

What Kind of Homeschooler Are You?

Exploring 8 types of
homeschooling to help you find
your family's best fit.

BY THE NOAH WEBSTER
EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



Table of Contents:

Introduction

1. Traditional Homeschooling
2. Classical Homeschooling
3. Charlotte Mason Homeschooling
4. Montessori Homeschooling
5. Waldorf Homeschooling
6. Unschooling
7. Roadschooling/Worldschooling
8. Eclectic Homeschooling

Tools and Resources

Hello! Welcome to our short guide on a few of the most popular homeschooling styles!

Homeschooling is a remarkable and unique undertaking. It's full of wonder as you watch your child grow and learn first-hand. It's full of frustration as you and your student wrestle through the difficulties of learning new concepts together. And it's full of pride and excitement as you stand by your kid as they push their way to understanding!

The homeschooling journey can be challenging, but it's also extremely rewarding.

For homeschooling parents first setting out on this wonderful adventure, the huge array of options can be overwhelming. Words like "Montessori" and "classical education" pop up everywhere. "Unschooling" and "Charlotte Mason" litter Google searches. How in the world are you supposed to untangle all the options and decide which approach is the best for your family?

This short guide can serve as a starting place from which you can launch your homeschooling experience.

Here, you'll find a brief exploration of eight common homeschooling styles. Each style also contains a condensed overview of the parental and student personalities that fit best with that particular style. Finally, we'll provide a few resources to jumpstart your homeschooling toolkit.

Parents choose to begin homeschooling their children for many different reasons—but whatever prompted you to seek out this option for your children, one thing is certain: you love your child and want to offer them the best opportunities that you possibly can.

Welcome to the homeschooling journey! Let's get you started!





Style 1: Traditional Homeschooling

Also Called: Because this teaching and learning style is so similar to that of public and private schools, many people actually call traditional homeschooling “School-At-Home.” Families who are just beginning their homeschooling journey often start with this style by default because it’s what many parents are already familiar with.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

Based on the classroom model, traditional homeschooling most often uses structured plans and textbooks. Many parents even set up a school room, complete with desks and teacher’s aids.

Some traditional homeschooling families prefer an online or video-based curriculum, such as those offered by [Abeka](#). This option often features talented educators who provide part or all of the classroom instruction (although the parent needs to be nearby to answer questions, check work, and ensure that the child is paying attention.) Many online and video-based curriculums are extremely structured and often come with supporting textbooks and detailed lesson plans. This option is helpful for busy homeschool parents with children in several grades or those who want a little more instructional support.



A day in the life

Whatever traditional method of homeschooling you use, there is typically a strict daily school schedule in play, just like in public or private schools. Below is an example of what a day of traditional homeschooling might look like:

- 9:00-10:00 a.m. - School officially begins, with students at their desks in the schoolroom. They begin with math. (Don't forget that each subject has its own workbook and daily assignments!)
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. - Reading
- 10:30-11:00 a.m. - Recess/break time
- 11:00-12:00 noon - History
- Break for lunch
- 1:00-1:30 p.m. - Science
- 1:30-2:00 p.m. - Geography
- End of the school day

Parents may add in electives or rotate different subjects on different days. Traditional homeschooling models itself after the familiar classroom model, but allows the family to prioritize individualized needs. This is a huge difference between public/private schooling and traditional homeschooling!

Similar homeschool styles: Classical homeschooling

Main features: Each style of homeschooling has a variety of features that allow for unique learning styles, lifestyles, and varying budgets. Below are some main features of traditional homeschooling ([Time4Learning](#)):

- New homeschooling families have a starting point.
- Structure is a primary function of this homeschooling style.
- Parents and students are likely already familiar with this general style of teaching and learning.
- For short-term homeschoolers, this style keeps the same general learning format as schools outside the home. This offers an easier transition back into the classroom.
- Recordkeeping and assessments aren't a hassle.
- Parents can have a certain amount of confidence that they're "doing enough" for their student.

What student needs or personality is this style good for?

Students who prefer structure, who need a clear path from “Point A” to “Point B,” and who function well in a classroom setting typically do well with the traditional homeschool style.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for? (based on [TheBestSchools](#))

Parenting styles play a part in choosing your homeschooling type. Traditional homeschooling has some aspects that may appeal to you if:

- Your child’s education is extremely important, and you have time and resources at the ready. You’re willing to invest a lot in this lifestyle. If this sounds like you, then the traditional homeschool model may be your thing!
- Conventional schooling works for you. If you appreciate the way that school is “usually” conducted in a classroom setting, then traditional homeschooling may be what you’re the most comfortable with!



- Homeschooling is a temporary plan. If you think that your child may attend an in-person school in the future, then traditional homeschooling may be your preferred option to simplify the transition
- Your child has been in another school setting. If you will be homeschooling from here on out, you may be concerned about a sudden switch. Traditional homeschooling can help ease your child out of that familiar setting, making the transition home easier.
- A structured, quality curriculum is important to you. Certification by education experts gives you a sense of stability and confidence in the curriculum your child is using.
- You prefer to purchase a whole year's worth of a well-rounded and complete set of curriculum, regardless of cost.
- Covering all the legal bases is a priority. Check out your state homeschooling laws with this handy resource from [HSLA.org](https://www.hsla.org). If your state has minimum schooling standards (subjects taught, topics covered, etc.), then you may prefer that any curriculum your child uses meets the regulation requirements. Grab that accredited curriculum for your traditional homeschooling experience!

Estimated Cost

Cost will vary widely based on the curriculum you choose to use. While there are cheaper options, most traditional homeschoolers can expect to spend a decent amount on their school year, starting at around \$500.

Estimated Daily Time Commitment

There's no hard and fast time commitment, but traditional homeschooling tends to require two or more hours of schooling per day. However, the time spent is really determined primarily by the student. Their personality, age, learning/developmental stage, dedication to learning, focus, and interest all play a part in determining how long your kid can take each day to accomplish their curriculum's daily tasks.

Resources

- [General Information About Traditional Homeschooling](#)
- [An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)
- [Is Traditional Homeschooling Right for You?](#)
- [A Look at Traditional Homeschooling Curriculum](#)
- [Curriculum Superstore](#)
- [8 Best Online Homeschool Programs](#)



Style 2: Classical Homeschooling

Also called: This style of homeschooling is popular in both secular and Christian homeschooling circles. In Christian circles, it's also referred to as the "Principal Approach," indicating that the method is pursued through a Biblical worldview instead of a secular one.

The classical approach focuses on the goal of teaching children to think for themselves. Using the Trivium model, children move through three main stages of learning: concrete learning (the grammar stage), critical learning (the logic stage), and abstract learning (the rhetoric stage).

It's a language-focused, literature-focused style of learning that has been adopted by many homeschooling families.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

Classical homeschooling is based on the concept of three learning stages, known as the Trivium. These stages (roughly spanning elementary, middle, and high school respectively) are designed to teach the child how to think for themselves.



Looking closer

The three learning stages in classical education are:

- Concrete learning: The grammar stage
- Critical learning: The logic stage
- Abstract learning: The rhetoric stage

Classical homeschooling tends to be more structured than other methods like Waldorf or unschooling. Foundationally, classical education works on a *systematic* academic basis. The beauty of homeschooling is that parents retain control of their children's education, so they may choose to incorporate a looser, more free-form approach if they choose to do so. However, as a style of homeschooling, the classical method is structured and systematic.

Classical homeschooling is language-based, with a strong emphasis on liberal arts. It has its roots in history, going all the way back to the Greek and Roman philosophers. With centuries of practical application in education, classical homeschooling has a long-standing record of producing intelligent, well-read, free thinkers. Classical education emphasizes discipline and dedication.

Similar homeschool styles: Traditional Homeschooling

Main features of classical homeschooling include:

- An emphasis on training and disciplining the mind
- A keen appreciation for literature and history
- An emphasis on the basic academic studies
- An added emphasis on language, analysis, and logic
- The goal of producing a well-rounded, free-thinking citizen
- Popularity as a homeschooling choice, with a good community of small groups and support groups
- Subjects tend to be taught in a historically chronological timeline

What student needs or personality is this style good for?

Classical homeschooling can benefit any student. However, kids who appreciate reading, who naturally enjoy personal discipline and rigorous study, who are especially intelligent, or who need an extra challenge do exceptionally well with this homeschooling style.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?

Classical homeschooling may appeal to you if:

- You have a personal appreciation for liberal arts and good literature
- It's important to you to use an educational model that has stood the test of time
- A structured curriculum and teaching style is appealing to you
- You prefer your child experience a more rigorous academic setting
- Teaching your child logic and free-thinking is a priority for you
- History is important to you
- You appreciate the concept of different subject areas taught in a historical, chronological context

Estimated Cost

Classical education tends to be one of the pricier homeschooling options, though it typically costs less than the traditional homeschooling method does. The cost will vary depending on the curriculum and parenting style, but \$300+ per year is a good start.

Estimated Daily Time Commitment

Homeschooling always offers the freedom to decide time commitment for your own family, but classical homeschooling does tend to require a larger amount of structured school time each day (compared to other modes of homeschooling). Three hours a day is a good starting estimate, with extra time added for “homework” if a child needs it. As always, time investment is a function of the age and maturity of your child, the level of complication of the subjects, and how much learning you’re trying to accomplish each day.

Resources

[General Information About Classical Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Classical Education Examined](#)

[Classical Conversations Curriculum](#)

[Veritas Press Curriculum](#)



Style 3: Charlotte Mason Homeschooling

Also called: While there isn't another common term for this type of homeschooling, it could also be called a "holistic approach to education." The Charlotte Mason (CM) method of homeschooling strives to educate the child as a whole person.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

The CM style of homeschooling uses short study times and a lot of outdoor time. While textbooks may be seen here and there, students generally learn from real-life books such as biographies. "Living books" is a familiar term in CM circles, and they are the basic foundation of a Charlotte Mason education.



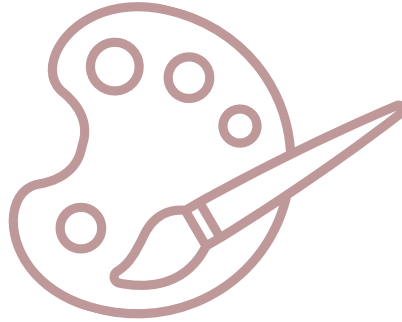


Let's zoom in

A Charlotte Mason school day can look very different depending on the family, but the basic ideas that create a CM education include:

- Emphasis on narrative literature
- Outdoor exploration
- Cultivation of appreciation for fine art
- Narration. The student is required to vividly narrate a book he/she recently read, retelling it in their own words. The student should explain not only the basic concept of the book, but also the thought processes and ideas that they developed while reading on that topic.
- Journaling and copywork

Similar homeschool styles: While Classical Homeschooling is dissimilar in many ways, both CM and Classical Homeschooling have a keen appreciation for literature and the arts.



Main features: Charlotte Mason's famous philosophy was, "Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life." Some main features of the CM homeschooling style reflect this concept:

- Atmosphere - In this style, the home atmosphere is designed to influence and educate the child. A Charlotte Mason education embraces the idea that parents' lives educate the child in ways beyond what you can see.
- Discipline - CM homeschooling is designed to educate the child in good habits. Discipline in all things, especially good character, is an important aspect of education.
- Life - Even in the "academic portion" of the CM homeschool method, students learn through living thoughts and ideas. The Charlotte Mason style avoids cold, dry facts, instead using a more life-like, engaging approach through living books and experience.

These concepts are primarily taught by:

- Keeping lessons short and manageable.
- Using dictation exercises to teach spelling and grammar concepts.
- Enjoying fine arts, especially art and music.
- Requiring narration, which teaches the child to express him/herself articulately and helps solidify the concept(s).
- Encouraging the student to read living books to help develop a love of quality literature.
- Enjoying outdoor exploration and nature walks to provide an appreciation of nature and the world around the student.



What student needs or personality is this style good for?



Since reading is a foundational part of the Charlotte Mason homeschooling style, it's best if your child is a good reader or enjoys reading. Children should have the ability to spend extensive time outside (no severe allergies, etc.). Children who are flexible and can adapt to a fluid curriculum and schedule do well with a Charlotte Mason education.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?

As a parent, the Charlotte Mason homeschooling style may be your thing if:

- You want your child to love “real” books: real-life stories, biographies, and other “living literature.”
- You like the idea of your child narrating and retelling stories they’ve read.
- Allowing your child the option to choose what and how to study is important.
- You have a lower schooling budget.
- Daily Bible study and routine Scripture memory are a priority to your family.
- Outdoor time, adventures, and discovery outside are a must for you.
- While tests and quizzes may work for other homeschooling families, journals and portfolios are more your style.

Estimated Cost:

The Charlotte Mason homeschool style can be very low cost. The curriculum is mixed and matched from various sources. Much of the child's learning is done through reading living books readily available at second-hand stores, online discount stores, or libraries. Costs can be as low as pennies on the dollar, or a family may choose a more expensive route. Personal preference is the big plus here!

Estimated Daily Time Commitment:

While there are some obvious time commitments when using the Charlotte Mason homeschool style, what that looks like will be unique to you and your preferred schedule. Structured schooling can vary from 30 minutes a day to a few hours a day, depending on the child, their age, their dedication, and the requirements set by the schooling parent.

Resources:

[General Information About Charlotte Mason Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[A Charlotte Mason Companion: Personal Reflections on the Gentle Art of Learning](#)

[Is Charlotte Mason Homeschooling Right for You?](#)

[Simply Charlotte Mason Curriculum](#)

[Living Books Curriculum](#)



Style 4: Montessori Homeschooling

Also called:

Montessori education is also called the Montessori Method. The name “Montessori” itself has become a buzzword for individual and independent learning, often used for very young children.

It is important to note that most Montessori students are younger, typically pre-K and elementary students.

However, many older students around the country use the Montessori method all the way through high school.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

Montessori is a holistic method of learning activities.

It views the child as a whole person instead of focusing specifically on the academic mind. Montessori homeschooling offers children a chance to learn through free play and interest-based activities. Although the child often has the opportunity to choose learning activities, these happen specifically in a goal-oriented environment. Parents carefully create and cultivate the environment where they want their children to learn. Montessori education is based loosely on the family structure, which makes it an excellent choice for homeschooling families who might be instructing kids of varying ages.

The Montessori model uses a mentorship style of education, with older students helping younger students. This cultivates a unique relationship between the children, developing confidence and enthusiasm. They also become self-directed learners.



In a Montessori classroom, students are encouraged to learn in an interest-based way, but from carefully pre-selected options. This gives the parent the ability to guide their children in the direction they think is best, but gives the child the freedom of choice. Children typically work uninterrupted for a pre-set block of time. Montessori homeschooling is a hands-on style of learning and has a strong emphasis on specialized educational materials often made out of natural, aesthetic materials such as wood.

There is also an element of organic learning in Montessori homeschooling, where the children learn by participating in the household. Children are naturally inclined to learn when they are allowed to, and Montessori encourages just that.

Main Features

- A mixed-age classroom: Cooperation and collaboration between students is a key feature.
- Hands-on learning: Students learn concepts through hands-on experiences (rather than through direct instruction).
- Cultivated Interest: Students learn on an interest basis, but their options have been carefully pre-selected.
- Sensory materials: Toys, tools, and other learning materials are designed to engage the child's senses. They are made of mostly natural materials and use color and texture to stimulate the mind.
- Uninterrupted learning: Montessori encourages long stretches of uninterrupted learning time. The longer the better, with the ideal time being around 3 hours (depending on the child's age).
- Guides: Teachers aren't instructors, but rather facilitate learning and help to guide their student(s).
- Mentorship: Montessori focuses on the child as a whole. Conflict resolution, positive behavior, and positive human interaction are important. The children mentor one another, which builds relationships and offers opportunities to learn people skills.



Similar homeschool styles: Waldorf



What student needs or personality is this style good for?

Montessori is great for any child. However, if your child enjoys making choices, appreciates sensory exploration, and generally works and plays well with others, then they may enjoy a Montessori educational experience.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?

- Do you see education as a holistic experience, or do you prefer to focus specifically on academics?
- Is your child a “blank slate” in your mind, ready to create their own educational experience with your guidance?
- Do you prefer to see your child exploring in a non-conventional manner, through their senses, instead of working toward rigorous academic achievements?
- Do you have several students who could enjoy this method together?
- Do you have a student(s) who doesn't do well in a conventional classroom setting?

Estimated Cost:

As with most homeschooling options, the cost will vary widely depending on how the parent chooses to implement it. Montessori homeschooling can use many household items, and the method itself is easily incorporated into everyday life. Doing this brings the cost down considerably. However, if you choose to “buy all the things” and set up a beautiful Montessori classroom, you should be prepared to spend several hundred dollars or more.

Estimated Daily Time Commitment:

Montessori homeschooling includes normal, everyday routines and activities, which makes a time estimate difficult. However, it's important that children get 2-3 hours of uninterrupted learning time.

Resources:

[General Information About Montessori Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[How to Set Up a Montessori Classroom](#)

[A Montessori Approach to Homeschool: Where to Start](#)

[Montessori at Home: 8 Principles to Know](#)

[10 Curriculums to Guide Your Montessori Homeschooling](#)



Style 6: Waldorf Homeschooling

Also Called: Steiner/Waldorf homeschooling or the Steiner education philosophy.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

Waldorf homeschooling is based on the belief that children develop in three distinct stages, believed to last roughly seven years each. Waldorf education focuses on the child's creativity and imagination.

Daily Routine: Waldorf homeschooling emphasizes routine (*event-based* daily structure) rather than a strict schedule (*time-based* daily structure). Predictability supports children's natural desires for stability and

familiarity. The daily routine isn't limited to "school." It's a part of every area of the homeschooling family's life—from meals and bedtime to chores and play.





Routine is Key

While a Waldorf daily school routine can vary widely from family to family, here is a simple sample:

- The Morning Routine: (Religious, motivational, or meditative.) It gives a sense of security and starts the day off with focus.
- Curriculum Learning: Conventional academic learning, including the "3 Rs." "Block" learning is emphasized in Waldorf education.
- Life Learning: Family-integrated home activities, such as home chores, meal prep, or even running a family business. Children learn by example and experience.
- Free Play: A time for children to develop and enjoy their imaginations, explore their senses, and engage their creative side.

- **Additional Schooling:** Science, hands-on experiments, journaling, letter writing, and field trips.
- **Afternoon Chores:** Children are involved in the household and learn life skills from others.
- **Evening Meal:** Children help with preparation and clean-up. It's important that the activity involves everyone.
- **Bedtime Routine:** End-of-day routine may involve a family devotional and/or reading books together. It brings the day to a solid and comfortable close.



Similar homeschool styles:
Montessori, Charlotte Mason

Main features: Main features of Waldorf Homeschooling include aspects that are decidedly unconventional but work for this method. Some of these features are:

- Parents decide curriculum, educational objectives, and which methods will benefit each student based on individual needs.
- The overall objective is to mold the child into a responsible, able, and socially conscious adult.
- The parent assesses the child's overall growth and progress rather than grading each subject.
- Learning is hands-on, and household interaction is key.
- Routine-based vs. scheduled

For younger students:

- Free play with rough and unfinished toys. The toys are typically made of wooden, natural fibers, or other materials that engage the child's imagination and creativity.
- No screen time at all, during school hours or otherwise.
- Postponed academics. "Regular" academic learning begins roughly at age seven.



For older students:

- Hands-on life experiences in the home, such as helping in the kitchen or around the house.
 - Some academic focus, but it's not the ultimate goal.
 - Emphasis on language, the arts (including reading, music, knitting, sewing, drawing, painting, etc.), and mental arithmetic.
 - Interest-led preparation for adulthood and the child's future.
-

What student needs or personality is this style good for?



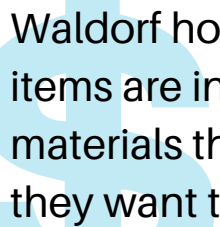
Waldorf homeschooling has the greatest success on the “happiness” scale with younger students. Lots of free play, creativity, and hands-on interaction will please most small children.

Older students may enjoy this homeschooling method if they enjoy the arts (drama, music, art), like working with their hands (sewing, knitting, woodworking), and love accessing their creative side.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?

- It takes creativity to help your child access their own creativity. If you are creative and enjoy sharing that side of yourself with your child, then Waldorf homeschooling might be for you.
- Real-world skills are important in Waldorf homeschooling. Your child will need to be integrated into your day, and you’ll be teaching him/her with a hands-on, real-time approach. If you enjoy sharing most aspects of your day with your kids, give Waldorf homeschooling a try!
- If you’re looking for an alternative to the conventional education model, then Waldorf homeschooling might be the answer!

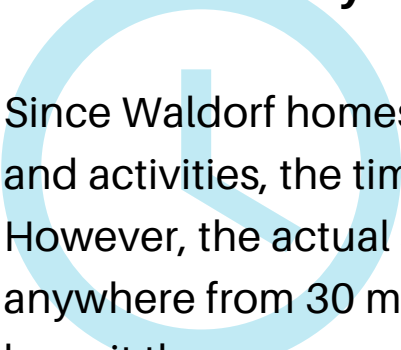
Estimated Cost:



Waldorf homeschooling can be done on a very tight budget. Household items are integrated into the learning method. Parents can choose materials that are as simple (no cost) or as elaborate (higher budget) as they want to be.

Curriculum prices vary widely. There are some free options available, or you can spend just a few dollars on individual books, supplies, and planners. For more elaborate, comprehensive curriculum sets, you may be looking at a couple hundred dollars. (Don't forget to check secondhand stores! eBay has lots of Waldorf curriculum and supplies for discounted prices!)

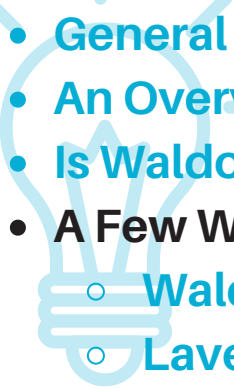
Estimated Daily Time Commitment



Since Waldorf homeschooling includes normal, everyday routines and activities, the time commitment is technically "all day."

However, the actual sit-down academic timeframe can vary. Think anywhere from 30 minutes to two hours a day. The main thing is to keep it the same every day—keep that routine!

Resources:

- 
- [General Information About Waldorf](#)
 - [An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)
 - [Is Waldorf Homeschooling Right for You?](#)
 - **A Few Waldorf Curriculum Options:**
 - [Waldorfish](#)
 - [Lavender's Blue](#)
 - [Over in the Meadow](#)



Style 7: Unschooling

Also Called: Unschooling is often referred to as “relaxed learning.” Unschooling is a legitimate form of homeschooling with a focus on free-form, child-led learning and interest-based education.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

Everyone does unschooling differently, and what it looks like for each family can change over time. There is no way for words to fully capture the true essence of what this form of homeschooling looks like because it’s entirely customizable and individualized. The founding concept of unschooling

is that humans naturally learn as we go about our lives. We learn all day every day when given the opportunity.

As a homeschooling method, the basic premise of unschooling is for parents to take every opportunity throughout their day to invite their children to learn. The child learns on an interest basis, so they may accept or decline the invitation. The parent’s responsibility is to provide learning opportunities. Children will naturally want to learn when it’s appropriate for them to do so based on their interest level and development.



An Example

Johnny reads a Wild Africa book and plays with his plastic animals on a felt savanna. Later, Mom gets his crayons and coloring book out. She helps him learn to color within the lines and combine different colors. On a blank sheet of paper, he writes a colorful story with simple words.

That afternoon, he and his mother go to the zoo, where he gets to feed the giraffe. Prompted by Johnny's mother, the zookeeper explains a giraffe's diet, their seasonal dietary and shelter needs, and basic medical care. The zoo has a nice playground, where Johnny plays rigorously for an hour or so. He meets several other children and makes a new friend.

On the way home, the family stops at the grocery to buy some ground beef for supper. Mom explains the life cycle of a beef cow, from birth to table. Mom lets Johnny “pay” for the purchase, counting out the cash and change himself.

When they get home, Johnny helps prepare the meal, including a colorful salad. He asks questions about the tomato, so after supper, Mom and Johnny search Google and YouTube to discover the life cycle of the various veggies used in the salad. Before bed, he reads Dad the story he wrote that morning.

Today, Johnny’s schooling covered:

- African animal species
- Art
- Fine motor skills
- Penmanship
- Basic animal husbandry of giraffes
- Physical education
- Socialization
- Animal science
- Addition and subtraction
- Culinary arts
- Earth science
- Reading



Similar homeschool styles: Similar to Waldorf,
Roadschooling/Worldschooling

Unschooling has several main features:

- **Flexibility:** Unschooling is completely adaptable to every area of life. It goes with the flow, and the entire point is to learn as life occurs.
- **Child-led:** Unschooling is based on the child's current interests. These interests could be just momentary interests or long-term. Both types provide a learning opportunity.
- **Holistic:** Unschooling encourages the development of the child as a whole person, versus just their academic mind.
- **Individualized:** Unschooling is completely individualized. Each student learns based on their own interests and abilities.
- **Involved:** Unschooling requires proactive and deliberate parental involvement.



What student needs or personality is this style good for?

Unschooling is adaptable and flexible, allowing parents and children to work together. Almost any child can enjoy this type of schooling. If your child can communicate their needs, interests, frustrations, etc., then they may enjoy this style.

A student who enjoys or needs a structured schedule or prefers routine academic participation may not enjoy unschooling.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?

Parents with these attributes may appreciate unschooling:

- Intuitive - parents who can instinctively connect with their children
- Flexible - parents who are flexible and who appreciate a loose, unstructured schedule
- Creative - parents who are creative, out-of-the-box thinkers can do very well with unschooling. Since most unschooling families prefer not to use a structured curriculum (though they certainly may if they choose), parents must actively seek out teaching opportunities and create learning moments for their students.
- Listener - parents who can listen well to their children and understand their needs and interests. It's important that the children and the parents communicate and that the parents listen attentively to their students' interests and questions.

Estimated Cost:

Cost varies widely, depending on lifestyle, child interest, family budget, and chosen educational opportunities.

Estimated Daily Time Commitment

All day. Unschooling specifically uses every teaching/learning opportunity throughout the day. Parental involvement will depend on each child's interests.

Resources

[General Information About Unschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[The Difference Between Waldorf and Unschooling](#)

[Unschooling "Curriculum"](#)



Style 7: Roadschooling/Worldschooling

Also Called: Homeschooling on the road or while traveling.

Roadschooling/Worldschooling can be viewed as a single homeschooling method or as two separate approaches. It's exactly what it sounds like—routinely homeschooling while traveling! Roadschooling is typically used by families who primarily travel on the ground via their personal vehicle (RV, camper, bus, etc.)

Worldschooling is a style enjoyed by families who travel in many different ways and may often leave the country or continent.

What does this style of homeschooling look like?

Roadschooling/Worldschooling is a great option for families with

a traveling lifestyle. It offers children an opportunity to travel and experience geography, history, current events, and many aspects of life firsthand. [As one roadschooling mom puts it](#), this type of homeschooling “...is touching, tasting, smelling, hearing, and seeing knowledge first-hand, and embracing learning as a lifestyle instead of a chore.” Roadschooling/Worldschooling can take on many forms, depending on the family. Generally, families choose a combination of personal traveling experiences and a structured curriculum.

The unique combination of travel and education allows them to visit and study a wide variety of locations. They study local geography, scientific aspects of the area, historical events, current events, and any other local educational opportunities that present themselves.

These real-world experiences are typically supplemented by a curriculum that teaches subjects that aren't readily available on-site.



Main features: Roadschooling/Worldschooling can offer some unique opportunities. Some of its main features:

- A real-world, interactive learning experience instead of a more book-based education
- Can be accomplished from anywhere at any time
- Children meet a variety of people and experience numerous local cultures
- Plenty of parent/student time
- A unique view of the world

Similar homeschool styles: Unschooling

What student needs or personality is this style good for?



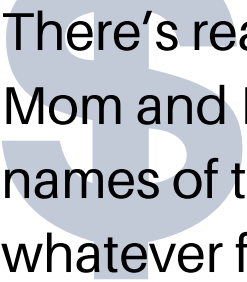
Kids who love to travel, appreciate non-conventional learning methods, and enjoy plenty of family time are a good fit for this homeschooling style.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?

Roadschooling or worldschooling may be for you if:

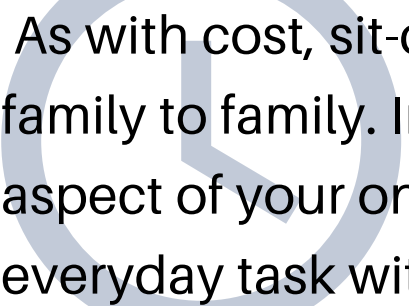
- You know your child's education needs and don't require a curriculum-only homeschool experience.
- **You enjoy your kids' company and appreciate their input and involvement.**
- You love to travel and proactively teach your children based on real-life experiences.

Estimated Cost:



There's really no way to ball-park this one—it's all on you, Mom and Dad! Variety and individual choice are the names of this game! Keep it simple, or go all out—whatever fits your bill. Traveling carries inherent costs, but creative families are able to roadschool/worldschool on a budget.

Estimated Daily Time Commitment



As with cost, sit-down academic time will vary from family to family. Integrating schooling into every aspect of your on-the-go lifestyle will be an all-day, everyday task with educational benefits. Just keep in mind that frequent travel may impact the time your children have for textbooks. Reading, and especially writing, can be challenging on the go.

Resources



[General Information About Roadschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Is Roadschooling Right for You?](#)

[Free Homeschool Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Superstore](#)



Style 7: Eclectic Homeschooling

Also Called: Eclectic homeschooling is sometimes referred to as “a-la-carte” homeschooling. As this nickname implies, this method of homeschooling means that anything goes! You pick and choose from every other homeschooling method—or invent your own—and mash it all together to create a unique style.

What does this style of homeschooling look like? Eclectic homeschoolers glean what they like from other homeschooling types to create the perfect homeschooling fit for their family.



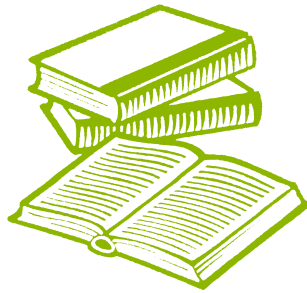
An example of this style for one family might be:

- Charlotte Mason Style: History is taught through “living books.”
- Roadschooling: Kids learn geography and earth science as the family takes their summer vacation, with mini-road trips around their local area during the rest of the year.
- Math and English are taught in a more conventional setting through textbooks, including traditional testing and a grading system.
- Waldorf and Unit Studies: Art, music, and drama are taught through a mix of these two methods with a system the parent creates on their own
- Unschooling: Reading and writing are taught as opportunities arise. Thank you notes, short story competitions, or a child’s keen interest in a topic all present golden opportunities to practice. Eclectic homeschooling is 100% customizable and is the most flexible and individualized homeschool style available.

Similar homeschool styles: Unschooling

Main features: Because Eclectic Homeschooling is so customizable, it's difficult to nail down specific main features. However, a few are obvious:

- It's customizable
- It offers unlimited options for curriculum, lifestyle, resources, and schedule
- It allows for sudden life changes
- It offers both the parent and the student a relaxed education experience



What student needs or personality is this style good for?



This style is best suited for students who enjoy flexibility and don't require uniformity in their routine, curriculum, or learning experience.

What kind of parenting style is this homeschool type good for?



Nearly any parent can build an eclectic method that works for them, but a few key points may help you to decide if eclectic homeschooling is the best approach for you:

- There are so many curriculums and resources to choose from. If you are willing to accept the challenge of picking and choosing through the innumerable options to tailor-make your own style, then give eclectic homeschooling a try!
- Eclectic homeschooling allows you to personalize each child's learning. If this idea appeals to you, you may appreciate eclectic homeschooling.
- If you like keeping your options open, then this homeschooling method can make your day!
- If flexibility of schedule and style appeals to you, then you might appreciate an eclectic homeschooling life. You can find resources that will be great for a variety of ages if you have more than one child so you can spend more time doing work as a family, not separately.
- If you're knowledgeable about several education methods and styles, then you're ahead of the eclectic homeschooling curve!
- If you aren't sure which type of homeschooling is up your alley, then eclectic homeschooling will give you the chance to try them all.

Estimated Cost:

There is no real cost estimate. The price tag on eclectic homeschooling is entirely based on parental preference and what resources you want to use.

Estimated Daily Time Commitment

As with the estimated cost, the daily time commitment will be largely determined by the parent. Coming up with your own “style” can take a bit more time than taking a ready-to-go curriculum out of the box, but it pays off when your customized classroom thrives. Learning always takes time...but it’s always worth it!

Resources:

[General Information About Eclectic Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[You Might Be An Eclectic Homeschooler If...](#)

[Homeschooling Curriculum Guide on a Personal Eclectic Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Superstore](#)



Tools & Resources

Homeschoolers use a stockpile of tools and resources to supplement the learning experience. A few of these are:

- Unit Studies
- YouTube
- Library
- Field Trips
- Co-ops

Let's quickly explore how each resource can be used to complement the homeschool experience:



Unit Studies

Unit studies are often used in weekly or monthly small groups or by several families together, but can also be done at home by one student or by one family as a family project. They typically consist of a themed study plan. This means that the students study the same event, time period, person, or object through the perspective of all the different school subjects.

Unity Study Example: The Great San Francisco Earthquake

- Studied through the lens of geology, the students might learn about the geological causes and effects of earthquakes.
- Studied through history, they'd learn about San Francisco at the time or perhaps even worldwide historical highlights.
- Studied through math, they'd learn about the geometric construction of buildings and how an earthquake might affect certain construction styles.



YouTube

YouTube is an amazing resource for homeschoolers. While parents must be discerning with content and credibility, this video platform is a wealth of education and information! Homeschooling children can learn anything from history to natural science, cooking to woodworking, mechanics to math, art to spelling. There are literally no limits as to the educational possibilities for all ages! Here are just a few examples of some channels that many homeschooling families use and enjoy:

Art and Music:

- Bob Ross
- TwoSetViolin

Math:

- Khan Academy

Science:

- Brave Wilderness
- Animal Planet

Broad Spectrum Knowledge:

- CrashCourse
- TED-Ed

[130+ YouTube Channels for Homeschoolers](#)



The Library

The library is a vast resource of educational material just waiting for eager minds to dive in! Many homeschoolers make weekly or monthly trips to their local library to enhance their homeschool experience. In addition to the obvious—shelves and shelves of wonderful books—many libraries have seasonal programs, workshops, and educational events that your student can enjoy. Check out your local library for their current schedule!



Field Trips

Field trips are a great way to get your kids out of the house and educate them at the same time. Kids can encounter some of the most unique and memorable experiences of their childhood while on a field trip! Field trips can be done as an individual family, or families can meet up and enjoy the fun together! There are so many ways to spice things up while you're out exploring. Visiting the zoo? Prepare a scavenger hunt ahead of time and let the kids see how many items/animals they can mark off! Touring the USPS? Have the kids each write a letter beforehand so they are more attentive to the journey their mail will take. There are just so many ways to make the fun even more...fun!

How Do I Homeschool offers "The Ultimate Guide to Field Trips for Homeschoolers." Below is a list of their suggested field trip options:

- Parks
- The capital city
- Historical and scientific museums
- The zoo
- Local graveyards
- Picnics
- Bird watching
- Forest hiking
- Theatre performances
- Shopping and Banking
- Churches
- Farms and
- Hospitals





Co-ops

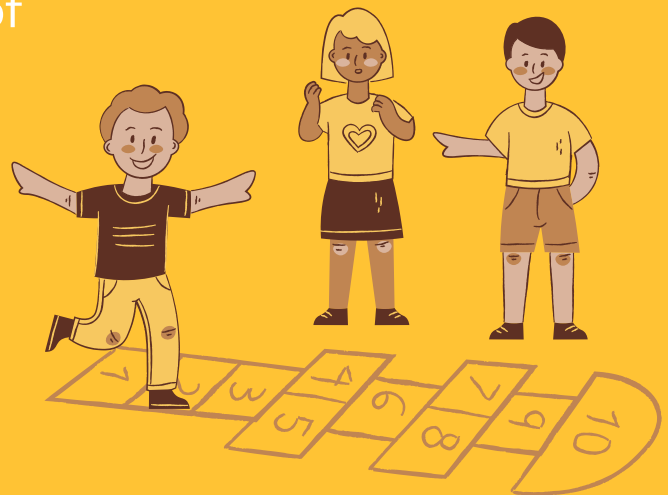
Homeschool co-ops can be a wonderful resource, especially to new homeschoolers needing a sense of community. They can help fill in any educational gaps and give your kids a chance to socialize and enjoy fun experiences with other children.

A homeschooling co-op is a group of several homeschooling families who agree to meet regularly. Co-ops meet at a variety of locations such as libraries or churches, or even take turns meeting at each family's home. The co-op works together toward the same general education goals.

Many co-ops enjoy completing unit studies together as a group or focus on electives/extracurriculars. You can even use your co-op to achieve more of a conventional classroom-style setting, with the children using the same set curriculum and parents taking turns teaching each week. (Note: The legality of shared teaching responsibilities while homeschooling varies by state. Research your state's homeschooling and co-op laws before enrolling in a local homeschool cooperative.)

Co-ops can take on a variety of formats depending on how you and your friends implement the concept!

Use your creativity to find the best method for your group of children!





Additional Resources

[Homeschool law finder from HSLDA](#)

Charlotte Mason Homeschooling

[General Information About Charlotte Mason Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Is Charlotte Mason Homeschooling Right for You?](#)

[Simply Charlotte Mason Curriculum](#)

[Living Books Curriculum](#)

Classical Homeschooling

[General Information About Classical Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Classical Education Examined](#)

[Classical Conversations Curriculum](#)

[Veritas Press Curriculum](#)



Eclectic Homeschooling

[General Information About Eclectic Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[You Might Be An Eclectic Homeschooler If...](#)

[Homeschooling Curriculum Guide on a Personal Eclectic Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Superstore](#)

Montessori Homeschooling

[General Information About Montessori Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[How to Set Up a Montessori Classroom](#)

[A Montessori Approach to Homeschool: Where to Start](#)

[Montessori at Home: 8 Principles to Know](#)

[10 Curriculums to Guide Your Montessori Homeschooling](#)

Roadschooling/Worldschooling

[General Information About Roadschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Is Roadschooling Right for You?](#)

[Free Homeschool Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Superstore](#)

Traditional Homeschooling

[General Information About Traditional Homeschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Is Traditional Homeschooling Right for You?](#)

[A Look at Traditional Homeschooling Curriculum](#)

[Curriculum Superstore](#)

Unschooling

[General Information About Unschooling](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[The Difference Between Waldorf and Unschooling](#)

[Unschooling "Curriculum"](#)

Waldorf Homeschooling

[General Information About Waldorf](#)

[An Overview of Homeschooling Methods](#)

[Is Waldorf Homeschooling Right for You?](#)

[Waldorfish](#)

[Lavender's Blue](#)

[Over in the Meadow](#)





About NWEF

Our Vision:

To reclaim education and culture through foundational principles and sound policy.

Our Mission:

To educate and collaborate with individuals and organizations to tell the story of America's education and culture, identify foundational principles that improve them, and advance practice and policy to change them.

OUR FOCUS

To understand the many concerns in education today and make the changes needed for success, a few foundational questions need to be addressed:

- What does success in education look like?
- What impact does education have on culture and society?
- What are the core / essential elements of quality education?
- What models are providing the best results now?
- What changes need to be made in our present educational systems?
- What actions can be taken to secure these changes on a wide scale?

To address these questions, Noah Webster Educational Foundation is leading a national conversation on educational leadership and legislation. We seek to include many voices in this discussion, representing educational providers, parents, and elected officials. As we present opinions, school experiences, and statistics, our purpose is to reclaim America's education and culture through foundational principles and sound policy.



Our Resources

- [Introduction to School Boards online course](#)
- [School Board Summits](#)
- [Blog](#)
- [Know Your State System](#)
- [Share Your Story](#)
- [Education News](#)
- Podcasts:
 - [The State of Education with Melvin Adams](#)
 - [NWEF Blogcast](#)
- [YouTube Channel](#)