

# How to Begin Homeschooling

## Pray

Spend time in prayer over this decision and study Scriptures related to education (Deuteronomy 6, Psalm 1, Psalm 78, Colossians 2:8).

## Discuss with Your Spouse

Educating your child at home is a huge decision and should be one that is made with your spouse. Do not begin unless you are in agreement about this decision. You will need the support of your spouse not only at the beginning, but also throughout the years.

## Research Your State's Homeschool Laws

If you have any questions about the requirements for homeschooling in your state, visit Homeschool Legal Defense Association ([HSLDA.org](http://HSLDA.org)), and visit your state's homeschool support organization listed at [SchoolhouseConnect.com](http://SchoolhouseConnect.com).

## Research Styles of Home Education

There is no one right way to educate your child at home; however, there are many differing philosophies you may want to consider. The sidebar details a few of the most common styles and their very simplified definitions. Visit our digital magazine at [TOSMagazine.com](http://TOSMagazine.com) to search articles related to styles of education, or get answers to any homeschool question.

## Find Support

After finding your style of choice (or a mix of more than one style), you may want to choose a support group that reflects that specific style or just a general homeschool support group in your area. Meeting with other home educators offers encouragement as well as knowledge and assistance with your homeschool questions. Often, organized classes or activities for your children are offered through support groups as well. See the Welcome Page in this issue for a list of state groups. Also visit [SchoolhouseConnect.com](http://SchoolhouseConnect.com) for further listings.

## Gather Resources

Some families start with a complete curriculum package, while others start with a notebook and a library card. Choosing your resources depends on your style or method of education and your own interests. If you are financially burdened, there are free homeschooling resources on the web, as well as discounted, used books in abundance. For more than sixty free resources to get you started, visit [TryHomeschooling.com](http://TryHomeschooling.com). Did you know The Old Schoolhouse® has a curriculum side? Visit [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](http://SchoolhouseTeachers.com) for over 400 courses for the whole family. Every grade, every student, every subject.

## You Can Do This!

Parents around the world are taking back their God-given responsibility to educate their children, and you can too. For more help, sign up for our weekly e-Newsletter at [TheHomeschoolMinute.com](http://TheHomeschoolMinute.com). Favorite authors and speakers cover a new pertinent homeschool topic every week.

Disclaimer: The above information is not intended as legal advice and should not be construed as such. Please check your state's homeschool legal requirements.

## Philosophies, Styles, and Methods

### Charlotte Mason

Based on a method introduced by nineteenth-century educator Charlotte Mason, this approach includes nature studies/journaling, narration, and living books.

### Classical

Based on Dorothy Sayers's *The Lost Tools of Learning*, in which child development is broken up into three "stages" of learning, commonly called "the Trivium."

### Delight-Directed

This puts the learning in the hands of the child, based on his or her interests. Parents help facilitate this type of learning with appropriate instructional materials.

### Eclectic

A mix of philosophies and curricula to accommodate each child's abilities and interests. Parents choose from any method or style only those components that fit their specific needs.

### The Principle Approach

An approach based on the principles of our Founding Fathers and an emphasis on God's Word as the basis for every subject.

### Online Education

Structured and immediately available with full or partial online course choices. (For example: [SchoolhouseTeachers.com](http://SchoolhouseTeachers.com) offers full curriculum as well as individual courses, an online encyclopedia, and recordkeeping software.)

### Traditional Textbook

Normally uses a full-range, packaged, textbook-type curriculum that also may include a scope and sequence, testing, and recordkeeping.

### Unit Studies

All or most core subjects are covered while studying any one topic or unit of study, using a variety of resources and supplemental activities.

### Unschooling

A relaxed setting where learning is directed by the child. Parts of this philosophy are based on research by John Taylor Gatto and John Holt.