

Five Flavors of Homeschooling

The Flavors

- Traditional
A separate textbook and/or workbook for each subject.
Read the information, answer the questions (multiple choice, T/F, short answer).
Remember the facts until the test.
"Know"
- Classical
Based on the Trivium
Grammar Stage (ages 6–10): absorb and memorize facts
Dialectic Stage (ages 10–12): emphasize logic and why's behind facts
Rhetoric Stage (ages 13–18): add persuasive use of language
"Think"
- Charlotte Mason
Living books instead of textbooks
Narration instead of questioning
Emphasizes ideas over dry facts
A wide variety of subjects; a broad curriculum
"Grow"
- Unit Studies
Arranges all subjects around a common theme
Usually lots of hands-on projects
"Do"
- Unschooling
Child-directed
No set curriculum or agenda
"Live"

Find Your Favorite

If you . . .

- are concerned about keeping lock-step with the local school system **(T)**
- don't necessarily want a plan; prefer to be spontaneous **(N)**
- place great emphasis on having facts memorized **(T, C)**
- love hands-on projects and activities and don't mind spending the time to prepare them **(U)**
- think the teacher should be the fountain-head of all knowledge **(T, C, U)**
- want school to be rigorous and challenging **(C)**
- don't want to be different **(T, C, U)**
- love the idea of learning from good literature and books that make the subject come alive **(L)**
- want to use natural, gentle methods while holding them to a high standard **(L)**
- like having the child decide what to learn and when **(N)**
- want to linger with art, nature, handicrafts, music, and more **(L, N)**
- want to teach the way you were taught; not have to put forth the effort of decision **(T)**
- believe that true education comes from a personal relation with what is being studied, not just recognition **(L, N)**
- want your children to learn how to self-educate **(L, N)**
- live and die by standardized test scores **(T, C)**
- want to teach all your children together for as many subjects as possible **(L, U)**
- want each child to be on his or her own separate track for everything **(T, C, N)**

- want something that will work for a special needs child **(any)**
- something that will work well for a large family **(any)**
- something that will work well for an only child **(any)**
- need to tuck homeschooling around your work schedule **(any)**
- need something your spouse or the grandparents can do parts of **(any, depending on the spouse or grandparent)**
- want your child to be prepared to do well in college **(any)**
- want your child to be prepared to do well in adult life **(any)**
- want to emphasize good character development and Biblical discipleship **(any)**

T = Traditional
C = Classical
L = Charlotte Mason
U = Unit Studies
N = Unschooling

Different publishers cater to different flavors of homeschooling.

Choosing Curriculum

You can . . .

Get it to-go.

Put together ready-made components.

Make all of it from scratch.

Read the labels!

- Is it a good fit for this season of life?
- Does it help you reach your goals?
- Does it help you meet legal requirements?
- Does it agree with your personal standards?

Using Curriculum

- Teach the child, not the curriculum.
- Make the curriculum your servant, not your master.
- You have freedom to change if something isn't working.
- Curriculum is not a magic bullet.

Curriculum and Resource Providers

Traditional

- A Beka
- Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)
- Alpha Omega
- Bob Jones
- Christian Liberty Press
- Christian Light Education
- Landmark's Freedom Baptist Curriculum
- Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum (PAC)
- Rod and Staff Curriculum

Combinations

- Heart of Dakota
- Master Books
- My Father's World
- Mystery of History
- Sonlight
- Tapestry of Grace

Classical

- BiblioPlan
- Classical Academic Press
- Classical Conversations
- FreedomProject Education (online classes)
- Memoria Press
- Veritas Press
- Well-Trained Mind/Peace Hill Press

Charlotte Mason

- A Delectable Education
- Ambleside Online
- Living Books Curriculum
- Simply Charlotte Mason

Unit Studies

- Amanda Bennett
- Cornerstone Curriculum
- Five in a Row
- Heart of Wisdom (combined approach)
- Konos
- Weaver (from Alpha Omega)

Unschooling

- (whatever)