

CHOOSING CURRICULUM -THE- FAMILY WAY

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F-A-M-I-L-Y Factors

F — Faith/Philosophy

Why are you homeschooling?

What will success look like?

What things do you consider most important for your children to learn?

A — Approaches

What do you believe about how children learn?

What is your vision for your homeschool?

M — Money

What is your budget?

Which resource do you have more of? Time vs. Money

I — Individuals

How does your child learn? By seeing, hearing, doing?

What motivates your child to learn?

Do you have a Learning Blessed or Learning Differently child?

L — Life

What season of life is your family in—young student, preschoolers, high schoolers?

What special events—short-term or long-term—will be factors in your homeschooling?

Y — You

What are your time priorities, limitations?

How much structure do YOU need? How confident are you about how to teach?

Each family's factors are as unique as their name.

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Definitions

Traditional Textbook—Information flows from teacher to student via reading materials followed by questions (texts). Advantages: less planning on teacher's part, easy to chart scores, built-in tests. Disadvantages: less freedom and depth, potential boredom, short-term memory emphasis (mastery for tests), grade-specific.

Unit Studies—Various subjects are organized around one topic with study materials coming from real (living) books and usually incorporating hands-on activities. Advantages: children retain learning because of greater depth of study and understanding, multiple grade levels. Disadvantages: high teacher planning and preparation time, harder to track subject coverage and accomplishments.

Living Books (Charlotte Mason)—Reading “real” books rather than texts with integration of other subjects into the reading and utilizing narration as a means of feedback. Similar to unit studies but with less breadth of subject integration. Advantages: low-key learning allowing exploration of subjects. Disadvantages: difficult to track work or follow a traditional scope and sequence.

Classical—Organized around the trivium learning model—grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric stages, incorporates rigorous academics with strong, classical reading. Advantages: teaches thinking skills and develops independent learners. Disadvantages: controversial emphasis on ancient disciplines and classics, grade-specific.

Unschooling—Assumes children have an innate desire to learn and therefore follow child's natural curiosity with minimal structure. Advantages: little planning, creates self-learners, and avoids burnout. Disadvantages: hard to assess, neglects some subjects or areas of learning.

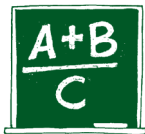
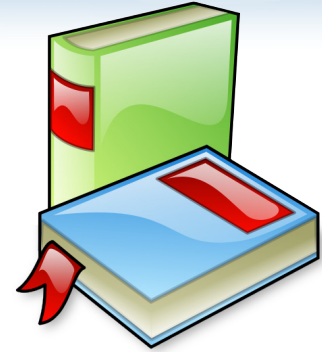
Umbrella Program—A “school” where student is enrolled; curriculum is either provided or planned; grading and record-keeping can be provided or optional.

Eclectic—Educational approach that draws from other approaches for various subjects [i.e. traditional (math), history (living books)]. Whole-Hearted Education is a structure eclectic approach.

Independent Learning—Student works alone with minimal teaching input—material is self-teaching and can be computer-based, and self-grading.

Scripted—Curriculum where the teacher's words are supplied along with the student's response.

Lesson Plans—Daily outlines of assignments, teaching strategies, and objectives with varying degrees of detail.



Learning Style Test

Read/Write

- ☐ Enjoys reading on own
- ☐ Likes to research, use dictionary, encyclopedia, and other books
- ☐ Enjoys workbooks
- ☐ Enjoys writing stories, poems, letters
- ☐ Takes tests easily
- ☐ Memorizes easily
- ☐ Usually the “good” student in school
- ☐ When giving directions, (s)he writes directions on where to go
- ☐ Reads directions before putting things together

Visual

- ☐ Enjoys maps, graphs, posters, charts, videos, and TV
- ☐ Enjoys drawing, painting, sculpting
- ☐ Enjoys putting puzzles together
- ☐ Highlights books when reading
- ☐ Enjoys books with pictures and diagrams
- ☐ Remembers pictures better than words
- ☐ Easily distracted by changing scenes
- ☐ When giving directions, (s)he draws a map showing you where to go
- ☐ Looks at diagrams to put things together

Kinesthetic

- ☐ Finds writing difficult
- ☐ Enjoys building, fixing things
- ☐ Uses body when communicating
- ☐ Has a short attention span
- ☐ Likes hands-on projects like cooking, lab experiments, crafts
- ☐ Remembers things (s)he does better than things seen or heard
- ☐ Enjoys sports, outdoor activities, and being in group activities
- ☐ When giving directions, (s)he takes you where you need to go
- ☐ Puts things together by trial and error

Auditory

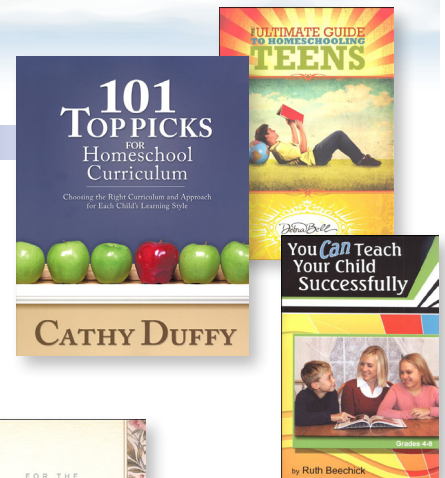
- ☐ Enjoys playing/listening to music
- ☐ Sings and hums even without music
- ☐ Very verbal
- ☐ Talks to him/herself
- ☐ Enjoys listening to tapes, CDs, radio
- ☐ Remembers spoken words better than written words
- ☐ Enjoys quiet places and time alone
- ☐ When giving directions, (s)he tells you where you need to go
- ☐ Asks directions before putting things together

For more accurate test, use VARK: <http://www.vark-learn.com/english/index.asp>

F-A-M-I-L-Y Resources

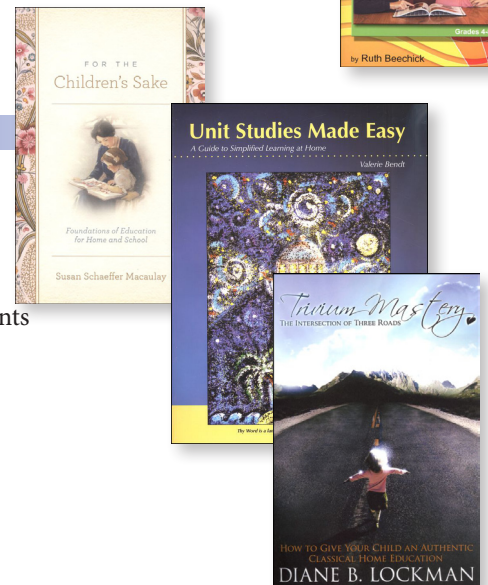
Getting Started/General Information

Rainbow Item #	Title:
054743	101 Top Picks for Homeschooling Curriculum Cathy Duffy
009848	Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Debra Bell
048252	Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling Teens Debra Bell
000846	The Three R's Ruth Beechick
000852	You CAN teach your child successfully Ruth Beechick
031739	Homeschooling the Challenging Child (Special Needs)
052199	Staying Sane as you Homeschool
015200	Homeschooling for the Rest of Us



Homeschool Approaches

Rainbow Item #	Title:
051792	Meet Charlotte Mason
003344	For the Children's Sake (Charlotte Mason)
000278	Charlotte Mason Companion
005065	Educating the Whole Hearted Child (Charlotte Mason)
053108	An Introduction to Classical Education: A Guide for Parents
010029	Well Trained Mind (Classical)
020495	Teaching the Trivium (Classical)
047648	Trivium Mastery-Intersection of Three Roads (Classical)
022747	The Core (Classical)
045857	Thomas Jefferson Education
000889	Unit Studies Made Easy
047648	Trivium Mastery-Intersection of Three Roads (Classical)
053964	Booster Shot! Energize Your Homeschool With Unit Studies



Websites:

www.ambleside.org (Charlotte Mason)
www.welltrainedmind.com (Classical)
www.hsllda.org (Homeschool Legal Defense Association)
www.ncll.org (National Center for Life & Liberty)

Curriculum Reviews/Descriptions:

Rainbow Resource Catalog: www.rainbowresource.com
 Cathy Duffy Reviews: www.cathyduffyreviews.com

