

Why?

Consider these statistics:

In the academic year 2007-2008, 2.0 to 2.5 million K-12 students were home educated; home education has been growing at a rate of 5-12% per year since 1997 (National Home Education Research Institute)

73% of home schooling parents say that they home school because of dissatisfaction with the academic standards of local schools (National Center for Education Statistics)

69% of home schooling parents cite retail bookstores as a main source for educational materials (National Center for Education Statistics)

The average income of a homeschooling family is \$52,000 (Home School Legal Defense Association)

Ten Tips for Attracting Home Educators

1. Keep a literature rack of home educator resources in a prominent place. Your state home school organization will be happy to furnish you with free copies of local regulations governing home education, lists of support groups, directories of tutors and resources, and more. You can find an up-to-date list of state (and local) home education associations at “The Old Schoolhouse” website: thehomeschoolmagazine.com/Homeschool_Nations/State_Listings.php
2. Host a regular Curriculum Night: ask experienced home school parents to come and demonstrate/explain books and curricula they’ve found useful. (To find these parents, call one of the local groups listed at the website above)
3. Dedicate a shelf or section to the project and label it clearly. “Parent Educators” is preferable to “Home Educators,” since many parents “afterschool” (teach one or two subjects to a student who’s in a traditional classroom).
4. “How-to-homeschool” books are fine, but many parents have moved beyond this introductory stage and need content. Stock core texts in the main academic areas too: history, math, science, grammar, writing (see the Suggested Core List that follows).

5. Concentrate on K-8 titles; this is the growth area in home education.
6. Be willing to deal with smaller publishers who don’t have national distribution. Small, family-run presses are at the cutting edge in home education. Among them: Peace Hill Press (peacehillpress.com), Memoria Press (memoriapress.com), Commonsense Press (commonsensepress.com), and Gravitas Press (gravitaspublications.com).
7. Make the path to and from the Parent Educator section child-friendly. Parents who home educate often shop with their kids. A shelf of erotica at eye-level right across from the Parent Educator section will guarantee that they don’t come back.
8. Don’t stock the area immediately around the Parent Educator section with toys, movies, Disney adaptations, or books with push-buttons and musical elements. Parents who home educate put a high value on traditional books; they avoid buying books which are media-based and are often frustrated when their children zero in on these during book-buying expeditions.
9. Offer a regular storytime for kids, during which parents can examine buy books--and point out on your flyers that you’re doing this for the benefit of Parent Educators.
10. If you offer a teacher discount, be sure to offer it to your home schooling patrons as well; you’ll earn both their gratitude and their loyalty.

Suggested Core List

Home Education: How-To

Bauer, Susan Wise and Jessie Wise. *The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at Home*, third edition. Norton, Feb. 2009, ISBN 978-0393067088

Cohen, Cafi. *Homeschooling: The Teen Years*. Prima Publishing, 2000, ISBN 978-0761520931

Dobson, Linda. *The First Year of Homeschooling Your Child: Your Complete Guide to Getting Off to the Right Start*. Three Rivers Press, 2001, ISBN 978-0761527886

Dowty, Terri and Kitt Cowlishaw. *Home Educating Our Autistic Spectrum Children*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2002, 978-1843100379

Duffy, Cathy. *100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum: Choosing the Right Curriculum and Approach for Your Child's Learning Style*. B&H Publishing Group, 2005, ISBN 978-0805431384

Fields, Christine M. *Homeschooling the Challenging Child: A Practical Guide*. B&H Publishing Group, 2005, ISBN 978-0805430783

Holt, John. *Teach Your Own: The John Holt Book of Homeschooling*. Da Capo Press, 2003, ISBN 978-0738206943

Pyles, Lise. *Homeschooling the Child with Asperger Syndrome: Real Help for Parents Anywhere and on Any Budget*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2004v , ISBN 978-1843107613

Rupp, Rebecca. *Home Learning Year by Year: How to Design a Homeschool Curriculum from Preschool through High School*. Three Rivers Press, 2000, ISBN 978-0609805855

Home Education: Periodicals

Home Education Magazine, www.homeedmag.com

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, www.thehomeschoolmagazine.com

Home Education: Preschool and Kindergarten

Britton, Lesley. *Montessori Play and Learn: A Parents Guide to Purposeful Play from Two to Six*. Three Rivers Press, 1992, 978-0517591826.

Oberlander, June. *Slow and Steady Get Me Ready*. Xulon, 2002, ISBN 978-1591602361

Trelease, Jim. *The Read-Aloud Handbook*, sixth ed. Penguin, 2006, ISBN 978-0143037392

Home Education: Elementary, Core Areas

History

Bauer, Susan Wise. *The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child* series, Peace Hill Press.

Volume 1, Ancient Times: From the Earliest Nomads to the Last Roman Emperor, rev. ed. 2006, ISBN 978-1933339009

Volume 1, Ancient Times Activity Book (curriculum guide for parents), rev. ed. 2006, ISBN 978-1933339054

Volume 2, The Middle Ages: From the Fall of Rome to the Rise of the Renaissance, rev. ed. 2007, ISBN 978-1933339092

Volume 2, The Middle Ages Activity Book (curriculum guide for parents), rev. ed. 2008, ISBN 978-1933339139

Volume 3, Early Modern Times: From Elizabeth the First to the Forty-Niners. 2004, ISBN 978-0971412996

Volume 3, Early Modern Times Activity Book (curriculum guide for parents) 2004, ISBN 978-0972860321

Volume 4, The Modern Age: From Victorias Empire to the End of the USSR 2005, ISBN 978-0972860338

Volume 4, The Modern Age Activity Book (curriculum guide for parents) 2005, ISBN 978-0972860352

Bingham, Jane, Fiona Chandler and Sam Taplin. *The Usborne Internet-Linked Encyclopedia of World History*. E.D.C. Publishing, 2003, ISBN 978-0746041680

From Sea to Shining Sea series. Childrens Press, 2008.

This series has one title for each state (i.e., *Washington: From Sea to Shining Sea* by Christine Weber).

Johnston, Robert D. *The Making of America: The History of the United States from 1492 to the Present*. National Geographica, 2002, ISBN 978-0792269441

King, David C. *Childrens Encyclopedia of American History*. Smithsonian/Dorling Kindersley, 2003, ISBN 978-0789483300

Science

Arlon, Penelope. *DK First Animal Encyclopedia*. Dorling Kindersley, 2004, ISBN 978-0756602277

Brooks, Felicity. *The Usborne Internet-Linked First Encyclopedia of Our World*. Usborne Publishing, 2002, ISBN 978-0794507541

Dowswell, Paul. *The Usborne First Encyclopedia of Space*. Usborne Publishing, 2002, ISBN 978-0794500351

Firth, Rachel. *The Usborne Internet-Linked First Encyclopedia of Science*. Usborne Publishing, 2002, ISBN 978-0794502737

Keller, Rebecca. *Real Science-4-Kids* series. Published by Gravitas Publications, which does not have a distributor, but this is one of the best elementary science programs around. Pre-Level 1 Chemistry and Pre-Level 1 Biology are designed for elementary-grade students. Overview is at <http://gravitaspublications.com/products>

Tachell, Peter. *Usborne Internet-Linked Science Encyclopedia*. Usborne Publishing, 2003, ISBN 978-0794503314

Mandell, Muriel. *Physics Experiments for Children*. Dover Publications, 1968, ISBN 978-0486220338

Mebane, Robert. *Adventures with Atoms and Molecules*. Enslow Publishers, 1998, ISBN 978-0766012240

Rey, H. A. *The Stars: A New Way to See Them*, rev. ed. Houghton Mifflin, 1976, 978-0395248300

Walker, Richard and Roy Palmer. *The Kingfisher First Human Body Encyclopedia*. Kingfisher, 1999, ISBN 978-0756609979

Zike, Dinah and Susan Simpson. *Great Science Adventures* series. Published by Common Sense Press, which does not have a distributor but which publishes popular books for science and language arts. The overview of the series can be found at <http://www.common sensepress.com/greatscience/default.htm>

Language Arts

Grammar

Voyages in English, Loyola Press, 2006.

Not usually available in bookstores, this is a great nonsectarian grammar program published by a Jesuit press--each level has a student book and a teacher guide. Overview is at <http://www.loyolapress.com/voyages-in-english-writing-and-grammar-about-the-program.htm>

Wise, Jessie. *First Language Lessons* series, Peace Hill Press
First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind, Level 1
2010, ISBN 978-1933339443

First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind, Level 2
2010, ISBN 978-1933339450

First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind, Level 3 (Instructor Guide)
2007, ISBN 978-1933339078

First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind, Level 3 (Student Workbook)
2007, ISBN 978-1933339085

First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind, Level 4 (Instructor Guide)
2008, ISBN 978-1933339344

First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind, Level 4 (Student Workbook)
2008, ISBN 978-1933339337

Handwriting

Olsen, Jan. *Handwriting Without Tears*.

Published by Handwriting Without Tears, this is one of the top handwriting programs. Not usually available in bookstores; overview at <http://shopping.hwtears.com/category/workbooks-guides>

Zaner-Bloser Handwriting.

The other top handwriting program. Also not usually found in bookstores; overview at <http://www.zaner-bloser.com/educator/products/handwriting/index.aspx?id=106>

Literature

Hirsch, E. D. and John Holdren. *Books to Build On: A Grade by Grade Resource Guide for Parents and Teachers*. Delta, 1996, ISBN 978-0385316408

Learning Language Arts Through Literature, Common Sense Press. Series overview at <http://www.common sensepress.com/covers.htm>

The Blue Book (First Grade)

The Red Book (Second Grade)

The Yellow Book (Third Grade)

The Orange Book (Fourth Grade)

Wilson, Elizabeth L., and Susan Schaeffer Macaulay. *Books Children Love: A Guide to the Best Childrens Literature*, rev. ed. Crossway, 2002, ISBN 978-1581341980

Reading

Engelmann, Siegfried. *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*. Fireside, 1986, ISBN 978-0671631987

Explode the Code series. Educators Publishing Service, 2003
Books 1-8 provide an excellent phonics program. I don't think ETC is available generally through bookstores, but the program is very popular with home educators; overview at http://intervention.schoolspecialty.com/downloads/povs/S-explode_the_code.pdf

Maslen, Bobby Lynn. *Bob Books, Scholastic*, 2006

Set 1: Beginning Readers, 2006, ISBN 978-0439845007

Set 2: Advancing Beginners, 2006, ISBN 978-0439845021

Set 3: Word Families, ISBN 978-0439845090

Set 4: Compound Words, ISBN 978-0439845069

Set 5: Long Vowels, ISBN 978-0439865418

Wise, Jessie and Sara Buffington. *The Ordinary Parents Guide to Teaching Reading*. Peace Hill Press, 2004, ISBN 978-0972860314

Spelling

Adams-Gordon, Beverly L. *Spelling Power*, fourth ed. Castlemoyle Press, 2006, ISBN 978-1888827392

Spelling Workout series. Modern Curriculum Press-Pearson Learning Group, 2002. Levels A-E cover the elementary grades: overview at <http://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?PMDbSiteIdz2781&PMDbSolutionIdz6724&PMDbSubSolutionIdz6731&PMDbCategoryIdz3289&PMDbSubCategoryIdz&PMDbProgramIdz836&levelz4&locatorzPSZ155>

Writing

Bauer, Susan Wise. *The Complete Writer: Writing With Ease* series, Peace Hill Press. *Strong Fundamentals* (core text), 2008, ISBN 978-1933339252

Level 1 Workbook for Writing With Ease, 2008, ISBN 978-1933339269

Level 2 Workbook for Writing With Ease, 2008, ISBN 978-1933339290

Level 3 Workbook for Writing With Ease, upcoming in 2009, ISBN 978-1-933339-30-6

Marks, Dave. *Writing Strands* series. National Writing Institute.

Level 1, ISBN 978-1888344462

Level 2, ISBN 978-1888344127

Level 3, ISBN 978-1888344103

Level 4, ISBN 978-1888344097

Evaluating Writing, ISBN 978-1888344059

Mathematics

Right Start Mathematics, Activities for Learning, Inc.

Starter kits for Levels A, B, C, D, and E are all elementary-level. This is a great math program, not usually available through bookstores. Overview can be found at <http://www.alabacus.com/pageView.cfm?pageIDz270>

Saxon Math

Now published by Harcourt Achieve. Each level of K-4 comes in a complete kit: http://saxonpublishers.harcourtachieve.com/en-US/sxnm_home

Singapore Math, U. S. edition.

Innovative and very popular program which is a good alternative to the drill-heavy methods of Saxon. The U.S. distributor is Singapore Math; overview of the program is at http://www.singaporemath.com/Primary_Mathematics_US_Ed_s/39.htm. Each year's study has two textbooks (i.e. 2A and 2B for the first and second semesters of second grade) and two workbooks.

Home Education: Middle School, Core Areas

History

Bockenbauer, Mark H. *Our Fifty States*. National Geographic, 2004, ISBN 978-0792264026

The Concise History Encyclopedia. Kingfisher, 2001, ISBN 978-0753454176

Hakim, Joy. *A History of US*, third ed. Oxford University Press, 2007. Books 1-11

Hammond Historical World Atlas, rev. and exp. ed. Hammond, 2000, ISBN 978-0843713916

Lewis, Jon, *The Mammoth Book of How It Happened: Eyewitness Accounts of Great Historical Moments*, rev. and upd. Running Press, 2006, ISBN 978-0786717033

Waldman, Carl. *Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes*, 3rd ed. Checkmark Books, 2006, ISBN 978-0816062744

Science

Dorling Kindersley Visual Encyclopedia of Science. Dorling Kindersley, 2005, ISBN 978-0756607005

Keller, Rebecca. *Real Science-4-Kids* series. Published by Gravitas Publications, which does not have a distributor, but this is one of the best elementary science programs around. Level 1 Chemistry, Level 1 Biology, and Level 1 Physics are designed for elementary-grade students.

Overview is at <http://gravitaspublications.com/products/>

Kneidel, Sally. *Creepy Crawlies and the Scientific Method*. Fulcrum Publishing, 1993, ISBN 978-1555911188

Trombley, Linda and Thomas G. Cohn. *Mastering the Periodic Table: Exercises on the Elements*. Walch Education, 2002, ISBN 978-0825139376

Van Cleave, Janice. *Science For Every Kid* series. John Wiley.

Series includes, for example, *Biology for Every Kid: 101 Experiments That Really Work* ISBN 978-0471503811

Language Arts

Grammar

Basic Skills: Language Arts. Frank Schaffer Publications.

Better Sentence Structure Through Diagramming 1, ISBN 978-1568221755

Better Sentence Structure Through Diagramming 2, ISBN 978-1568221762

Shurley English Homeschool Edition. Shurley Instructional Materials, Inc.

The most widely used grammar program for homeschool students above fifth grade (the lower levels are not as good). Comes in kits: overview at <http://www.shurley.com/hs/index.jsp?gozcatalog>

Voyages in English, Loyola Press, 2006.

Continues from elementary into the middle grades: overview is at <http://www.loyolapress.com/voyages-in-english-writing-and-grammar-about-the-program.htm>

Literature

Learning Language Arts Through Literature, Common Sense Press. Series overview at <http://www.common sensepress.com/covers.htm>

The Purple Book (Fifth Grade)

The Tan Book (Sixth Grade)

The Green Book (Seventh Grade)

The Gray Book (Eighth Grade)

Lipson, Eden Ross. *The New York Times Parents Guide to the Best Books for Children*, third ed. Three Rivers Press, 2000, ISBN 978-0812930184

Spelling/Word Study

Fifer, Norma and Nancy Flowers. *Vocabulary from Classical Roots* series. Educators Publishing Service. Widely used, especially among traditional home schoolers and those preparing for standardised tests: overview at <http://epsbooks.com/dynamic/catalog/program.asp?seriesonlyz2252M>

Spelling Workout series. Modern Curriculum Press-Pearson Learning Group, 2002. Levels D, E, F, G, and H cover the middle grades: overview at <http://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?PMDbSiteIdz2781&PMDbSolutionIdz6724&PMDbSubSolutionIdz6731&PMDbCategoryIdz3289&PMDbSubCategoryIdz&PMDbProgramIdz836&levelz4&locatorzPSZ155>

Wordly Wise 3000, Educators Publishing Service. The most widely-used vocabulary program among home educators; overview is at <http://epsbooks.com/dynamic/catalog/subject.asp?subjectz61S>

Writing

Marks, Dave. *Writing Strands* series. National Writing Institute.

Level 5, ISBN 978-1888344080

Level 6, ISBN 978-1888344066

Level 7, ISBN 978-1888344073

Writing Exposition, ISBN 978-1888344028

Wordsmith series. Published by Common Sense Press, a good solid self-directed writing program that runs from fourth grade into early high school. Overview is at <http://www.common sensepress.com/wordsmith.htm>

Mathematics

Saxon Math

Saxon Math Intermediate and Saxon Math Middle Grades are now published by Harcourt Achieve <http://saxonpublishers.hmhco.com/en/saxonpublishers.htm>

Schmidt, Stanley. *Life of Fred* series. Polka Dot Publishing. This program is making huge strides with home educators. Its a narrative approach to math that works incredibly well and encourages students to think of math as a subject rather than an unpleasant set of puzzles. Overview is at <http://www.stanleyschmidt.com/FredGauss/11catofbooks.html>

Singapore Math, U. S. edition.

Innovative program continues on into middle school with New Elementary Math: http://www.singaporemath.com/New_Elementary_Math_s/47.htm

Stenmark, Jean and Virginia Thompson. *Family Math*, 18th ed. University of California, 1996, ISBN 978-0912511061

Teaching Textbooks series. This is a great new series that begins with Math 5; the middle-school levels would be Math 5, Math 6, Math 7, and Pre-Algebra. The tutorials are a combination of text and DVD--high quality and innovative. Overview is at <http://teachingtextbooks.com>

Thompson, Virginia. *Family Math: The Middle School Years*, third ed. University of California, 1998, ISBN 978-0912511290

Home Education: Supplementary Areas

Critical thinking and study skills

Boynton, Alice and Wiley Blevins. *Teaching Students to Read Nonfiction*. Scholastic, 2003.

Grades 2-4, ISBN 978-0439376587

Grades 4 and Up, ISBN 978-0439376525

Building Thinking Skills series, *Critical Thinking Book One*, *Critical Thinking Book Two*, all from Critical Thinking Press. Very popular books among educators. Overviews can be found at http://www.criticalthinking.com/series/052/index_p.html and at http://www.criticalthinking.com/series/012/index_p.html

Mueller, Mary. *Study Skills Strategies: Outlining*. Walch Education, 2003, ISBN 978-0825146053

Pearce, Q. L. *Note Taking and Outlining*. Frank Schaffer Publications, 2003

Grades 3-5, ISBN 978-0742418301

Grades 6-8, ISBN 978-0742418400

Fine arts

Artistic Pursuits: The Curriculum for Creativity series. Artistic Pursuits, 2008
Small publisher with no distributor, but this is probably the best parent-centered complete art curriculum around. An overview can be found at <http://artisticpursuits.com/>

Brookes, Mona. *Drawing With Children*, rev. ed. Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, 1996, ISBN 978-0874778274

Strickland, Carol. *The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Post-Modern*, 2nd ed. Andrews McMeel, 2007, ISBN 978-0740768729

Wilkins, David G. *The Collins Big Book of Art: From Cave Art to Pop Art*. Collins Design, 2005, ISBN 978-0060832858

Foreign language

Linney, William E. *Getting Started with Latin: Beginning Latin for Homeschoolers and Self-Taught Students of Any Age*. Armfield Academic Press, 2007, ISBN 978-0979505102

Bell, Barbara. Minimus Latin series. Cambridge University Press.

Minimus Pupils Book: Starting Out in Latin

2000, ISBN 978-0521659604

Minimus Teachers Resource Book: Starting Out in Latin

2000, ISBN 978-0521659611

Minimus Secundus Pupils Book: Moving On in Latin

2000, ISBN 978-0521659611

Minimus Secundus Teachers Resource Book: Moving On in Latin.

2004, ISBN 978-0521755467

Rosetta Stone Language Learning

Rosetta Stone Homeschool Editions are a top choice for home educating parents: www.RosettaStone.com

To read this pamphlet online with hyperlinks, please visit <http://welltrainedmind.com/homeschoolsection.pdf>



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