

7 Most Common Homeschool Styles: A Guide to Help Choose Curriculum

Style Description	Pros and Cons	Curriculum Ideas
Traditional	Use of textbooks, pre-printed workbooks, spiral instruction, tests to grade. Emphasizes short term memory. Brings the traditional classroom into your home. Good for newbies who are nervous about forgetting something.	<p>Abeka Bob Jones Master Books Alpha Omega Press: SOS/Monarch/Lifepac Easy Peasy All in One Homeschool</p> <p>Online Schools such as Freedom Project Academy (NOT Online PUBLIC- NOT homeschooling!!!)</p>
Classical	Ancient Greek trivium: Emphasizes three stages of childhood (Grammar, Dialectic, Rhetoric). Must be strong readers and have a love for reading. A scholarly mom/teacher helps, emphasis on Ancients .	<p>The Well Trained Mind Veritas Press History Odyssey Classical Conversations</p>
Unit Studies Lapbooking Notebooking	Integrates subjects together, explores a subject thoroughly for longer periods of time, high interest for the child, good for visual learners and multi-level teaching, good for learning content once skills are in place, high retention, emphasizes the whole picture, child lead. This method is more difficult to evaluate and can leave gaps.	<p>Hands of a Child Notebook Nook Notebooking Pages 5 in a Row Language Arts Plus Amanda Bennett</p>
Living Books (Charlotte Mason)	Believes that “well read is well educated”. Believes text books are distilled information. Child is active participant, motivating curiosity, no busy work, developmentally appropriate. LOTS OF READING. Parents need time to read all the books.	<p>Simplycharlottemason.com Ambleside Online (free) An Old Fashioned Education (free) Queen Homeschool Master Books (some subjects)</p>
Principle Approach	Focus on American History, founding fathers. Child does research, reasoning, relating and recording. Notebooking also fits in here. Teaches how to think governmentally, apply biblical theory, creating own textbooks. Not much prepared curriculum, intense teacher preparation	<p>Curriculumconnection.net Homehearts.com A Thomas Jefferson Education</p>

Unschooling	Believes that formal education “binds a child”. Parent is facilitator. Child led, child included in the adult world around them, also called “delight direct learning”. Unstructured.	John Taylor Gatto Unschoolers.org
Eclectic!	With some experience, support and success/failures many parents pull what works from the above styles to create the perfect balance for their family. This takes some time and some trial and error...but it’s okay to have a flavor of or a combination of the above techniques! After all...6 sizes do not fit all!	Some or none of the above...the world is your oyster!

Popular Homeschool Curriculum for Newbies!

The most important thing to remember is that one size does NOT fit all. What works well for one does not work well for another and even when you find a curriculum that suits you well, you are free to adapt it to meet the needs of your family. This list is a place to START...

MATH

(k-3): Math U See, Shiller Math, Horizons, Singapore, Master Books, Math Mammoth

4th and Up- Teaching Textbooks, Saxon, Bob Jones, A Beka, Singapore, Master Books

PHONICS

100 Easy Lessons, Rocket Phonics, Hooked on Phonics, Sing, Spell, Read and Write, Alphabet Ablaze, Highlight on Phonics

SCIENCE

Apologia, NOEO, Real Science 4 kids, R.E.A.L. Science, Unit Studies, Master Books

HISTORY

Story of the World, Mystery of History, My Father’s World, History Scribes, Biblioplan

LANGUAGE ARTS

Easy Grammar, Shurley English, Wordly Wise, Excellence in Writing, Write Shop, The Brave Writer, Queen’s Language Lessons, Master Books, Writing Strands