Choosing Curriculum the





Watch the "FAMILY Way" Video on choosing curriculum!

There are six factors that make each family unique: your **faith** (or philosophy distinctives), what **approach** you take to education, the **money** you have to spend, the **individuals** who make up your family, your family **life** circumstances and **you**, the homeschooling parent. Take time to think through your specific family factors as you research curriculum.

B-	Faith/Philosophy	Why are you homeschooling? What things do you consider the most important for your children to learn?
(Christian: Faith-based or including instructional religious content.	
N	Neutral: Avoids religious or theoretical topics or presents multiple viewpoints without preference.	
S	Secular: Contains content contrary to common Christian beliefs (i.e. evolution).	
A -	Approach to Teaching ————————————————————————————————————	What do you believe about how children learn? What is your vision for your homeschool?
	Traditional: Teacher-centered curriculum commonly used in classrooms that may include a text, teacher manual, tests, etc.	
٥	Charlotte Mason: A methodology based on the work of a 19th century educator who maintained that children learn best from literature (Living Books), not textbooks.	
	Classical: A methodology based on the Latin Trivium (three stages of learning), including the grammar stage (memorization and facts), logic stage (critical thinking), and rhetoric stage (developing/defending ideas).	
	Unit Study: A thematic or topical approach centered around one topic that integrates multiple subject areas.	
	Montessori: A methodology based on the work of a 20th century educator that emphasizes student and sensory-driven discovery learning and real-life applications.	
	Sequential: Curriculum progresses through well-defined learning objectives. Emphasizes mastery before moving to the next topic.	
6	Spiral: Topics and concepts are repeated from level to level, adding more depth at each pass and connecting with review.	
	Conceptual/Topical: Focus is on the "why," often with a unifying concept as well as specific skills; coverage may be broader.	
<u>M</u> -	Money —	What is your curriculum budget?
Whe	en looking at curriculum costs, consider the following:	
	hich components and resources will you need for e year?	
	e the materials reusable? Does the publisher update revise the material frequently?	continued

Choosing Curriculum the



©2025

Money continued...

- Which resource do you have more of: time or money?
 Compare costs of ready-to-use materials with those that must be prepared or gathered.
- Are there additional costs? Will you need resources that are not included with the curriculum?



Required: There are additional required resources that are a separate purchase.

Optional: There are additional resources mentioned or recommended but are not absolutely necessary.

Digital/Online: Some components require a computer/device and/or Internet access.

- Individual Auditory: Learns through listening, talking out loud

or reading out loud.

Visual: Learns through seeing, prefers written instructions and visual materials.

Kinesthetic/Tactile: Learns through moving, doing and touching.

Multi-sensory: Curriculum that employ a variety of activities/components

activities/components.

Are you educating young students, middle grades, high schoolers, or a mix? What events (a move, a new baby, illness, etc.) will be factors in your homeschool year?

Keep these in mind when evaluating the level of **teacher**

involvement and time required to implement a particular curriculum, detailed below.

Y

- You

– Life

Low Teacher Involvement: Student-led materials; parent acts as a facilitator.

Medium Teacher Involvement: A blend of parental direction and student independence. May flex based on student's age, ability, or curriculum.

High Teacher Involvement: Teacher-led lessons; may utilize discussions, hands-on activities and working together.

How much structure do YOU need? How confident are you about how to teach?

- If you are looking for heavy teaching support, look for curricula that offer more scripted lessons, step-by-step teacher instruction, solutions with explanations, etc.
- If you want more individual flexibility, look for curricula that offer less structure.

What c	are	your	time	limitations	and	priorities?

What season of life is your family in?

How does your child learn best? What motivates them?