

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.
- 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
- Charlotte Mason
 - Living books instead of textbooks
 - Narration instead of questioning
 - Emphasizes ideas over dry facts
 - A wide variety of subjects; a broad curriculum
- Unit Studies
 - Arranges all subjects around a common theme
 - Usually lots of hands-on projects
- Unschooling
 - Child-directed
 - No set curriculum or agenda

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

Tweak the recipe!

- 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

General Stores

Rainbow Resource
Solomon's Secret
Schoolhouse Publishing

Specialty Stores

(those specializing in a particular subject or focus)

Classical

Classical Academic Press
Classical Conversations (local groups)
Memoria Press
Mystery of History
Tapestry of Grace
TRISMS Curriculum
Veritas Press
Well-Trained Mind/Peace Hill Press

Charlotte Mason/Literature based

Beautiful Feet
Greenleaf Press (literature based)
Heart of Dakota (literature based)
Living Books Curriculum
Queen Homeschool Supply
Simply Charlotte Mason
Sonlight (literature based)

Unit Studies

Cornerstone Curriculum
Five in a Row
Heart of Wisdom (combined approach)
Konos
My Father's World (combined approach)
Weaver (from Alpha Omega)

Unschooling

(whatever)