

# **CHOOSING CURRICULUM: WHERE TO BEGIN?**

**THE CONFIDENT HOMESCHOOLER**



# CHOOSING CURRICULUM

"What do I teach my children? Where do I begin?  
There are so many options & I'm totally overwhelmed!"

This step in the homeschooling process can be so paralyzing. I have received these questions more times than I can count & I can remember having the same questions myself.

I have created this guide to help you weed through the options. I want you to have some focus and direction when you are scouring the internet for the best options for your family.

On the next few pages you will receive some tips as well as some questions to ask yourself before you start your research.

I truly hope this serves you & your family and helps you in your Homeschooling Journey!

Sincerely,  
Serena Ryan

# LET'S ADDRESS THIS FIRST...

## **YOU WILL MOST LIKELY CHOOSE THE WRONG CURRICULUM AT SOME POINT AND THAT IS OKAY!**

**It is OKAY to admit a curriculum isn't working for your family.  
It is OKAY to switch curriculum in the middle of the school year.  
It is OKAY to use a curriculum that no one else you know uses.  
It is OKAY if a curriculum works well for one child & not for another.**

Every homeschooling parent has purchased something for their homeschool that they end up either not using or not liking. I promise it is ok and there are so many buy/sell/trade curriculum Facebook Groups out there for when this inevitably happens. You can do all of the research in the world and every other homeschooling parent in your co-op may love this particular curriculum...and you try it out with your child and you both loathe it. It's just not the right fit. No big deal.

Our children are NOT 'one-size-fits-all' so the "best" curriculum that your neighbor's child loves may not be the right fit for your child. And we as our child's educators are NOT 'one-size-fits-all'. Some parents love lessons with a lot of prep work and actually enjoy it. Some parents are juggling work or multiple children and don't have as much time for prep. What works for our family may not work for yours and vice versa. That is the beauty of homeschooling: having the freedom & flexibility to try different things & do what works for EACH child.

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

Spend some time answering these questions & it will help narrow your search for curriculum.

**Do you want a Boxed Curriculum** (All-in-one grade-level curricula such as Abeka, Our Father's World, Sonlight, Timberdoodle, etc) **or do you want to piece together your own curriculum from various sources** (have a different company for Math & a different one for Language Arts)?

**Do you want Christian Curriculum or Secular Curriculum?**

This will definitely help you narrow your search

**Do you want online/ virtual curriculum or physical printed curriculum?**

What would be best for each individual child & also for you as their teacher? You can also do a few classes/ subjects virtually and some printed.

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

**Do you want a curriculum rich in Literature? Do you want there to be a lot of reading aloud?** (Sonlight and Build Your Library are 2 great examples)

**Do you want a curriculum that is worksheet heavy?**

**What method of homeschooling (if any) are you going to use/ try?**  
(Charlotte Mason? Classical? Montessori? Waldorf? Unschooling? Etc)  
There are curricula companies that specifically use one of these methods.

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

## **What is your child's learning style? Auditory? Visual? Tactile?**

Do they need more hands on lessons? Do they need to watch something to understand it? Can they hear something & memorize easily?

## **What is your teaching style and how much prep work do you desire?**

What subjects do you love that you're excited to teach and which subjects do you think you will need some more help with?

## **What subjects are required in your state/ country?**

What subjects do you & your child want to cover?

## **Also, do you want curriculum that meets "Common Core" Standards?**

This is especially important if you only plan to homeschool temporarily & then have your children attend public school again.

# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

**What is your budget? How much do you want to spend per child each year?**

**Do you have time constraints?** (Example: Working Parents)

**Do you want to utilize Unit Studies?** (Example: Gather 'Round)  
You can also plan & create your own Unit Studies.

# TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT CURRICULUM

## ASK A FRIEND

Ask other families & local homeschoolers if you can take a look at what they use. Ask others for their opinions & experiences.

## YOUTUBE

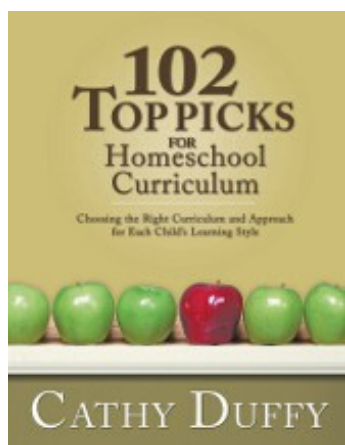
Parent reviews on YouTube are incredibly helpful. I love seeing others flip through the books to really get a good look & hear what they love & don't love.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Join some Facebook Groups of parents that use that particular curriculum to learn more. You can also search hashtags on Instagram to find others using it.

## BLOGS

There are so many homeschooling parents that Blog about Curriculum. Google search "--name of curriculum-- + blog".

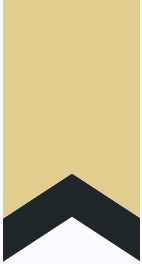


## CATHY DUFFY REVIEWS

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com>

<---- You can purchase her book or check it out at your local library.





SCHOOL YEAR: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

SUBJECTS WE NEED CURRICULUM FOR:

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UNIT STUDIES & OTHER  
SUBJECTS WE WANT TO  
LEARN ABOUT:

CURRICULA I AM CONSIDERING  
& RESEARCHING:

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