



HOMESCHOOL REFERENCE BINDER

Information compiled by

the IndyPL

Homeschool Services Committee

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Homeschooling 101: 6 Steps to Get Started Homeschooling

by *Mary Ann Kelley*

<https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/homeschooling-101/>

New to homeschooling?

There are two types of people when it comes to starting something new—the kind that jump in feet first, and the kind that research and read and research some more. For the researcher, we have this, our “Get Started Homeschooling Guide,” and for those wanting to just jump in, we have the “**Quickstart Guide to Homeschooling**.”

Although the idea of getting ready to start homeschooling can be overwhelming, know that **you can do it**. Learning takes place all the time, and just as your child learned to walk and talk with you as their teacher, they can continue to learn at home in a relaxed, loving environment. Homeschooling is not public school at home. As Rebecca Capuano says in her post about the **differences between public school and home education**, “It is a completely different way of thinking about education, and a completely different way of approaching education. It is teaching tailored specifically to individual children rather than according to a standardized set of guidelines or curriculum for the masses. And because of this individualization, home education is effective by virtue of the fact that it does not have to look like the public school classroom.”

The best way to consider the choice to homeschool and to begin to make choices about curriculum is to look at the big picture first, then funnel down to the smaller topics. Rebecca’s **advice to new homeschoolers** is a great place to start reading, along with our series about the **benefits of homeschooling**. If your children are currently in school and you will be bringing them home, **deschooling** is an important consideration.

When you are ready, each of the 6 steps below links you to more information that will guide you through the homeschooling process.

1. Know your state’s legal requirements

Homeschooling is regulated by the state rather than the federal government, which means that you will need to **look to the specific regulations in your state** to find out what, if anything, you have to do to be legally homeschooling. Some states consider homeschools to be private schools and regulate them as such,

some states have specific homeschool statutes, and some have no homeschool regulations at all.

Don't assume that just because legalities sound confusing that they are hard to comply with. Local and state homeschool groups can give you guidance in understanding the law, but be sure to seek out the actual state code (which is usually online at your state's official website) for the most up to date and accurate legal information with regard to homeschooling.

Read more about legal requirements for homeschooling »

2. Locate local activities and nearby homeschoolers

One of the most important things you can do to successfully homeschool is to get hooked into a community of homeschoolers. Whether your homeschool community is online where you find encouragement and support in a virtual environment, or in person and allows you to participate in field trips, co-ops, classes, and outings, avoiding isolation is key to homeschool success. Because local homeschoolers are often a helpful resource for understanding homeschool regulations, getting connected early can help reduce anxiety for new homeschoolers.

Our **local homeschool database** has listings for thousands of groups, co-ops, classes, field trips, and more.

Learn more about homeschooling groups and activities »

3. Explore available homeschooling methods

One of the best things about homeschooling is that you don't have to recreate school at home; in fact, in most cases **you shouldn't recreate school at home**. You have the freedom to allow your children to learn in ways that aren't possible in an institutional setting, so learn more about what might work best for your family. Consider **how your children learn**. Home is not school and does not need the same structure. There are many **homeschooling methods**; take some time to look into how each works.

While you are exploring, take the opportunity for your children and yourself to go through a period of deschooling before you jump into homeschooling, especially if your child was previously in public school. There is an adjustment period that a child (and often the parent) goes through when leaving school and beginning homeschooling.

To fully benefit from homeschooling, a child has to let go of the school culture as the norm. This is **deschooling**, and it is a crucial part of beginning homeschooling after a period of time spent in a classroom. This period is a great time to explore the homeschooling methods and learning styles if you haven't already done so.

Read more about homeschooling methods »

4. Find your learning resources

Often buying **homeschool curriculum** is done too early in the process and **results in buyer's remorse**. After you have thought about your child's learning style and what your homeschooling will look like, it's time to think about resources.

Only after working through steps 1-3 should you think about curriculum and research **which curriculum fits the style your family** is most comfortable with. You may find that you are more comfortable with a lifestyle of learning than a set curriculum. If so, you are not alone. Many families have found this to be the best way to learn. Whether you choose radical **unschooling** or simply **let your child's interests lead his learning**, know that curriculum is not a must-have. When you have several potential selections, read **homeschool curriculum reviews** from homeschoolers who have used the resources.

When/if you are ready to buy, check out sources for **used curriculum** to save money.

Parents of preschoolers, Kindergartners, and first graders, please read this post about **the best curriculum for these ages**.

Learn more about choosing learning resources »

5. Attend homeschool conventions and events

Attending a **homeschool convention** can be great exposure to both speakers and resources. It's important to look into the philosophy of the sponsoring organization to be sure that it fits with your family and homeschooling perspective. Both the speakers and resources will be representative of the sponsoring organization's outlook. Before attending, read **our tips for how to survive a homeschool convention** – the sheer amount of resources at a homeschooling convention can be overwhelming for even seasoned homeschooling veterans.

Learn more about making the most of homeschooling conferences and events »

6. Incorporate your support network

Involving the important people in your life will give you as the homeschool parent a better chance of success, and will also introduce valuable opportunities for your family. Particularly, involving the grandparents can be beneficial once they understand the **benefits of homeschooling**. Our **Grandparents' Guide to Homeschooling** can help your parents understand how to support your decision to homeschool.

[Learn more about incorporating your support network »](#)

Homeschooling Bibliography

Getting Started

Homeschooling: Which Model Is Right for You? <https://thebestschools.org/magazine/homeschool-style-right/> Gives an overview of various homeschooling styles and some of their pros and cons

Home Education in Indiana. Stilesville, IN : Indiana Association of Home Educators, [2016]

The Homeschool Alternative: Incorporating A Homeschool Mindset for the Benefit of Black Children in America. Myiesha Taylor. Taylored Publishing [2019]

The Busy Homeschool Mom's Guide to Daylight Managing your Days Through the Homeschool Years. Heidi St. John

So, Why Do You Homeschool? Answering Questions People Ask About Home Education. Mimi Davis. [Longwood, FL?] : Xulon Press, ©2005

The Brave Learner Finding Everyday Magic in Homeschool, Learning, and Life. Julie Bogart. New York, NY : TarcherPerigee, [2019]

The Unhurried Homeschooler A Simple, Mercifully Short Book on Homeschooling. Durenda Wilson.
[North Carolina] : [Durenda Wilson], [2016]

Family Matters Why Homeschooling Makes Sense. David Guterson. San Diego, CA : Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1993

The Homeschooling Option How to Decide When It's Right for your Family Lisa Rivero. New York : Palgrave Macmillan, 2008

The Everything Guide to Homeschooling
The Everything Guide to Homeschooling, Book
All You Need to Create the Best Curriculum and Learning Environment for your Child. Sherri Linsenbach. Avon, Massachusetts : Adams Media, [2015]

Specific Age Groups

The Homegrown Preschooler : teaching your kids in the places they live. Kathy H. Lee and Lesli M. Richards. Gryphon House, 2013.

Homeschool Teacher A Practical Guide to Inspiring Academic Excellence : Grades K-8, Ages 4-14. Kate Laird. Cordova, Alaska : Bay Books, [2016]

Specific Homeschooling Methods

Teaching Montessori in the Home The School Years. Elizabeth G. Hainstock. New York : Plume, 1997

Teaching Montessori in the Home The Pre-School Years. Elizabeth G. Hainstock. New York : Plume, 1997

The Waldorf Homeschool Handbook. Donna Ashton. Maryville, TN : Audrey Press, [2013]

Guerrilla Learning : How to Give your Kids A Real Education With or Without School. Grace, Llewellyn. New York : J. Wiley & Sons, c2001

A Charlotte Mason education: a home schooling how-to manual. Catherine Levison. Beverly Hills : Champion Press, Ltd., c2000

The well-trained mind : a guide to classical education at home. Susan Wise Bauer. New York : W.W. Norton & Company, [2016].

Specific Areas of Study

The Ultimate Homeschool Physical Education Game Book. Guy Bailey. Camas, WA : Educators Press; c2003

Curriculum Building

102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum: Choosing the Right Curriculum and Approach for Each Child's Learning Style by Cathy Duffy, Grove Publishing, [2015]

Home Learning Year by Year How to Design A Homeschool Curriculum From Preschool Through High School. Rebecca Rupp. New York : Three Rivers Press, c2000

Heading Towards College

College-prep Homeschooling College-prep Homeschooling, Book

Your Complete Guide to Homeschooling Through High School. David P. Byers. Silverton, ID : Mapletree Pub. Co., c2012

The Homescholar Guide to College Admission and Scholarships: Homeschool Secrets to Getting Ready, Getting in and Getting by. Lee Binz

Setting the Records Straight How to Craft Homeschool Transcripts and Course Descriptions for College Admission and Scholarships. Lee Binz. [Place of publication not identified]: www.TheHomeScholar.com c2010

Magazines

Home | School | Life – Online magazine for secular homeschoolers.
homeschoollifemag.com

Homeschool Indiana- Magazine published by the Indiana Association of Home Educators. iahe.net

Helpful Homeschooling Resources

Indiana Association for Home Educators <https://iahe.net/>

Jared and Melinda Johnson

IAHE Regional Representatives, Region 9

www.iahe.net

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(317) 467-6244 ext. 209

Indiana Department of Education Homeschool
Information <https://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/home-school>

National Black Home Educators <http://www.nbhe.net/>

<https://www.catholicschoolhouse.com/>

Homeschool Central:

Indiana http://www.homeschoolcentral.com/support/indiana_homeschool.htm

Homeschool Diner <http://www.homeschooldiner.com/>

Indiana Foundation for Homeschooling <http://www.indianahomeschooling.org/>

Homeschool Legal Defense Association <https://hslida.org/content/>

The Homeschool Mom <https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/>

Homeschooling Today <http://homeschoolingtoday.com/>

www.a2zhomeschooling.com

Indiana Foundation for Home Schooling www.indianahomeschooling.org

Coalition for Responsible Home

Education <https://responsiblehomeschooling.org/>

Co-Ops/Support Groups:

Arrow Academy, Carmel <https://sites.google.com/view/arrowacademy/home>

Classical Conversations, Indianapolis www.classicalconversations.com

The Cottage School at Union Chapel,
Indianapolis <https://indycottageschool.wordpress.com/>

Alliance Francaise d'Indianapolis, Indianapolis <https://www.afindianapolis.org/>

Social Thinking Groups and Speech Therapy, North Side Indy,
Carmel <http://www.speakindy.com/>

Liberated Minds Black Homeschool and Education
Expo: <https://liberatedmindsexpo.com/>

The Adventist Home Educator <http://www.adventisthomeducator.org>

Catholic Schoolhouse: Homeschool Success through a Classical
Approach <https://www.catholicschoolhouse.com/>

SPED Homeschool (Special Education Homeschool
Resource) <http://spedhomeschool.com/>

NATHHAN National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated
Network <https://www.nathhan.com/>

Homeschool Field Trip Resources

(check location websites for changes to hours or closings due to COVID-19)

Carmel Fire Buffs and Museum

210 1st Ave S.W., Carmel, IN 46032 (317) 557-4374

Take a field trip to see antique firetrucks! Call to schedule an appointment.

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

3000 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN, USA 46208-

4716 <https://www.childrensmuseum.org/visit/family-homeschool-programs#>

See museum website for schedule of private homeschool events. These are separate ticketed programs in addition to museum admission.

Conner Prairie

13400 Allisonville Rd, Fishers, IN 46038

www.connerprairie.org

Conner Prairie is a unique historic place that inspires curiosity and fosters learning by providing engaging and individualized experiences for everyone. See website for ticket prices and hours. Several free days available during Winter and Spring.

Clowes Memorial Hall - Butler Arts Center

4602 Sunset Avenue., Indianapolis IN 46208

<https://butlerartscenter.org/venue/clowes-memorial-hall>

See the education page on the website for schedule of Education Matinees as well as the group field trip form to schedule a workshop.

Deveau's School of Gymnastics

9032 Technology Drive., Fishers, IN 46038 317-849-7744

<https://deveaus.com/>

Deveau's School of Gymnastics offers classes one a week for homeschoolers and field trips. For ages 5 and up.

Good's Candy Shop

1423 W. 53rd St. Anderson, IN 46013 765-642-7247

<http://www.goodscandyshop.com/tours-see-how-its-made/>

See first-hand how candy and ice cream is made by scheduling a tour by either calling the shop or filling out the online form on the website.

Holliday Park

6363 Spring Mill Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46260

<https://www.hollidaypark.org/>

Indiana State Museum

650 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204

<https://www.indianamuseum.org/homeschool-programs>

See museum website for schedule of private homeschool events. These are separate ticketed programs in addition to museum admission. Visits to the museum with homeschool groups of ten or more will receive a free field trip rate. See website for details.

Indianapolis Zoo

1200 W Washington St, Indianapolis, IN 46222

<https://www.indianapoliszoo.com/>

Field trip rates are available to public, private, and home school groups visiting the Zoo during the school year – Starting in the fall on the third Monday in August and available through the spring until the first Friday in June. For the 2019-2020 school year those dates will be August 19 through June 5. A reservation is required at least two weeks in advance. See website for additional details and prices.

Lyles Station

953 N 500 W, Princeton, Indiana 47670

<http://www.lylesstation.org/>

There are lots to do at this 94 acre park featuring trails, an arboretum, playground, nature center and several family and educational programs.

Rhythm Discovery Center

Claypool Court Building, 110 W Washington St A, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Rhythm! Discovery Center is the world's foremost interactive percussion museum, providing innovative programs; interactive, standards-based educational exhibits, and artist performances. See website for prices and hours of admission.

Roberts Settlement

<http://www.robertssettlement.org/>

Thirty miles north of Indianapolis just to the east of U.S. 31 on 276th Street in western Jackson Township, Hamilton County, Indiana, stand the remains of an African-American pioneer farm settlement. It was founded in 1835 by free blacks of mixed racial heritage who migrated mostly from North Carolina and Virginia to escape deteriorating racial conditions in the South.

Traders Point Creamery

9101 Moore Road. Zionsville, Indiana 46077 (317) 733-

1700 <https://traderspointcreamery.com/the-farm/tours/>

Plan a fun day at this dairy farm and schedule a cow-milking tour to learn about where your milk and dairy products come from. Schedule tours on the website.

Tuttle Orchards

5717 N 300 W, Greenfield, IN 46140

<https://www.indianapolisorchard.com/>

Tuttle Orchards has many seasonal events and programs. In the spring they offer Homeschool Greenhouse classes. In the fall enjoy apple picking, corn mazes, farm animals, tractor rides and more.

The Learning Curve at Central Library

40 E. St. Clair Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

<https://www.indypl.org/locations/central-library/the-learning-curve>

At this time (Summer 2020), you are welcome to visit the Learning Curve (masks required, please limit visit to 1 hour) but we are not currently able to have in-person programming due to COVID-19. We are providing Virtual Programming focused on games, coding, stories, and STEAM activities. We would be happy to schedule a Virtual program specifically for your homeschool group which families can participate in from the comfort of their homes using Zoom. Please call 317-275-4222 with questions or email groupvisitcoordinator@indypl.org

Center for Black Literature and Culture at Central Library

40 E. St. Clair Street Indianapolis, IN 46204

<https://www.indypl.org/locations/central-library/center-for-black-literature-and-culture>

Visits are welcome during regular library hours (please check our website for current hours). At this time, masks are required and we ask that you limit your visit to 1 hour as there is a limit to the number of people allowed in the building.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Alternative Education Resource Organization (AERO) <http://www.educationrevolution.org>

This is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 by education expert Jerry Mintz to advance learner-centered approaches to education. AERO offers support for educational alternatives around the world.

The National Academy for Child Development

<http://www.nacd.org>

The NACD is an international organization of professionals and parents dedicated to helping children and adults reach their full potential through the implementation of innovative individual programs, research, and the dissemination of information.

National Black Home Educators

<https://www.nbhe.net/>

We are a member-supported homeschooling organization that has a vision to transform education and families through homeschooling. Formed in 2000, we have not only encouraged African Americans in their homeschooling efforts, but we have assisted families of all races in the United States and even as far as Kenya.

National Home Education Research Institute

<https://www.nheri.org/>

Homeschooling – home education or home-based education – has grown from nearly extinct in the United States in the 1970s to just over 2 million school-age students. NHERI focuses on homeschooling research, homeschool facts, homeschool fast facts, and in-depth scholarly articles.

