



Homeschooling: Getting Started

Vicki Bentley, HSLDA Toddlers to Tweens Consultant

Pre-Trip Planning Checklist (or: I feel overwhelmed! Where do I begin?)

(Excerpted/Adapted from www.hsllda.org/earlyyears)

Research homeschooling

Research your state's homeschool law

Yes, Virginia (and North Carolina, and Maryland. . .), it is legal to homeschool! Basically, you should:

Join support organizations

You don't have to make this trip alone! Consider membership in any of the national, state, and local organizations that exist to help you. Some suggestions include:

- Home School Legal Defense Association (www.hsllda.org or 540-338-5600)
- State organization
- Local support groups (check with HSLDA/your state organization for local groups)
- Specialized support groups, such as those for families of special needs children (e.g., www.NATHHAN.com) or those based on particular interests such as sports, 4-H, etc.

Set goals

Why are you homeschooling? What is your idea of an education? What would you be doing if nobody told you that your five-year-old (or other compulsory attendance age) had to leave home?

Choose curriculum

By definition, your *curriculum* is your “course of study”—your road map on this journey!

- Keep evaluating all your choices against those goals you have set for your family and for each child.

Purchase supplies

Establish a schedule

Six Tips for Success:

“ED’ U CATE, v.t. [L. educo, educare; e and duco, to lead; It. Educare: Sp. Educar] To bring up, as a child; to instruct; to inform and enlighten the understanding; to instill into the mind principles of arts, science, morals, religion and behavior. To educate children well is one of the most important duties of parents and guardians.

ED U CA’ TION, n. [[L. educatio] The bringing up, as of a child; instruction; formation of manners. Education comprehends all that series of instruction and discipline which is intended to enlighten the understanding, correct the temper, and form the manners and habits of youth and fit them for usefulness in their future stations. To give children a good education in manners, arts, and science is important; to give them a religious education is indispensable; and an immense responsibility rests on parents and guardians who neglect these duties.”

(Noah Webster in First Edition of an American Dictionary of the English Language, 1828)

“And these words which I am commanding you today shall be on your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”
(Deuteronomy 6:6-8, KJV)