



Start  
**HOMESCHOOLING:**  
A PLANNING GUIDE



# Find THE WHY:

Why? I know as parents we get asked this question SO MANY TIMES!! Probably enough times that, honestly, if we never heard it again, it would be too soon. BUT, to start your homeschool journey right, you need to find your “why.” Your “why” will get you through the tough times. It will be a reminder when you just want to throw up your hands and give up (because trust me, there will be those days). Your “why” will guide you in making the decisions that are best for you, your kids, and your homeschool. It will be the force behind what keeps you going.

## SO HOW TO FIND YOUR WHY?

Step 1: Brain dump all the reasons you want to homeschool.

Step 2: Circle the top 3 reasons (the most meaningful).

Step 3: Now, form those into a sentence or two.

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Step 4: Write this down somewhere you will see it often!





# Find THE HOW:

How? Now that you have found your “why” for homeschooling let’s discuss the how. Unfortunately, there is no clear cut, this is what every state does, or this is how every homeschool should look. So the best option for you on the legal side is to either look at your state’s Department of Education website for the laws governing homeschooling, or you can follow the advice of HSDLA.

WRITE DOWN ANY REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR STATE HERE:

How many hours or days? \_\_\_\_\_

Do they need to be tracked? \_\_\_\_\_

What subjects are required? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need to notify anyone? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need to save or turn in lesson plans? \_\_\_\_\_

Is testing required? If so, how often? \_\_\_\_\_

Do I need to save samples of work? How long? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other information needed:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





# Find THE WHO:

Next, you need to figure out "who" you are teaching and "who" you are as a teacher. So first, let's discuss **YOU**. What kind of teacher are you going to be? Type "A," involved, actively teaching, more structure, or do you prefer Type "B," maybe student-led, open to going down a rabbit hole, and less structured. Once you have this figured out, it will significantly help you find a curriculum that will work well for your family. Because while the curriculum must work for your kid, it also needs to be something that you, as the teacher, will be excited to teach.

## Type A:

- This might be you if:
  - you plan EVERYTHING
  - you don't mind involved lesson plans
  - Having a schedule is a must

If this sounds like you, you will likely prefer a more structured homeschool. Something similar to school-at-home or traditional school.

## Type B:

- This might be you if:
  - you love to go with the flow
  - Planning ahead sounds constraining
  - you don't mind plans being changed

If this sounds like you, you might prefer a less structured homeschool, like unit studies, unschooling, or eclectic homeschool.

I am/will be a \_\_\_\_\_  
homeschool teacher.





# Find THE WHO (CONT.):

Now that you know what type of teacher you would like to be let's discuss your student. What type of learner is your student? There are three typical types of learners: visual, auditory, and hands-on.

You might have a **visual learner** if:

- They pay attention to detail
- Enjoy reading and are good spellers
- Likely not very talkative

**Tips:** Visual learners will do better in an environment with little distractions, they will likely do well to color-code notes, and flashcards would be a big plus.

You might have an **auditory learner** if:

- They may read aloud when reading to themselves
- Often sing or make noises
- Can't concentrate if it is noisy

**Tips:** Give directions aloud instead of written, read any material they need to learn aloud, and use rhymes to help them memorize information.

You might have a **hands-on learner** if:

- They move around a lot and don't like to sit still
- Don't mind getting in the middle of a project
- Talk with hands or gestures

**Tips:** Out-of-the-box thinking will be best for the hands-on learner. Moving around while listening to a book. Going outside while doing math facts and items like manipulatives will be a big help.

My child is a \_\_\_\_\_ learner.





# Find THE WHAT:

So “what” kind of homeschool will you have? For a thorough look at the different options, check out this [blog post](#).

## Quick Breakdown:

- Charlotte Mason
  - Living Books
  - Dictation and Narration
  - Learning from nature
- Classical
  - Living Books
  - Rhythm and pattern to learning
  - Memory Work
- Eclectic
  - Pick and choose curriculum
  - Able to suit needs of student
  - Requires teacher to build program
- School-at-Home
  - Follows standards
  - Great if you plan to only homeschool for short period
  - Several online options available
- Unit Studies
  - High interest
  - Cohesive theme for all subjects
  - Requires prep by teacher
- Unschooling
  - Flexible
  - Student-led by interests
  - May be hard to do in highly regulated states.

Knowing what type of homeschool style you like will help you to find a curriculum that will fit your students needs and learning style.

Our homeschool style is

\_\_\_\_\_.





# Find THE WHAT (CONT.):

Now, what are you teaching? Most states require specific subjects to be taught, and then you can add in electives. The most common are listed below. You likely will not cover all of these in one year. Add any extra you want to cover.

Check off what you are wanting to cover in your homeschool.

(note: these may change as you progress through the grades)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LANGUAGE ARTS / ENGLISH | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GRAMMAR                 | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WRITING                 | <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL EDUCATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HANDWRITING             | <input type="checkbox"/> COMPUTERS          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPELLING                | <input type="checkbox"/> FOREIGN LANGUAGE   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> READING                 | <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MATHEMATICS             | <input type="checkbox"/> CRITICAL THINKING  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE                 | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL STUDIES          | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GEOGRAPHY               | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY                 | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIBLE                   | <input type="checkbox"/>                    |

Use the next page to plan your curriculum choices.





# CurriculumTRACKER

WHAT:

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

PURCHASE FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

DISLIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MUCH: \_\_\_\_\_  PURCHASED?  REUSABLE?

WHAT:

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

PURCHASE FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

DISLIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MUCH: \_\_\_\_\_  PURCHASED?  REUSABLE?

WHAT:

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

PURCHASE FROM: \_\_\_\_\_

LIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

DISLIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW MUCH: \_\_\_\_\_  PURCHASED?  REUSABLE?





# Find THE WHEN:

We are getting so close to being ready to homeschool! Only a couple more things to cover. Up next is the “when.” When do you plan to homeschool? Some people choose to school year-round. Meaning they do school almost every month of the year but may take several weeks off throughout the year. You can do a traditional year, starting in August/September and schooling through to May/June. And what about how many days a week? Are you going to school for five days, four days, or something else? What time of day will you school? Some students do well with traditional school hours, but some families find that early afternoon and evening are better for learning. Make sure to consider what is required for your state when making these decisions. And remember, one of the greatest things about homeschooling is the flexibility to make these decisions!

We will start each new school year in \_\_\_\_\_ .

We will end each school year in \_\_\_\_\_ .

We plan to do school \_\_\_\_\_ days a week.

Most of our schooling will be done \_\_\_\_\_ .

We will do \_\_\_\_\_ hours a day.

We will do \_\_\_\_\_ days/hours a year.

When we plan to have off each year:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Find THE WHEN (CONT.):

Whether you are a Type “A” or a Type “B” person, it might be good to make up a schedule of how you want your day to go. For the Type “A” person, this will be an excellent way to stay on top of what needs to be covered and make sure you are on plan. For Type “B” people, this will be a good guy to help you make sure that the things that need to be covered are but gives you some flexibility to follow the learning wherever it goes. Some states also require that you keep track of days or hours or keep a plan book of what is covered. I have created this planner to help you plan for your homeschooling journey. I would love it if you checked it out. I have included an undated month overview from the planner.



# Month Overview

S	M	T	W	T	F	S

## IMPORTANT DATES

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## BOOKS:

## PROJECTS:

## FIELD TRIPS:

## GOALS FOR THIS MONTH:

# FOCUS:

# TO-DO'S

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# ATTENDANCE:

HOURS		HOURS	
1		16	
2		17	
3		18	
4		19	
5		20	
6		21	
7		22	
8		23	
9		24	
10		25	
11		26	
12		27	
13		28	
14		29	
15		30	
		31	

The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.  
-Lao Tzu



# Find THE WHERE:

Next up, “where.” Where will you homeschool? The options are limitless. Another of the great things about homeschooling is that you are not confined to a desk. (but if your student learns better sitting at a desk, that’s totally fine!) If you have enough room to have a dedicated homeschool room, that’s great! If not, the kitchen table makes a great place for learning. We have a desk in our living room for computer work, but most learning is done around the kitchen table. On nice days you may find us outside. Or, if we are having a lazy day, you might find the kids doing school from their beds. Where ever you choose to do homeschool is fine. My only suggestion is to have somewhere in your house where all the school stuff belongs. My kids have clear totes with latches that all their school books go in when we are done with school. This helps to keep everything organized and keeps books from being lost. We have also used a rolling cart to keep all the supplies in when they were in lower grades. This made things super easy to find and for the kids to access. So, where will you homeschool?

We will homeschool \_\_\_\_\_.

We will keep all our supplies \_\_\_\_\_  
so they can be found easily and we will be able to start each day without  
having to frantically look for books.

\* This tip alone has helped to save my sanity. Staying organized has greatly improved our productivity and helped make a more enjoyable homeschooling day.





# Time to START!

Now it is time to START your homeschool journey. You've answered all the questions that will set you on your path to success. Remember your "why" when the days are rough. Fall back on your "how" when things get a little crazy. Use your "when" and "where" to stay organized. And don't lose track of the "who." Make sure that you are doing what is best for you and your child in all your decisions. Use this guide to fall back on or as a refresher at the beginning of each school year.

And remember:

# You got THIS!

And I would love to help you on your journey!  
Connect with us here:



# Notes

