# 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>(3</b> -	Faith/Philosophy —	Why are you homeschooling? What things do you consider the most important for your children to learn?
<b>(†)</b>	<b>Christian:</b> Faith-based or including instructional religious content.	
N	<b>Neutral:</b> Avoids religious or theoretical topics or presents multiple viewpoints without preference.	
S	<b>Secular:</b> Contains content contrary to common Christian beliefs (i.e. evolution).	
<b>A</b> -	Approach to Teaching —	What do you believe about how children learn? What is your vision for your homeschool?
	<b>Traditional:</b> Teacher-centered curriculum commonly used in classrooms that may include a text, teacher manual, tests, etc.	
<b>(1)</b>	<b>Charlotte Mason:</b> 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).	
	<b>Unit Study:</b> A thematic or topical approach centered around one topic that integrates multiple subject areas.	
	<b>Montessori:</b> A methodology based on the work of a 20th century educator that emphasizes student and sensory-driven discovery learning and real-life applications.	
	<b>Sequential:</b> Curriculum progresses through well-defined learning objectives. Emphasizes mastery before moving to the next topic.	
6	<b>Spiral:</b> Topics and concepts are repeated from level to level, adding more depth at each pass and connecting with review.	
	<b>Conceptual/Topical:</b> 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?	
	re the materials reusable? Does the publisher update revise the material frequently?	continued

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### Money continued...

\_ Life \_

- 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?
- All-inclusive: Everything you need is included.
- **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.

G	
Are you educating young students, middle grades, hig	gh
schoolers, or a mix? What events (a move, a new bab	οy,
illness, etc.) will be factors in your homeschool year?	
Keep these in mind when evaluating the level of <b>teac</b>	he

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

- Low Teacher Involvement: Student-led materials; parent acts as a facilitator.
- Medium Teacher Involvement: A mix of teacher-led time and independent student work.
- 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.

How does your child learn best? What motivates them?

What season of life is your family in?

What are your time limitations and priorities?