

Classical Home-Schooling Method

This method is based on the philosophy of education that was used in Ancient Greece and in Europe during the Middle Ages. It is language focused: learning is accomplished through words, written and spoken rather than through images—pictures, videos, and television. It views education in three different phases which correspond to the development of children’s ability to reason it is often called the Trivium:

1. Often called the “grammar stage” this stage focuses on the ability to memorize facts and information. It lays the foundation for future years of education. Rules of phonics, spelling, rules of grammar, poems, description of human body, facts of mathematics, etc. Lays foundation for the next stage. —usually, elementary years
2. This phase is called the “logic stage” when a child starts to begin to pay attention to the relationships between different fields of knowledge and how they relate and how facts fit together into logical framework. —usually, middle school years
3. Final phase is called the “rhetoric stage” builds on the first two points. Student learns to speak and write with force and originality. They also begin to specialize in whatever branch of knowledge attracts them. Art camps, college course, foreign travel, apprenticeships and other forms of specialized training are important at this time. — usually high school years

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- Structure
- Evaluating child’s learning based on academic standards
- Placing value on written word, both in reading and writing well
- Developing good study skills fairly early in child’s life and that believe that it will benefit them as time goes on
- A child who is academically oriented
- Being involved in process of child’s education discussing books, giving dictation, and encouraging the reaching of academic goals
- Concentrating on classics of Western literature as a tool to develop critical thinking

Some good resources for classical education are:

[The Well Trained Mind](#)
[Veritas Press](#)
[Tapestry of Grace](#)

Charlotte Mason (CM)/Living Books Home Schooling Method:

Charlotte Mason was a British educator whose motto was “Education is the science of relations” and another is “Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life.” The atmosphere in this kind of approach is gently and flexible, yet still the parent guides the learning process.

Teaching methods include the following:

- Living books—books that are written by a person with a passion for the subject, as opposed to a dry textbook which is merely a compilation of other people’s thoughts.
- Narration-especially oral for younger children
- Short lessons
- Development of good habits
- Study of art, nature, and poetry

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- Creating a learning environment that encourages your child to explore and appreciate the world around them.
- Not sticking to a rigid schedule
- Seeing a value in evaluating your child's learning on things other than formal written tests
- Offering a well-rounded education including enjoying art, nature, music, and lots of books
- Spending much time and being involved in the process of child's education discussing books, giving dictation, listening and encouraging narration, enjoying poetry, art, and music together.
- Having a child who doesn't mind not having lots of boxes to check off

Some good resources for CM are:

[Ambleside Online](#)

[Charlotte Mason Home Companion](#)

Computer-Based Home-Schooling Method

This type of education is becoming more popular as states are offering it free to students to be able to stay at home and still take part in government-based education. There are different ways you can do computer-based homeschooling. Some popular ones are based on having curriculum on CD's or DVD's. [Switched on Schoolhouse](#) is one resource like this.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- Having a child follow a set of scope and sequence
 - Having a step-by-step accountability for your child
 - Having a modern technological value and don't have concerns for its over use
 - Not having to be so involved in the day-to-day process of child's education. Even though you would still be able to help and give general guidance
 - Allowing child to work at own pace and use the computer
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Eclectic Home-Schooling Method

This method is just as the name implies; the parent uses a variety of home school methods depending on the needs of the child. Rather than sticking with a single philosophy or method, the parent chooses many different methods from different resources. This parent might do some textbook based learning, some internet courses, some unit studies, and may enjoy reading "living books". The possibilities are endless based on what works best for them.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- Spending time finding materials that will suit my child's unique interest and learning styles
- Following someone else's scope and sequence—possibly having gaps in learning that comes from jumping around from one curriculum to the next
- Seeing value in using various curriculum and home school methods because through using different methods, my child gets a fuller picture of the subjects at hand
- Having a child who likes flexibility in learning and doesn't mind not using the same materials over again always.

Literature-Based Home-Schooling Method

Through this education, rather than using textbooks—which can be dry and boring to many children, the basis is living books. This is what Charlotte Mason advocated. Students read historical fiction, first person accounts, and books written by people with a passion for their subject. [Sonlight Home School Curriculum](#) is a popular curriculum used by many. This method actually covers a broad range of home-schooling methods, including the unit study, Charlotte Mason, and other methods.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- Wanting to have your child follow a set of scope and sequence
 - Having a general accountability for your child
 - Having your child love to read by reading books that they will love to read
 - Being involved in the day-to-day process of your child's education
 - Discussing things that will draw out what your child is learning and perhaps cover controversial subjects raised through the books
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Notebook Home Schooling Method

This homeschooling method has children create notebooks of various subjects. Emphasis is on what the children are interested in. They collect **information and document their learning**.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- Giving your children the freedom to follow their own interests
 - Having confidence in the process of learning that you don't mind if not all of your child's learning is not documented by a written test
 - Seeing a value in having your child take an interest in things and seeing other things take a back seat until a later time.
 - Having a child who has interests and hobbies that they want to pursue
 - Having a written notebook document of all their learning
 - Allowing your child to learn at his level of creativity which will increase as time progresses
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Textbook-Based/Traditional School at Home Method

This method bases its model on the traditional idea of what a classroom is like. Students use textbooks and workbooks and do typical of a child at a public or private school. Learning is usually laid out in a clear scope and sequence to minimize potential gaps in what the student is learning.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- having your child study material in a similar scope and sequence as other public or private schools
- the value of a classroom school and want your child to experience that at home
- having your child be able to do well and learn through fill in the blanks and quizzes
- having definite ideas about what content you want your child to learn and that it matches well with the textbooks you have chosen

Unschooling/Delight Directed Learning/Relaxed Home School Method

In this method the parent offers support, resources, and encouragement to the child and the child leads the way of learning. The belief is that the child will learn best if they are interested and self-motivated. Because the student sets the pace for learning, they may learn things at a later date than the traditional scope and sequence would suggest. However, when a child is ready to learn and be motivated, they may very well be able to catch up and move quickly beyond others their age. For the most part the learning process will be more enjoyable than if force-fed.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- giving your child the freedom to follow their own interests
 - having a child who has interests and hobbies that they want to pursue
 - seeing a value in having your child develop expertise in an interest, and are willing to let other activities take second place, for a season
 - having enough confidence in the process of learning that you don't mind if not all your child's learning can be documented by a written test
 - not having a set of scope, sequence, and structure for your child's learning
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Self-Learning/Independent Study Home Schooling Method

In this method the parent helps the child to learn “how to learn” and then the child uses the tools of reading, writing, and arithmetic to learn more advanced concepts on their own. The parents is not there to teach, but to help the child through the process of developing enough confidence to learn on their own.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- having the ability for your child to learn on their own
 - seeing a value in having your child develop good study skills apart from your involvement as teacher
 - working with a younger child until they are able to take on more and work independently
 - having your child develop good learning strategies and time management on their own and be accountable to someone outside of the family—like in an umbrella school
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Unit Study Method

This method focuses on learning around a central hub, and incorporating different areas of academic study. The student is then able to make connections between the different subjects and learn the material well. It helps the teacher not have to prepare as many distinct lessons. Some unit studies are arranged in a way to be used by children of different ages at the same time. This is helpful if you are schooling more than one child. It helps the student remember information better than in some methods, which minimizes how much reviewing you have to do.

This is for me if I like and believe in:

- teaching a variety of ages all the same material just at their own level
- having enough time to interact with your children about the materials they are studying and how they relate
- doing hands on projects and group learning around a central theme
- not following a traditional scope and sequence

Umbrella Organizations for Home Schooling

In this method, the umbrella organizations take on the oversight of the students learning, giving guidance, evaluating, and holding accountability. They can be very helpful if you want help in choosing curriculum, keeping track of records, or you want outside accountability for your child.

This is good for me if I like and believe in:

- having outside accountability for your child
 - that I am not confident in my ability to teach them all they need to know
 - that I don't mind other people choosing curriculum for your child
 - that I don't mind giving up a bit of flexibility
 - not spending your time planning, and gathering resources, because it has already been done—this allows more enjoyable time with your child
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What's the best choice for me?

With all of the different schooling methods listed, there are many pros and cons. You will have to decide the following to determine which method you will choose:

- how you view education
- how you want to be involved in teaching
- the amount of structure you want
- what you want your child to learn
- how you want to evaluate your child's learning progress

Each of these methods has a slightly different answer to these questions. How you answer these questions is really key to finding a home-schooling method that will work for you.