

I WANT TO HOMESCHOOL, NOW WHAT?

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CONSIDER YOUR WHY

Take some time to think about why you've decided to homeschool. I'd encourage you to jot it down, pray over it, and ask yourself some questions. There will be hard days, days you want to quit. Maybe write your why on a notecard to keep as an encouraging reminder for those difficult days. Keep coming back to your why and filter all of the ideas and dreams you have for your homeschool through those reasons. This will help you decide what's best for your family when others may be going a different direction.

RESEARCH YOUR STATE GUIDELINES

Every state has unique guidelines and rules for homeschooling your children. Honestly, I think it's crazy that the state can tell you how and what in this area buuut I digress. You can find the info you need for your state [here](#). You'll find that most states are low regulation but there are a few with several requirements and guidelines. The good news is that as a country, it is perfectly legal to teach your child at home!

WHAT'S YOUR STYLE

There are seriously so many educational philosophies and approaches to homeschooling. When we first started I bought a complete curriculum and quickly realized I had spent too much money on too many things we didn't use or need. Before you order a thing, I would highly recommend taking [this homeschool styles quiz](#) and see what resonates with you. Ask yourself, "Does this style line up with my Why and my values for our lifestyle?" For us, we lean toward the Charlotte Mason philosophy.

COMPARISON TRAP

Stay off the gram. Seriously. There are so many people out there seemingly doing it better than you. But guess what? They are not the mother of your children. Following all the homeschool accounts will only overwhelm you, especially in the beginning. If you're going to look to social media for ideas or advice, be selective. Maybe choose only 2-3 accounts to follow that seem to line up with your why and the homeschool style you've chosen. Before you make any changes to your plan ALWAYS filter your decision through your Why!





YOU ARE QUALIFIED

Lean in Mama and listen closely...YOU ARE MORE THAN QUALIFIED AND CAPABLE of teaching your children at home. After all, you know them best. You're the expert on each one of your babies. You know their learning style, what drives them and encourages them. It does not matter if you have a background in education or a college degree. *In fact, being a classroom teacher actually negatively effected our homeschool for the first 2-3 years.* I made so many mistakes trying to recreate public school learning at home instead of simply learning alongside my children. God's Word tells us that He will equip you to do the work he's asked you to do. BUT he's asking you to trust him and take the first step.

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OUR STORY

Way back when, I was a public school teacher. I honestly never considered being anything else. Well, except for that one time I took Econ 101 so I could go into banking and finance and very quickly realized it was not for me. I loved teaching, BUT I quickly realized that I was teaching to a test that I found no value in. I was growing discontent with my profession and simultaneously longing to stay at home with our daughters. So, I started praying. Praying that God would somehow, someway open a door financially so that I could quit my teaching job and stay home. At the time I had no intentions of homeschooling. Like, it wasn't even on my radar. Eventually, I quit my teaching job and honestly, we had no plan as to how we were going to make up the income but we did have clear direction from the Lord that I was made to be at home with our children.

Next thing I knew, it was time to think about Kindergarten for my oldest. I knew I didn't want her sitting at a desk all day prepping for tests but I had no solution. Again, I turned to the Lord in prayer and he answered. Everywhere I turned all I heard was homeschool. Homeschool on the radio, homeschool on social media, homeschool in my heart. I knew it was what the Lord was asking me to do but I needed support from my husband and that would take some serious prayer! WE argued. There was tension. But eventually I asked the Lord to change my heart or his and He did. One night my husband just rolled over in bed and said he thought I should homeschool. I just sobbed tears of gratitude for answered prayers.

We had next to no support from friends or family. Everyone thought we were crazy BUT fast forward 10 years and here I am encouraging others to do the same. It's been a wild ride but it's hands down my greatest blessing being home with my girls, doing what I love!

LET'S TALK CURRICULUM

Before you start adding to cart, I have a few suggestions for you and some things I'd like you to consider.

First, consider your educational style from the quiz above and do a little research into that philosophy. This will help you filter through all of the noise as you search for what you actually need. Speaking of need... in my opinion less is more and the younger your child is, the less "stuff" you need to teach them. These 3 things will go a long way in your child's education...

1

a library card

2

the great outdoors

3

art supplies

Books, books, and more books. Read to your child every day and as they become readers, have them read every day. An excellent resource for reading encouragement is [Read Aloud Revival](#). There's so much on the website and the podcast is a must listen while you're doing housework.

Get outside! Read outside, play outside, explore outside. Kids learn so much from the world around them and getting to "do school" wherever you want is a HUGE homeschool perk. I highly recommend nature study as your science for the elementary years. This [study is great](#) as well as [this one](#) but what you really need is just to be outside exploring and allowing minds to question and wonder. See what interests your child and learn all you can about it!

A sketchbook and a pencil can go a long way! Drawing and taking notes is a great way for kids to document what they've noticed and learned. It's also a beautiful way to document their childhood and education. I have sketchbooks from each of our children that I will treasure always.



You're thinking,

"That's great, but seriously, what curriculum do you use Autumn?"

Over the years we've tried a few. Some we love and some were just ok for us. A curriculum that has been especially helpful for Language Arts and Math is [The Good and The Beautiful](#). It's written as a Christian homeschool curriculum and isn't full of fluff. However, I do recommend that you take a look at the placement quiz. I think you'll find TGTB to be advanced in comparison to state standards so you may want to adjust your child's level accordingly. One of my favorite things about TGTB is that the Language Arts curriculum incorporates art study, geography, grammar, as well as writing! As for Science & History, these are subjects we do as a family for the most part. As I said before, we use nature study in place of a science curriculum for the elementary years. After that I've found the science units from The Good and the Beautiful to be a nice fit. A lot of our history is learned based on interest and through literature. For example, we studied WWII through read alouds and independent novels. My best advice is, don't overthink it! You can stop and start any curriculum at any time. Do what you believe is best for your child's learning style.

SOME HELPFUL RESOURCES

[A Homeschool Morning Day in the Life](#)

[5 Things You Need to Preschool at Home](#)

[Books We Use and Love](#)

[Tiny Theologians](#)

[Yoto Player Discount](#)

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this resource
helpful?
If so, share it
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