



# How to Select Home School Curriculum

## *Common Approaches to Christian Home Education*

The first thing many people think about after they decide to home school is what curriculum to buy. The choices are overwhelming. The number and kinds of materials available to home educators have mushroomed in the last 15 years. How does a family sort it out?

That's exactly what a family has to do—sort the different home school materials into categories. Each curriculum has a philosophy of education or approach it takes. The philosophy is an idea about how children learn and how parents are comfortable teaching. It is important to understand these different teaching approaches and prayerfully consider which one will best reflect our personal educational philosophy. If we know which approach will fit our family best, we can then narrow down the choices so we are not overwhelmed by the huge selection of material available to home school families. And we're less likely to quit halfway through because the material "just didn't fit."

There are as many different approaches to home educating as there are families. Each family is free to teach their children as they deem best. Our goal is not to have school at home; our goal is to educate our children. To accomplish that, you

may have to use different approaches to home educating at different times.

As you read through these thumbnail sketches, one or more of the approaches will appeal to you. Start there, learn more about the method, put it into practice. After you feel comfortable, you can start exploring other methods and add them to your teaching tools. Most home school families glean what they feel is the best from each method and develop their own philosophy.

Many of these approaches will have their own magazine that will keep you in touch with other homeschoolers that are using the method.

### *1. Decide When to Begin Teaching*

Before you begin to narrow down curriculum choices, you need to make a major decision. When are you going to start teaching? Are you going to start on the public school timetable, will you begin academics early, or wait until your children are older? As you read books on both these philosophies, you will find that they are not all that different, both stress readiness, they just have different ideas about when a child is ready to learn and what children can do at different ages.

#### *A. Delayed Academics*

This approach stresses delaying formal education in the areas of reading, writing and arithmetic until children's hearing, sight and fine motor skills are ready. This philosophy emphasizes gaining experience and developing good work habits by working alongside parents. Dr. Moore does not feel

 Indicates a book - often available at your local Christian bookstore or through one of the catalogs listed.

 Indicates a publisher - see *Major Christian Publishers*, pages 6-8 for addresses unless otherwise noted.

most children are ready for formal education until between the ages of 8 to 12.

*Resources:*

📖 *Better Late Than Early*, Dr. Raymond Moore.

📖 *Home Grown Kids*, Dr. Raymond Moore.

## B. Early Academics

Proponents of early academics recognize that the bulk of character and intelligence is formed during the child's first six years. Therefore, it is important to take advantage of the huge growth of intelligence during that time by training children spiritually, morally and academically. They present a Biblical rationale for early childhood education that includes formal academic instruction at a pre-school level. They balance waiting for a child's readiness to learn and taking advantage of early abilities to memorize with ease. Though they recommend early academic training, it is for short periods of time.

*Resources:*

📖 *Never Too Early*, Doreen Claggett

📖 *Will Early Childhood Education Ruin Your Child?*, Rick Fugate

📖 Christ Centered Publications

## 2. Take Advantage of Individual Learning Styles

We all learn differently. Understanding and capitalizing on your child's learning style will make learning easier and more enjoyable.

Many studies have been done on how people learn and there are several ways of categorizing learning styles. Probably the easiest to understand divides learning styles into three modalities:

- A. The visual learner - Learns best through visual images (reading, television, watching others)
- B. The auditory learner - Learns best through hearing (lecture, being read to, songs)
- C. The kinesthetic learner - Learns by doing and touching, manipulating materials.

Young children usually start out as kinesthetic learners, developing other strengths as they grow older. Some curriculum publishers, especially those that publish just one subject such as phonics or mathematics, stress manipulatives for kinesthetic learners, others use audio tapes to reinforce concepts, still others rely heavily on the printed word.

Even the major textbook publishers vary in their predominant teaching style.

*Resources:*

📖 *The Way They Learn*, Cynthia Ulrich Tobias

📖 *Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling*, Part 3, Mary Pride

## 3. Comparing Common Teaching Approaches

### A. Textbooks

Many home school parents feel most comfortable with textbooks; they used them when they were in school. Textbooks follow a scope and sequence that assumes a 12 year 180 day school year and that you are running your school as a traditional school. The majority of the Christian textbooks are written for Christian schools and adapted for home schools. Each publisher has its own distinctive point of view, philosophy of education and doctrinal distinctions.

Textbooks give the parent/teacher the assurance that the necessary material is being covered. They are usually divided into lesson size segments that allow for easy planning. The only subjects that need to be taught in a sequential manner are phonics and mathematics. The other subjects usually can be taught in any order. This allows the home school family to teach several ages the same subject at one time, decreasing wear and tear on the teacher.

Publishers vary in the amount of instructional material contained in the teacher's manual, therefore the textbook may be incomplete without the teacher's manual. They also vary in the amount of preparation it takes to teach the material. And they vary from course to course within the same company. The best thing to do is to borrow the course from a friend that is using it and sit down with it over the weekend to study it.

Some traditional textbooks are in the work-text format. Worktext publishers generally give material to the students in small chunks in workbooks that the students write in. Publishers emphasize mastery of the material. Students do not pass on to the next level until they have mastered the previous level.

*Resources:*

*Traditional Christian Textbooks*

📖 A Beka Book

📖 Bob Jones University Press

- ✎ Christian Liberty Academy
- ✎ Landmark's Freedom Baptist Curriculum
- ✎ Rod & Staff Publishers

### *Christian Worktexts*

- ✎ Alpha-Omega Publishers
- ✎ Accelerated Christian Education - ACE (School of Tomorrow )
- ✎ Christian Light Education

### *B. Unit Studies*

One of the most popular alternatives to traditional textbooks, unit studies incorporate Bible, language arts, reading, history, social studies, art and science as they apply into an in-depth study on one topic. (Phonics and mathematics need to be taught separately.) This demonstrates to the child that life isn't sliced into subjects. Unit studies usually use hands-on experiences or activities to generate interest and retention of knowledge.

The whole family can study a topic together with assignments given to the students depending on their ability, sparing the parent/teacher that fragmented feeling. Unit studies do require teacher preparation time: research in the library, gathering materials from many sources. They also can leave the timid a little unsure whether the children have really learned what they are "supposed to" for their grade.

#### *Resources:*

- 📖 *Magazine: Home Schooling Today*. Contains lesson plan ideas, activity suggestions, projects, help for pre-school through teens. S Squared Productions, P.O. Box 436, Barker, TX 77413. (281)492-6050  
[www.homeschooltoday.com](http://www.homeschooltoday.com)
- 📖 *How to Create Your Own Unit Study*, Valerie Bendt.
- 📖 *Design a Study Guide to History*, Katherine Stout
- 📖 *What Your Child Needs to Know When*, Robin Scarlatta
- ✎ *Far Above Rubies*, Linda Coats and Robin Scarlatta (high school girls)
- ✎ *Listen, My Son*, Linda Bullock (high school boys)
- ✎ Konos Character Curriculum

- ✎ The Weaver Curriculum Series available from Alpha Omega
- ✎ Advanced Training Institute of America
- ✎ Education PLUS (Patterning Learning Upon Scripture)

### *C. Charlotte Mason/Literature-based*

Based on the writings of turn-of-the-century educator, Charlotte Mason, this approach emphasizes respecting children as persons, involving them in real life situations, and allowing them to read and internalize really good books instead of predigested "twaddle." Children are taught basic reading, writing and math skills, and are exposed to the best sources of knowledge in all other subjects and allowed to draw their own conclusions. Narration plays a large role in reinforcing and evaluating learning.

Many newer homeschool curriculums are based around good literature. While they don't incorporate all of Miss Mason's approach, some of the more popular ones have been listed here.

#### *Resources:*

- 📖 *Charlotte Mason Companion*, Karen Andreola
- 📖 *Charlotte Mason Study Guide: A Simplified Approach to a "Living" Education*, Penny Gardner
- 📖 *For the Children's Sake*, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay
- ✎ Beautiful Feet
- ✎ Five in a Row
- ✎ Progeny Press
- ✎ Veritas

### *D. The Principle Approach*

The Principle Approach is based on the belief that our nation was founded on Christian principles. It recognizes God's hand in history and the three institutions He has ordained: the home, the church and civil government. The Principle Approach can be applied to any subject using the "4-Rs:" 1) Research - ascertaining what God's word has to say on the subject; 2) Reasoning - from the scriptures; 3) Relating - the material to the students and helping them apply the material to their lives; 4) Recording - the application of the Biblical principles. Student work is recorded in notebooks. Students learn to apply biblical principles to all studies

and record their applications. Many home school parents use the "4-Rs" method for study.

## Resources

📖 *A Guide to American Christian Education for the Home and School: The Principle Approach*, James B. Rose

✂ The Noah Plan, K-12 Principle Approach Curriculum, Foundation for American Christian Education, P.O. Box 9588, Chesapeake, VA 23321. (800) 352-3223  
[www.face.net](http://www.face.net)

## E. The Classical Approach

The classical philosophy, or Trivium, emphasizes the skills of memorizing, reasoning and communicating by which any subject can be understood. Since children ages 6-10 can most readily memorize, they are taught basic facts. At 10-15, when they become more independent thinkers, they learn logic and how to draw correct conclusions. At 15-18 they are taught to use language eloquently and persuasively to communicate. Classical education can be pagan or biblical.

## Resources:

📖 *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, Douglas Wilson

📖 *Teaching the Trivium*, Laurie and Harvey Bluedorn

📖 *The Well-Trained Mind*, Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer

✂ Calvert School (secular)

✂ Classical Free Online

✂ Covenant Home Curriculum, N 63 W 23421 Main St., Sussex, WI 53089. (262) 246-4760 [www.covenanthome.com](http://www.covenanthome.com)

✂ Tapestry of Grace

✂ Veritas Press

## F. Apprenticeship

Apprenticeship involves the child learning a business or a skill from an adult that is proficient in that area. Generally, apprenticeships are options for high school and college age students. Students that tend to be more kinesthetic usually do well in apprenticeships.

📖 *Apprenticeship+ Seminar*, Inge Cannon

✂ Advanced Training Institute

✂ Hewitt Research Foundation

## G. Unschooling

Unschooling means different things to different people. The founder of this movement felt that children have an innate drive to learn what they want to learn when they need it. In practice, unschooling is a non-structured approach that allows children to pursue their own interests with parental support and guidance. The child is surrounded by a rich environment of books, learning resources and adults. Formal academics, if pursued at all, are pursued as the need arises.

Not many Christians practice unschooling in its pure form. Christians parents are instructed to "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6) Parents are commanded in scripture to teach, train and disciple their children. "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child," (Proverbs 22:15) so letting them direct their own educational experiences seems unwise. There are some things we can glean from unschooling, however. Unschooling stresses the importance of letting children be a part of the adult world and being involved in "real" activities. Children can also benefit from the rich learning environment emphasized by unschoolers.

## Resources:

📖 *Teach Your Own*, John Holt

📖 *Homeschooling for Excellence*, David and Micki Colfax

## Eclectic Homeschooling

When it comes right down to it, most veteran home educators borrow little pieces from many approaches. They may use a textbook for math, make a unit study for language arts and history using whole literature from the Charlotte Mason approach making sure they add some hands-on activities recording it all in notebooks kept by the children as recommended in the Principle Approach. To top it all off, they may let their child pursue an in depth science study on his own of his current interest.

Homeschooling allows a great deal of flexibility to tailor education to both children and family needs. For that, we are thankful.

📖 *Educating the WholeHearted Child*, Clay & Sally Clarkson

## Major Christian Publishers

*This is by no means an exhaustive listing of publishers for homeschoolers. Instead, it highlights the major publishers of interest to most Christian home educators.*

For a more complete assessment of material available to home educators please consult:

📖 ***The Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual (Vol.1, Elementary Grades, Vol. 2, Junior/Senior High School) and 100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum***, Cathy Duffy.

📖 ***Complete Guide to Getting Started in Homeschooling***, Mary Pride.

### 1. Textbooks

*Textbooks can be divided into two groups: traditional textbooks and worktexts. Christian textbook publishers have written for the Christian day school. Some textbooks are reusable, others are consumable workbooks.*

#### A. Traditional publishers

1. **A Beka** - Originally a Christian rewrite of textbooks from the 40's and 50's, many of the courses are being revised and are becoming more "user friendly" for homeschoolers. The material is conservative and challenging. A Beka starts students reading early with a pre-K program that goes into greater depth in K. By the end of Kindergarten children are reading. A Beka includes a large amount of work for the student and advances more rapidly than some children can handle. If a child has been in public school, he should probably be placed a grade lower in A Beka materials.

✉ A Beka Publications, Box 19100, Pensacola, FL 32532-9100, (877) 223-5266  
[www.abeka.com](http://www.abeka.com).

2. **Bob Jones** - A Christian publisher that uses some current educational methodology, such as more hands on learning, while maintaining godly standards. Not quite as much reading or drill as other textbook publishers. Content is about half a year ahead of public schools.

✉ Bob Jones University Press, Greenville, SC 29614-0062, (800) 845-5731.  
[www.bjup.com](http://www.bjup.com)

3. **Christ Centered Publications** - This program for early grades has a very godly approach to teaching young children. The curriculum emphasizes spiritual applications while learning the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic.

✉ Christ Centered Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 989, Sapulpa, OK 74067. (800) 778-4318  
[www.christcentercurriculum.com](http://www.christcentercurriculum.com)

4. **Christian Liberty** - A pioneer in home schooling, Christian Liberty publishes textbooks from a patriotic and conservative Christian viewpoint. They have a strong emphasis on American Christian heritage, character development and basics.

✉ Christian Liberty Press, 502 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004, (800) 832-2741. [www.homeschools.org](http://www.homeschools.org)

5. **Rod and Staff** - A Mennonite publisher emphasizing Biblical content, hard work and diligence. Textbooks are black and white (therefore quite inexpensive). Much busy work is included and content is advance.

✉ Rod and Staff Publishers, Box 3 Hwy. 172, Crockett, KY 41413-0003, (606) 522-4348,  
[www.milestoneministries.com](http://www.milestoneministries.com)

#### B. Worktext publishers

Worktext publishers give material to students in small chunks in consumable workbooks. Students progress independently and at their own rate. They do not pass to the next level until they have mastered the previous level. Students can work independently of their parent/teacher, especially in upper grades and in subjects where the parent/teacher feels weak. There is the danger that students can "learn for the test" and not have an understanding of the material. Parents need to be aware of the material the student is studying and involved in the learning process.

1. **Alpha Omega Press (AOP)** - Booklets are called "LifePacs." AOP uses the very patriotic Christian phonics reading program called "Horizons." An attempt is made to incorporate higher levels of thinking, such as comparing, contrasting, evaluating and synthesizing. They actually include some kinesthetic project/activities (including real lab experiments in science courses).

- ✎ Alpha Omega Publications, 300 N. McKemy, Chandler, AZ 85226-2618, (800) 622-3070 [www.home-schooling.com](http://www.home-schooling.com)

**2. Christian Light** - This is very similar to Alpha Omega Publications written from a Mennonite perspective. Booklets are called “Light Units.”

- ✎ Christian Light Publications, P.O. Box 1212, Harrisonburg, VA 22803-1212, (540) 434-0768, [www.clp.org](http://www.clp.org)

**3. Accelerated Christian Education** - Also used in many church schools this curriculum used to be called Basic Education. Booklets are called “PACE’s.” Easy for students to follow without much teacher direction.

- ✎ School of Tomorrow, P.O. Box 299000, Lewisville, TX 75029, (800) 925-7777. [www.schooloftomorrow.com](http://www.schooloftomorrow.com)

## 2. Unit Studies

Incorporating Bible, language arts, reading, history, social studies, art and science into a “unit,” these curricula show the child that life isn’t sliced into subjects. Studies are themed around topics which can range from character traits to passages of scripture. Entire families can be working on the same topic at the same time with each student working at his or her own level. Unit studies do require a large amount of ongoing preparation. They can also leave the timid unsure if they have covered everything necessary for a given grade.

**1. Advanced Training Institute of America**, a pilot program of Bill Gothard and Basic Life Principles, focuses on passages of Scripture as well as character qualities. Parents must attend both basic and advanced Basic Life Principles seminars to apply. Once accepted they must attend a one week training seminar.

- ✎ ATIA, Box One, Oak Brook, IL 60522-3001, (630) 323-2842. [www.ati.iblp.org](http://www.ati.iblp.org)

**2. Konos** is the “granddaddy” of home school unit study curricula. Units are based on character qualities. The large number of activities included in each level provide a broad choice of material. Don’t try to do all of them!

- ✎ Konos, P.O. Box 250, Anna, TX 75409, (972) 924-2712. [www.konos.com](http://www.konos.com)

**4. Weaver** is “a unit-based home education curriculum for children from preschool through high school that teaches fundamental knowledge and learning within the larger context of the scrip-

tures.” The curriculum gives assignments for each grade level so you don’t have to guess what is an appropriate activity for each child and the whole family can be working on the same unit.

- ✎ Weaver (available through Alpha Omega Publications), 300 N McKemy Ave., Chandler, AZ 85226, (800) 622-3070 [www.aop.com](http://www.aop.com)

## 3. Unit Studies for High School

Relatively new on the market are unit studies designed specifically for high school students. Activities are coded so the student or parents can pick and choose the activities to do that will allow him to earn credits toward graduation requirements. As with elementary grade unit studies, complete math courses are not included. You might also wish to supplement with Foreign Language and complete science courses.

**1. Education PLUS** - An interdisciplinary approach that is *Patterning Learning Upon Scripture*. This curriculum starts with Genesis 1 - 11 the first year, looking for principles and application as different subjects are studied in light of scripture. Family discussion plays a big roll in this curriculum.

- ✎ Education PLUS, P.O. Box 1350, Taylors, SC 29687, (864) 609-5411. [www.edplus.com](http://www.edplus.com)

**2. Far Above Rubies** is a four year unit study for high school girls centered around Proverbs 31: 10 - 31. It emphasis courtship, motherhood, purity and biblical child training.

- ✎ Heart of Wisdom Publishing, 146 Chriswood Lane, Stafford, VA 22556 [www.heartofwisdom.com](http://www.heartofwisdom.com)

## 4. Literature based curriculum

**1. Sonlight** uses good books, both fiction and nonfiction, at appropriate age levels and organized around historical themes instead of textbooks to instruct. These books really capture children’s attention and inspire a love of learning. Lesson plans are laid out in such a way that it does not include much teacher prep time.

Some of the books used, especially in the upper grades, do not reflect a Christian world view. As with all curriculums, parents must make the ultimate decisions on what to teach.

- ☒ Sonlight, 8042 South Grant Way, Littleton, CO 80122-2705, (303) 730-6292.  
[www.sonlight.com](http://www.sonlight.com)

2. **Five In A Row** is a literature based unit study geared for ages 4 through 8. Unit studies are built around outstanding books for children and should take a week to complete. Each story is to be read aloud every day for one week and the family does activities which expand on the book. There is also a *Before Five In A Row* for preschoolers.

- ☒ Five in a Row Publishing, PO Box 707, Grandview, MO 64030-0707, (816) 246-9252. [www.fiveinarow.com](http://www.fiveinarow.com)

## 5. Correspondence and Accountability Programs

These programs provide more structure for the unsure or novice home educator. A correspondence school makes assignments, grades tests and keeps records. Each correspondence school has its own philosophy of education and doctrinal position. You need to find one to fit your family's philosophy.

1. **Calvert School** provides texts, lesson plans, even the pencils and paper. This is not a Christian correspondence school. It emphasizes classic education. Many diplomats' children are educated through Calvert. (K through 8 only).

- ☒ Calvert School, 10713 Gilroy Rd. Ste. B, Hunt Valley, MD 21031, (888) 487-4652.  
[www.calvertschool.org](http://www.calvertschool.org)

2. **Christian Liberty Academy Satellite School (CLASS)** provides texts. You can either have them grade work and keep records or you can. The "best" Christian textbooks have been chosen from a variety of publishers.

- ☒ Christian Liberty Academy Satellite Schools, 502 W. Euclid Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004, (800) 348-0899.  
[www.homeschools.org](http://www.homeschools.org)

3. **Hewitt Home Schooling Resources** prepares an individualized program based on pretests.

- ☒ Hewitt Home Schooling Resources, P.O. Box 9, Washougal, WA 98671, (800) 890-4097.  
[www.hewitthomeschooling.com](http://www.hewitthomeschooling.com)

- ☒ 4. **A Beka, AOP, and Christian Light** also have correspondence options (*see Textbooks*).

5. **Basic Skills Assessment and Educational Services** works with parents to design the program for the student. Quarterly testing and conferences keep the family on track and provide a basis for record keeping. They also have a skills assessment tool to help you know what your child needs to learn next.

- ☒ BSAS, 19146 S. Molalla Ave, Oregon City, OR 97045-8975, (503) 650-5282.  
[www.basicsskills.net](http://www.basicsskills.net)

**Advanced Training Institute of America** (*see Unit Studies*) also falls under the category of correspondence school.

## 6. Additional Curriculum Resources

*The following companies have catalogs. Some sell core curriculum, some supplemental material. All are very interesting.*

- ☒ Always Incomplete Resource Guide and Catalog, Lifetime Books and Gifts, 3900 Chalet Suzanne Dr., Lake Wales, FL 33853, (863) 676-6311.  
[www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com](http://www.lifetimebooksandgifts.com)
- ☒ Apprenticeship+, Education+, P.O. Box 1350, Taylors, SC 29687, (864) 609-5411.  
[www.edplus.com](http://www.edplus.com)
- ☒ .Bluestocking Press, P.O. Box 2030, Shingle Springs, CA 95682. (800) 959-8586.  
[www.bluestockingpress.com](http://www.bluestockingpress.com)
- ☒ Builder Books, P.O. Box 5789, Lynnwood, WA 98046 (425) 778-4526.  
[www.bbhomeschoolcatalog.com](http://www.bbhomeschoolcatalog.com)
- ☒ Shekinah Curriculum Cellar, 1815 Whittington Road., Kilgore, TX 75662, (903) 643-2760. [www.shekinahcc.com](http://www.shekinahcc.com)
- ☒ The Learning Parent, 2430 Sunnymead Road, Rustburg, VA 24588,  
[www.thelearningparent.com](http://www.thelearningparent.com)
- ☒ The Sycamore Tree, 2179 Meyer Place, Costa Mesa, CA 92627, (714) 668-1343  
[www.sycamoretree.com](http://www.sycamoretree.com)
- ☒ The Timberdoodle, E. 1510 Spencer Lake Rd., Shelton, WA 98584, (800) 426-0672.  
[www.timberdoodle.com](http://www.timberdoodle.com)
- ☒ Whole Heart Ministries, Co., P.O. Box 3445, Monument, CO 80132, (800) 311-2146, [www.wholeheart.org](http://www.wholeheart.org)

## *Tips on Choosing Curriculum*

1. Pray, pray, pray! If we seek God for wisdom (James 1:5) and follow His guidance, He has promised to direct our paths (Prov. 3:4 & 5).

2. Set goals. “If you don’t know where you’re going any road will get you there.”

3. Think about why you are home educating. Write down your reasons. They may change over the years, but they will help you narrow your choices.

4. Think about the purpose of education. Why should children be educated? So they won’t be a burden to the state (lawmakers viewpoint)? So they can earn lots of money? So they can take care of their families? So they can serve God? A great definition for “education” comes from the Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary: “The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth, and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good *education* in manners, arts and science, is important; to give them a religious *education* is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.”

5. Think about your philosophy of education. How do children learn best -- memorization or exploration? Should we start early or wait “until they are ready?” Do they do best if left to their own devices or with guidance and structure?

6. Read, read, read and talk, talk, talk to others who have home schooled, but don’t be swayed by every wind of “truth” that blows. Keep your goals and philosophy in mind.

7. Avoid comparing. We usually compare our weaknesses to others strengths and, of course, we come out short.

8. Teaching materials are the least important part of your home school. Attitudes and godly character on the part of parents and children alike is far more important.

9. Remember, God has given these children to you as a special gift and stewardship. He chose the right parents for the right children. He knows your strengths and weaknesses, and your children’s strengths and weaknesses. You are the only ones that can decide what is right for you and your children.

10. There is no perfect curriculum.

11. Whatever curriculum you choose, remember, curriculum is only a tool. “Any curriculum will work if you do.”

12. You don’t have to assign every page and every problem. Assign about half the problems. If the child has mastered the concept, he doesn’t need the practice. If he needs review, you can come back and use the problems previously skipped.

13. If you don’t like the material, you won’t use it even if everyone else says it is the best.

14. Avoid programs that require a great deal of teacher preparation. This can be textbooks with detailed teachers manuals to wade through, or unit studies that require you to pull together a great amount of material.

15. You are always learning. Don’t feel like a failure if a curriculum does not work. If you are new to home schooling, consider using a curriculum with a little more guidance the first year or two until you understand what works best for you, your student and your situation.