



Coffee With Carrie

Start the School Year Strong CHECKLIST

- Write out your Homeschool Mission Statement. (Why are you homeschooling?) Episode #79
- Pick a theme Bible verse for the year. (Pray it each day and over each week as you plan.)
- Record a spiritual goal, academic goal, personal growth goal, and physical / health goal for each child.
- Decide what you will do (or read) for family daily devotions. (Keep it brief. God's Word never comes back void.) Episode #23
- Create a flexible schedule for your day. (It's a goal, not a strict plan and make sure you include free time.)
- Fill in a Course of Study for each child. Choose and list the books and resources you will use for each subject. (Keep it simple! Focus on the basics. This will help you organize your curriculum and plan each week.)
- Fill in your master calendar. (Include outside classes, birthdays, field trips, vacations, & sabbath weeks.)
- Decide which subjects and topics you will learn as a family. Put those items in one basket/bin or on one shelf for easy access. Episode #5 & #84



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- Organize your books so they are easy to find.
- Organize each child's materials so they are easy to get and put away. (Include books to read & workbooks to do)
- Put all school supplies in one spot and replenish it each month. (Pencils, pens, sharpeners, highlighters, paper, etc.)
- Create an arts and crafts space. Fill it with art and building supplies. (Helpful for impromptu projects!)
- Invest in a printer and place it in a central location.
- Get an audible account and have several books already downloaded and ready to go. (Perfect for read alouds, long trips, independent reading, and rainy days).
- Meal Prep for the first month. (Freeze several dinners in advance and have a plan for instant pot once a week)
- Prepare 5-6 Activity Bins for toddlers. (Fill with special toys and activities that are only used during school time and rotate the bins each day.) Episode #103
- Get a teacher library card and a library card for each child. (Longer lending times and lower late fees)
- Order or reserve read-aloud, picture books and chapter books you want for the first month from your local library (or Amazon). Episode #112



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- For your Type A students or high school students, create a space for them to “do school work.” (They need the organized space.)
- Start training (or re-training) chores and personal hygiene habits now. (This will make mornings run smoother when you start school.)
- Prepare a few “Get’er Done” Go-To Lessons. (Worksheets, books, apps, simple review activities, etc you can use when you don’t have time to plan)
- Do a Day of Dedication. (Set aside a kid-free day to pray over your year, your curriculum, and your children.)
Episode #83
- Determine your official 1st Day of School and plan something special! (Make this a tradition.)
- Get your needed materials for the first week and plan what you would like to do in each subject and with each child. (Try to do as much as possible as a family.)
- Try not to do “school at home.” (Your day does not have to be planned down to every minute.) Episode #81 & #82
- Do something special to celebrate your 1st week of school!
- Give yourself (and your kids) grace! It might be the best week ever (or it might be an epic fail). It’s ok! There is always next week. God’s mercies are new every day.

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- Plan a Soft Start for your first week (and month). Only do 1-3 subjects the first week and help your family ease back into early mornings and school “schedule.” Then add 1 or 2 subjects the next week. Do the same the 3rd week. This will allow your students to build good math, writing, reading, and working habits a little at a time. ** We usually start only math, read-aloud books, and family devotions in the first week.***
- After your first month, evaluate what went well, what went horribly, and what you might change to make next month go a little smoother. (Don’t be afraid to ease up on something, read a different book, or change the schedule a bit.)
- Keep a Grateful Journal. Record each day the blessings, milestones, or things done or said that you are thankful for.



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Reminders

- Subscribe to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast. Then listen to Episodes #1-#10: “The 10 Essentials to Homeschooling” Podcast Series. It will help you remember what is most important on this homeschooling journey. iTunes or your favorite podcast provider.
- Read book, *Just Breathe (and Take a Sip of Coffee): Homeschool in Step with God*. It will help you rest in the Lord and simplify your homeschooling. Order on Amazon:
- Follow Coffee With Carrie on IG for daily devotions, homeschooling tips, mom encouragement, and a little bit of humor. You can find me at @coffeewithcarrieconsultant.
- Bookmark Coffee With Carrie Website. Subscribe to receive the weekly email newsletter with suggestions and encouragement. www.coffeewithcarrie.org
- Book a Coffee Date with me! We can meet for coffee (via zoom or in-person) and I can help you with all of your homeschooling questions. www.coffeewithcarrie.org

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