

# How To Get Started Homeschooling

By Tricia Dunn, Home Education Consultant



A Simple Guide For Parents Considering  
Homeschooling

Thinking about homeschooling? Do you wonder where to begin, if you are qualified to teach your child, or what curriculum to choose?

**You are not alone...** Many parents are looking into homeschooling as an alternative educational option for many reasons. And other parents would love the idea of homeschooling but are overwhelmed with all the information out there. They don't know how to start. If that sounds like you then, you're in the right place. In this simple to follow guide, you will discover 3 steps on how to start homeschooling.



Before we jump right in, let me introduce myself... I am Tricia Dunn, Home Education Consultant. I have a dual degree in Special Education and Elementary Education and have over 20 years of Educational experience.

16 of those years, I have been homeschooling my own 6 children and other students. The first few years I felt like I was just winging it, not sure if I was doing it right or what type of curriculum to use.

### **Three main things I discovered:**

- 1. 1 size does not fit all! – Each family has unique needs and goals to homeschool.**
- 2. Each child is unique in their learning style.**
- 3. Homeschools can be fun and flexible when you have the right family fit!**



There are 3 steps that any homeschool can follow to set up a foundation for success!

## **Step 1: Plan**

### **Know your state laws and requirements for homeschooling.**

Homeschooling is permitted in every state and is considered a Private School. Each state varies on what you will need to do to meet the standards required. (days of school, subjects required, what kind of academic proof is required, curriculum and lesson plan approval, mandatory school age etc...)

### **Know your purpose.**

What is the objective / reason for homeschooling? Is it temporary? Will you want to teach the elementary grades and then enroll your child in a conventional school for high school? Are you looking to homeschool all the way through high school?

### **Know your style. \***

There are various homeschool philosophies and knowing your style will help you determine what kind of curriculum you will want to choose. (Waldorf, Montessori, eclectic, unschooling, charlotte mason, classical, and traditional are a few different homeschooling options.)

## **Know your child/ren. \***

How many children and what are their ages? How motivated are they to learn at home? How readily do they listen to you? What is their individual learning style strengths? Are there any interests that they really have? Are there learning concerns such as a learning disability – dyslexia, ADHD, or emotional/ behavior disorder – issues with authority or other specific concerns?

## **Know the curriculum you want to use. \***

Packaged with teacher's guide. Grade level. Customize your own by subject (math 3, Language Arts 4th etc...), create your own by unit study/ themes, follow a daily plan, follow a scope and sequence list of objectives for the grade year. Religious or secular? Enroll in a virtual school?

***\*\*Watch your inbox, because I'm going to gift you a worksheet that will help you tremendously\*\****



**Know what extracurricular activities you will want to add to your schedule.** (sports, homeschool co-ops, community volunteering.)

## **Step 2: Prepare**

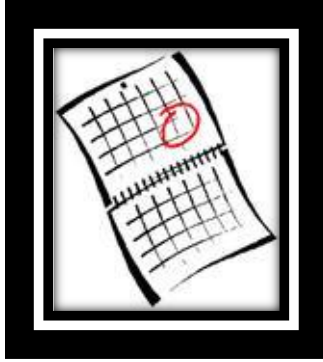
### **Take any steps your state requires to set up your homeschool.**

Some states require you register with your school district, send a letter of intent and other states do not require this. To avoid any truancy inquiries, If your child has already been in the school system, you will need to make sure you know the requirements that school has for your child to be removed.

### **Order and purchase your curriculum, materials and other consumables that you will need for each student.**

You will want to do this sooner rather than later so you get everything in time to set up your school for the best possible start. Typically, the summer months – June, July and August are busiest for buying grade packages and text books online. This can cause a delay in shipping and possible out of stock situations.

**When your material arrives, go through first to check you have everything you ordered. Then go through the subject books and get familiar with how they are laid out. If you have multiple grade levels, do each grade one at a time.**

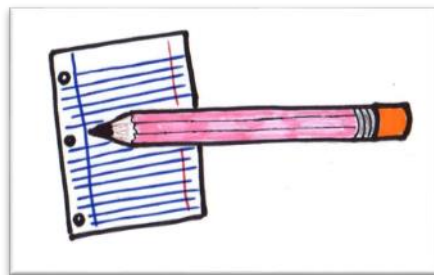


## **Choose a start date and end date for your school year.**

Based on your state, you will need to consider the amount of days required, your vacation days and holidays. Will you teach year-round or take a summer break?

## **Record the subjects you will be covering during the school year.**

This is especially important for 9-12 grade for the transcript that will be needed for your child's graduation. Your state will tell you what credit requirements are needed for each subject to successfully graduate.



## **Write out your lesson plans in a lesson planner or grade book OR online.**

I use Homeschool Skedtrack – it is a free online program that lets you record and keep track of assignments, field trips, school attendance, and report cards etc...

### **Step 3: Proceed**

**Involve your child** in this new experience and be positive! Talk about their goals and what they are looking forward to the most.

### **Set up the structure for your student.**

You determine the best location - couch, bedroom with a laptop, kitchen table, separate “school room” etc... You walk them through the procedure – start of school day, the order of classes, when your day will end. How to log in to any online programs and how you want them to give you their assignments – will you check daily, weekly, quarterly? etc

### **The first week of school and beyond...**

Allow for the newness and excitement however do keep with your structure. Adjust and modifications can come – make sure you clearly tell your student what they are. Review and modify to fit your family.



**There you have it - 3 steps on how to start  
homeschooling: Plan, Prepare and then Proceed... you  
are all set!**

This guide will help you start your homeschool and that is just the beginning... There are many resources and options available for you and your child. Your family is unique and your homeschool will be too. Embrace this and find a fun and flexible fit to set your family's foundation for homeschool success.

All the best to you and yours!



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