



## Begin Homeschooling with Confidence



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1. Know why you are home schooling. What are *your* reasons?
2. Spend time in prayer with God.
  - Tell Him all your hopes and fears for the coming year.
  - Ask for insight into each child you plan on teaching.
  - Ask Him to supply all that you need in order to home educate.
  - Ask Him to make you the parent and teacher He wants you to be.
  - Thank Him for going before you every step of the way!
3. Know the current law regarding home schooling in the US state in which you reside.
  - Obtain a copy of the law at <http://www.youcanhomeschool.org/starthere/info.asp>. Click on “Legal Homeschool Options.”
  - Have a current copy of the law and read it through carefully.
  - Know what the law requires of you.
  - Know what the law does not require of you.
  - Be vigilant about the law so this educational option will remain.
4. Get support in place.
  - The support of other like-minded families is vital.
  - Connect with a state level Christian homeschooling organization at <http://www.youcanhomeschool.org/starthere/info.asp>. Click on “State Homeschool Organizations.”
  - Join a local home school support group. Check with your state homeschool organization for this information.
  - Check out home education magazines in print and online.
    - The Teaching Home <http://www.teachinghome.com>
    - Practical Homeschooling <http://www.practicalhomeschooling.com>
    - The Old Schoolhouse <http://thehomeschoolmagazine.com>
  - Get your name on the mailing lists or email newsletters of curriculum/resource providers.
    - A Beka Books <http://www.abeka.com>
    - Bob Jones University Press <http://www.bjupresshomeschool.com>
    - Answers in Genesis <http://www.answersingenesis.org>
    - Rainbow Resources <http://www.rainbowresource.com>
    - Lifetime Books and Gifts <http://www.shoplbg.com>
    - Christian Books Distributors [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)
    - Veritas Press <http://www.veritaspress.com>

- Trivium Pursuit <http://www.triviumpursuit.com>
  - Join Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA). [www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)
5. If you are removing your child from a conventional/government school....
    - Realize that this will require adjustment time for student and teacher.
    - Focus on family, faith, and character issues first.
    - Individualize academics to meet needs.
    - May need to ease into a full schedule.
    - Restore enthusiasm for learning.
  6. Determine your child's academic level(s).
    - List the subjects you plan to teach.
    - Decide if your child is on grade level, below grade level, or above grade level in each subject.
  7. Choose curriculum materials.
    - Read curriculum review manuals. <http://cathyduffyreviews.com>
    - Become acquainted with a variety of curricula and approaches.
    - Choose the curriculum methods/materials for each subject.
    - If you do not like the material, neither you nor your child will use it!
    - Purchase curriculum materials and basic school supplies.
    - Remember, you are a "home" before you are a "school."
  8. Create learning space at home.
    - Decide where you will "do" school in your home.
    - Decide how you will organize books, papers, pencils, globes, etc.
    - Each child needs a place for working/storage--so does the parent.
  9. Establish structure.
    - Establish a yearly school calendar.
    - Determine a weekly and a daily schedule.
    - Plan to include your babies and toddlers.
  10. Get started!
    - Plan your start date.
    - No amount of preparation will be perfect!
    - Even veteran home schooling parents are still learning!
    - Work your plans, but be willing to be flexible.
    - Pray constantly.
    - Trust God for the results.

[Web links accessed 3 April 2011.]