK PARTNERS

Below are the names of several new link partners I have made.

It is my hope that these sites will add valuable information for my visitors in addition to what I already offer.

I hope you enjoy them and find useful information.

Find them on my site.

⇒ [Coloring Pages Book for Kids Boys](#)

Fun, free printable coloring pages for boys

⇒ [First Online Degree](#)

Offers plenty of information on college prep and online degrees

⇒ [Learn French Video](#)

Find audio and video tutorial lessons here to speak French

⇒ [Holly's Preschool Place](#)
Preschool Activities and games

⇒ [Homeschool Life Situations](#)

Great information about homeschooling through tough situations

⇒ [Christian Books Bible Stories](#)

Christian books for the entire family

HOME SCHOOLING RESOURCES

A really useful guide in sorting through the many curriculum options is a reference book such as *100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum*, by Cathy Duffy.

She reviews and suggests the best homeschool curriculum options among the different methods.

HOME-SCHOOLING METHODS

Some of the methods to choose from include **traditional textbooks and**

workbooks with separate student and teacher materials.

Worktext options are the consumable, self-paced booklets that students write in.

Charlotte Mason style teaching suggests "real books" like biographies and other non-fiction resources.

Computer software programs such as *Switched on Schoolhouse* utilize interactive methods to present their material.

Online programs such as Tapestry of Grace and BJUP distance learning offer core subjects and electives via the Internet.

Also, **unschooling** is another method of teaching without the constraints of curriculum or schedules.

Unit studies and lap-books are other teaching methods.

Select your curriculum after thoroughly researching the different types of resources.



ALL ABOUT HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM

*The place for information about
homeschool resources and methods!*

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CHANNEL

This newsletter is a labor of love to allow me to connect with my site visitors. I hope to share with you a little more about our family and how **WE** homeschool our children. Please feel free to send me your questions, comments, kids' contributions or reviews to www.AllAboutHomeschoolCurriculum.com/contact-me.html to be included in future issues.

Have a terrific month,

Claudette

Stay tuned for upcoming **give-
aways** and a **new eBook** to be
announced on the site!

THE BACK PAGE



HELPFUL PAGES:

- ◆ [Homeschool Writing Curriculum](#)
- ◆ [Homeschool Science Curriculum](#)
- ◆ [Pros of Homeschooling](#)
- ◆ [Switched on Schoolhouse Curriculum](#)
- ◆ [Cost of Homeschooling](#)
- ◆ [Curriculum Planning](#)
- ◆ [Discount Home School Curriculum](#)

FEATURED QUESTION

I was asked the following question recently while having dinner with some friends.

Q: Who decides what types of materials you use? Who decides exactly what you have to teach?

I thought it was a very thoughtful question especially since she does not home school or have children.

A: I explained that it was not a really simple answer because each state has their own [guidelines](#).

I briefly explained about homeschool regulations and the local educational agencies.

I told her that each family was responsible for selecting their own [materials](#) unless directed by the state to use specific resources.

She left us that evening with more than just a full stomach of great food!