



The Stress-Free
Guide to

*Choosing
Homeschool
Curriculum*

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A Lessons Learned x 2 Product

About Us

Welcome to Lessons Learned x 2.

We are thrilled to have you join us!

Is this guide for you?

No matter if you are a new or experienced homeschool parent, we have all had years where curriculum selection is just plain tricky! Our extensive guide utilizes our 30+ years of homeschooling experience to help you narrow down your curriculum choices. Save time, money, AND stress by systematically working through this guide to find curriculum that fits YOUR FAMILY!

We have been there!

Between us, we have 12 children from kindergarten to college-aged and have homeschooled them all. We have experienced a lot! We are passionate about all things homeschooling and are excited to share our knowledge with you. Ultimately we want to share the lessons we have learned and aid you in having a stress-free homeschooling experience!

Whether you are considering beginning homeschooling, adjusting to a new season of homeschooling, or an experienced homeschooler who needs a different perspective-- we are here to support your journey.

-Sacha & Wendy, Lessons Learned x 2



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Getting Started

Have you started searching for next year's curriculum?

Are you dreading the looming task of finding curriculum for your family next year? Or are you excited at the new possibilities that you will discover? It is totally ok to be feeling either one of these. Trust us, over our last 15+ years of homeschooling we have felt both ends of the spectrum and everything in between!

New and experienced homeschoolers are beginning to search far and wide for the perfect curriculum for their upcoming homeschooling year. Curriculum choice is a HUGE homeschooling topic!

Trust us, over our last 30+ years of combined homeschooling, we have felt both ends of the spectrum and everything in between! We have chosen amazing curriculums and some that have totally flopped. Our 12 children from kindergarten to college-aged can attest to that! Along the way, we have determined the steps can help you narrow down your curriculum options quickly and implement the ones that BEST fit your family. Ultimately we want to share the lessons we have learned and help you have a stress-free homeschooling experience!

Often it seems easiest to jump right into previewing and purchasing curriculum based on reviews, Facebook posts, or what you have heard works for others.

While it might seem like a timesaver to ask other homeschoolers or ask on Facebook to find what others are using, you will soon realize that what works for them will likely not work for you. Each family has its own unique journey!

LLx2 Tip:
Homeschooling curriculum needs to fit YOUR family, not the other way around!

If you copy what someone else is doing there is a chance you will end up very frustrated and discouraged. The reason: those methods don't account for what YOUR family needs. The best way to tackle finding the best curriculum for your family is to START with your learners and find something that fits them!

Let us fill you in on a secret....there is no such thing as the "PERFECT" curriculum!

Flexibility is the name of the game. You will likely need to make small adjustments as you work through a program, but on the flip side, you should NOT have to overhaul the entire curriculum to make it work for your family.

To set yourself up for a successful homeschooling journey, you will need to dedicate some time to figure out what curriculum will be the best fit for your family. There is SO much to consider before diving into specific companies and programs--we are here to walk you through the process in an easy, step-by-step manner. In just 6 steps, you can have the wide range of homeschooling curriculums narrowed down to only a select few that will fit into your homeschooling vision!

6 Steps to Success:

Step 1: Your Children

Step 2: YOU (the teacher)

Step 3: Homeschool Environment

Step 4: Types of Curriculum

Step 5: Previewing Curriculum

Step 6: Purchasing Curriculum

Pour a cup of coffee or tea, grab a pen to take notes, and let's take the first step in finding the best curriculum for your family!



Step 1: Your Children

Before beginning to research the MASSIVE amount of curriculum options that are available, you need to consider several factors that will impact your curriculum choice and help you build a solid foundation for your homeschooling year!

Let's begin this process by first considering the whole reason you are thinking about or started homeschooling--YOUR CHILDREN! Your children's age, ability, and learning style will significantly impact your curriculum choice.

The age of your children and the curriculum you choose will significantly impact your curriculum choice.

- Are your children focused on the basics or bogged down with music, etc., into even shorter lessons and more independent work into lessons without a subject matter to focus on?
- Do you have middle schoolers who are independent and can handle more complex subjects?
- Do you have children who are struggling with the main content and need more support?

Step 2: YOU (the teacher)

With Step 1 complete, it is time to move onto Step 2. Have you ever thought about YOUR preferences and the impact they will have on your next year's curriculum?

You play a significant role in curriculum decisions as well! Your teacher involvement, curriculum expectations, and teaching style should help determine the type of curriculum you choose.

Consider if your program would you feel more supported.

Your answer will have the most support.

Also, consider if you want to add a bit to your curriculum to also cover the program.

Step 3: Homeschool Environment

You have a solid foundation established!

You know what your children need and what your preferences are!

It is time to think about how you will homeschool. This will have a significant impact on your curriculum decisions.

Knowing what kind of homeschool environment you are envisioning will guide you to certain companies with products created for that approach. What best describes your homeschool style: classical, Charlotte Mason, Montessori, unit studies, unschooling, traditional, or eclectic? Additionally, you might participate in an online class or co-op setting that dictates a particular curriculum to use.

POPULAR APPROACHES TO HOMESCHOOLING

Structured & Teacher-Directed

CLASSICAL-

This popular and more rigorous approach follows a chronological plan so that concepts from subjects are taught together within a historical period. Great Books guide the students in studying important and influential ideas as they were developed throughout history, allowing for deeper exploration.

TRADITIONAL-

This method follows programs found and scheduled with national standards.

5 things to consider before purchasing materials

1. **Make a budget (and stick to it!).** Make a list of your needs and wants. Note whether you need new or can purchase used items, research prices, and the best place to purchase your items. You can find easy-to-use budget forms in this guide!
2. **Plan your core curriculum before buying extras.** If you have money leftover in the budget AFTER you have purchased your basics, then go ahead and buy some of those extra things you have your eyes on.
3. **Keep some money in the budget to use during the school year.** You may find that you need to purchase extra storage for your items. You may want to buy a membership to a zoo or children's museum. That math curriculum may not be a good fit, and you need to add some manipulatives midway through the year.
4. **Free resources!** Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool, Khan Academy, or a YouTube Channel for free online resources might provide you with what you need.

other homeschoolers have found resources and products that work for them. Look for books, games, puzzles, and more at garage sales!

TEACHING STYLE

Finally, think about your teaching preferences in terms of teaching style.

Just like your kids have a preferred style of learning you have a preferred method of teaching! And although your teaching style might not be the primary way you choose curriculum, it can be helpful to know once your choices are narrowed down. Which one sounds most like you?

Realistic Teachers

- Use real-life examples
- Encourage students to use all sensory modes
- Include demonstrations, hands-on activities, and working models
- Apply the concept they are teaching to practical situations

Auditory Teachers

- Use their voice to explain concepts or summaries
- Love discussions on topics
- Incorporate recordings, presentations, and debates
- Paraphrase directions, ideas, and concepts

Visual Teachers

- Use written text to explain concepts
- Use handouts and study guides
- Display important ideas on whiteboard or poster
- Use lists, outlines, charts, and diagrams



Step 6: Purchasing Curriculum

Congratulations!

You have made your choices! It is time to start purchasing materials. Did you know that most states spend an average of \$7,000 to \$22,000 per student per school year? Incredible, right? Fortunately, homeschooling can be done for MUCH MUCH less than that! We will provide you the tips and tricks you need to know to stay within your budget.

Step 5: Previewing Curriculum

You are in the final stretch!

Let's discuss where you can take a look at your final options. There is just something about holding a curriculum in your hands and having the ability to flip through it before making the final decision. Of course, online previewing is also a terrific option because often, it is just not possible to preview a hard copy of everything you are looking at! There are several things to consider when previewing material.

Is on a sample is to see if they

re an excellent y decide if they want to preview then so many you and help

bring--most curriculum or the area. -It is like a fers an

chooling more is "just in case" at they have.

Otherwise your options include:

ALL-IN-ONE CURRICULUM-

- It will include plans and materials for every subject of a particular grade level.

MULTI-AGE CURRICULUM-

- Many history programs (and some science) incorporate K-8 or K-12 activities. You read the core text as a family, and the program suggests a wide range of assignments to assign to each child.

RECAP ON LEARNING STYLES

Autistic Learners

- Does your child move around a lot?
- Prefer not to sit still?
- Like to actively participate in learning?
- Talk with their hands?
- Like to touch objects?

These kids love to move, touch, and manipulate objects and learn best when they are in motion.

Auditory Learners

- Does your child like to talk a lot?
 - Enjoy music?
 - Prefer verbal instruction over written ones?
 - Likes lectures or videos?
 - Have trouble concentrating when there is background noise?
- These kids love to discuss material, listen to recordings, read or repeat text out loud, and talk through problems.

studying with flash cards
use visual aids
curriculum that is written in the

Curriculum Planning Worksheet 20__-20__			
	Student #1	Student #2	Student #3
Math			
Reading			
Writing			
Grammar, Spelling, Handwriting			
Social Studies			
Science			
Fine Arts or Electives			

Step 2: YOU (the teacher) Questions & Notes

What level of teacher involvement are you comfortable with for each subject?

What expectations do you have for a curriculum for a subject? Challenging? Supportive?

What is your teaching style preference? What different things would you like to incorporate into your teaching?

Packed with everything you need to find curriculum that fits **YOUR FAMILY!**

Homeschooling Support For You!

If you would like assistance in narrowing curriculum that supports your homeschooling vision, we would greatly enjoy working with you through one of our mentoring packages at LLx2.com. With our combined 30+ years of homeschooling knowledge and experience, we can provide you with a variety of options for developing your homeschooling program.



EMAIL MENTORING

Great for choosing curriculum for 1-3 subjects for up to two students, general questions, or scheduling matters.

INCLUDES:

- An initial questionnaire we send to you to assess your needs
- 2 detailed email exchanges including information, links, and suggestions up to two pages in length each

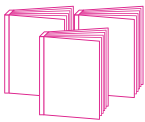


ESSENTIAL VIRTUAL MENTORING

Ideal for choosing curriculum for 1-3 subjects for up to two students, adapting curriculum, or workload expectations.

INCLUDES:

- An initial questionnaire we send you to assess your needs
- A 30-minute virtual mentoring session
- A detailed email including a summary of our meeting including topics discussed as well as recommendations



ULTIMATE VIRTUAL MENTORING

Perfect for curriculum planning for each of your children, addressing multiple concerns, and high school or transcript help.

INCLUDES:

- An initial questionnaire we send you to assess your needs
- A 60-minute virtual mentoring session
- A detailed email including a summary of our meeting including topics discussed as well as recommendations

We offer stress-free support to help you make the best decisions for your family's homeschooling journey!

[LLX2.com/ mentoring-options](https://LLX2.com/mentoring-options)