

Five Flavors of Homeschooling

The Flavors

- Traditional
A separate textbook and/or workbook for each subject.
Read the information, answer the questions (multiple choice, T/F, short answer).
Remember the facts until the test.
"Know"
- Classical
Based on the Trivium
Grammar Stage (ages 6–10): absorb and memorize facts
Dialectic Stage (ages 10–12): emphasize logic and why's behind facts
Rhetoric Stage (ages 13–18): add persuasive use of language
"Think"
- Charlotte Mason
Living books instead of textbooks
Narration instead of questioning
Emphasizes ideas over dry facts
A wide variety of subjects; a broad curriculum
"Grow"
- Unit Studies
Arranges all subjects around a common theme
Usually lots of hands-on projects
"Do"
- Unschooling
Child-directed
No set curriculum or agenda
"Live"

Find Your Favorite

If you . . .

- are concerned about keeping lock-step with the local school system **(T)**
 - don't necessarily want a plan; prefer to be spontaneous **(N)**
 - place great emphasis on having facts memorized **(T, C)**
 - love hands-on projects and activities and don't mind spending the time to prepare them **(U)**
 - think the teacher should be the fountain-head of all knowledge **(T, C, U)**
 - want school to be rigorous and challenging **(C)**
 - don't want to be different **(T, C, U)**
 - love the idea of learning from good literature and books that make the subject come alive **(L)**
 - want to use natural, gentle methods while holding them to a high standard **(L)**
 - like having the child decide what to learn and when **(N)**
 - want to linger with art, nature, handicrafts, music, and more **(L, N)**
 - want to teach the way you were taught; not have to put forth the effort of decision **(T)**
 - believe that true education comes from a personal relation with what is being studied, not just recognition **(L, N)**
 - want your children to learn how to self-educate **(L, N)**
 - live and die by standardized test scores **(T, C)**
 - want to teach all your children together for as many subjects as possible **(L, U)**
 - want each child to be on his or her own separate track for everything **(T, C, N)**
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- want something that will work for a special needs child **(any)**
 - something that will work well for a large family **(any)**
 - something that will work well for an only child **(any)**
 - need to tuck homeschooling around your work schedule **(any)**
 - need something your spouse or the grandparents can do parts of **(any, depending on the spouse or grandparent)**
 - want your child to be prepared to do well in college **(any)**
 - want your child to be prepared to do well in adult life **(any)**
 - want to emphasize good character development and Biblical discipleship **(any)**

T = Traditional
C = Classical
L = Charlotte Mason
U = Unit Studies
N = Unschooling

Different publishers cater to different flavors of homeschooling.

Choosing Curriculum

You can . . .

Get it to-go.

Put together ready-made components.

Make all of it from scratch.

Read the labels!

- Is it a good fit for this season of life?
- Does it help you reach your goals?
- Does it help you meet legal requirements?
- Does it agree with your personal standards?

Using Curriculum

- Teach the child, not the curriculum.
- Make the curriculum your servant, not your master.
- You have freedom to change if something isn't working.
- Curriculum is not a magic bullet.

Curriculum and Resource Providers

Traditional

A Beka
Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)
Alpha Omega
Bob Jones
Christian Liberty Press
Christian Light Education
Landmark's Freedom Baptist Curriculum
Paradigm Accelerated Curriculum (PAC)
Rod and Staff Curriculum

Classical

BiblioPlan
Classical Academic Press
Classical Conversations
FreedomProject Education (online classes)
Memoria Press
Veritas Press
Well-Trained Mind/Peace Hill Press

Charlotte Mason

Beautiful Feet
Greenleaf Press
Living Books Curriculum
Queen Homeschool Supply
Simply Charlotte Mason

Unit Studies

Amanda Bennett
Cornerstone Curriculum
Five in a Row
Heart of Wisdom (combined approach)
Konos
Weaver (from Alpha Omega)

Unschooling

(whatever)

Combinations

Heart of Dakota (Charlotte Mason, Unit Studies)
Master Books (Traditional, Classical in upper grades)
My Father's World (Classical, Charlotte Mason, Unit Studies)
Mystery of History (Classical, Unit Studies)
Sonlight (Traditional, Charlotte Mason, Unit Studies)
Tapestry of Grace (Classical, Unit Studies)