

READY, SET, HOMESCHOOL!

A STRAIGHTFORWARD
GET-YOU-STARTED GUIDE

Wild Wonders and Wanderers






Wild Wonders and Wanders

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Thank you!

Thank you for your purchase from Wild Wonders and Wanders. I am so excited to share in this fun learning journey with you! This resource is intended for personal use for one (1) family or classroom; please contact me for additional licenses for use with multiple families or co-ops.

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Wild Wonders and Wanders

A note from me:

Making the leap into homeschooling can be overwhelming and, at times, scary. You care about your child(ren) and want the best for them. Sometimes knowing how to go about starting your homeschooling journey and helping them thrive in their education can be confusing when there are SO many methods, resources, and voices out there! Know that it's okay to take a breath, take it day by day, and figure out the things that work for your family and your children's needs. Do your best not to fall into the trap of comparing your journey to those you see on social media, and remember that those are highlight reels you're seeing! None of us have everything figured out. Each year of homeschooling for my family has looked slightly different, and that's okay. Your homeschool will change with the season of life you're in, your other commitments, and your children's needs. My hope is that this guide can give you some clear, actionable steps to start homeschooling, or refresh your approach and bring you back to the basics if you've already begun but are feeling lost. Enjoy the journey and remember that when things aren't going to plan, it's okay to slow down, go outside, and soak in the extra time with your family!

With love,

Katie



WHERE TO START?

Starting your homeschooling journey can feel overwhelming. Remember that no two homeschools look exactly alike, because no two families are exactly the same. Give yourself some grace as you figure out what works best for your family!

Here are some simple steps to get you started:

1

Research your state's homeschooling laws

Homeschooling laws can vary widely from state to state. Check out HSLDA.org or your state's Department of Education website and familiarize yourself with the requirements of your specific state. You may be required to track days, hours, resources used, etc. It is also important to see if your state offers any funding for homeschool families.

2

Explore homeschooling philosophies

Knowing which philosophy aligns best with the kind of education you desire for your child(ren) can help you make decisions about the flow of your days, which curriculum you may like best, and more. There are many free online quizzes you can take to help you determine which philosophy you most identify with.

3

Research curriculum

If you are choosing to use a structured curriculum or program, now is the time to begin researching, and maybe even testing out some of the samples from these. Look for flip-throughs of curriculum that align with your homeschooling philosophy (step 2) on Youtube or social media - other homeschool families love to share their thoughts! You do not have to be "loyal" to one program or company; many families enjoy an eclectic approach and pull resources from different programs for different subjects, and even differ from child to child in the same family!

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Choose a curriculum or program

4

If you are opting to use a curriculum or program, now is the time to begin making your purchases! If your state offers homeschool funding, you may need to submit purchases for approval or purchase through an approved portal. Check secondhand stores in your area or online resale groups to help save some money, as curriculum can vary widely in cost.

Determine your daily schedule or rhythms

5

Every family's schedule and routine will vary based on their individual needs and activities. Many homeschool families structure their day around a "rhythm" instead of a rigid schedule. This means you do the same things around the same time and in the same general order each day, but you're not tied to the clock. Allow for time for breaks, outside time, and the flexibility to change what isn't working!

Set up your learning space and storage

6

Despite what you may see on social media, you do NOT need to have a specified, instagram-worthy school space in your home, unless you want one! You can keep things simple, using baskets or bins you already have to store curriculum materials when not in use. Lots of families do their lessons at the kitchen table, on the living room couch, or in the backyard. As you continue on your homeschooling journey, you'll figure out which space(s) work best for your child's needs.

Connect with others

7

Having other families to bounce ideas off of, get support from, or go on field trips with can be a benefit to all! You may choose to join a co-op (but this is not a necessary step!), or find others in local homeschooling groups on social media. Don't be afraid to attend meetups in your area, or create your own in order to connect!

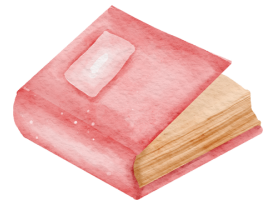
Most importantly: Give yourself grace!

Your homeschool won't look exactly like anyone else's. You will go through trial and error and make major changes along the way. That's okay! Your goal is not to replicate school at home, but to create an enriching and stable learning environment at home for your family. Start slow, be flexible, and enjoy the time together!

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READING LOG

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CURRICULUM PLANS



LANGUAGE ARTS	MATH
SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
THE ARTS	EXTRACURRICULARS
OTHER	

YEAR AT A GLANCE

August	September	October
November	December	January
February	March	April
May	June	July

ATTENDANCE TRACKER

STUDENT _____ **YEAR** _____

[illegible]