

The Homeschool Project Podcast's Guide to Getting Started



Make the Decision

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- Make a pros and cons list for traditional school vs homeschool
- As a family, identify your priorities and values
- Identify your 'why'

A Step by Step Process to Getting Started
Listen to Our Bonus Episode Homeschooling From A to Z
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/777311/8785502>

HPP:

Episode 23 -

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/777311/3701054>

Episode 24 -

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/777311/3833762>

Know Your State (or area) Laws

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- Military families that are overseas will need to identify their laws
- Visit HSLDA's (Homeschool Legal Defense Association) website
 - Scroll down to the section 'Get Started on Your Homeschool Journey'
 - Select 'Homeschool Laws by State' and go from there
 - Membership with HSLDA is optional and you can still find helpful legal information without membership
- Know what your state law says regarding educational requirements for parents who are homeschooling, ie: high school diploma, college degree, etc.
- Identify and follow your state laws on how to withdraw your child from school
- Identify and follow your state laws on how to notify your zoned school district that you will be homeschooling your child
- Make copies of every document you submit and keep a file for future reference
- Send all documents via CERTIFIED MAIL, with the added signature return receipt green postcard. First-class mail and email are not recommended.
- Identify if your state has a state-wide Homeschool support network that follows HSLDA's guidelines on state laws

FACEBOOK:

Military Families Homeschooling Overseas
Military Families Homeschool

WEBSITES:

<https://hsllda.org/>

<https://www.time4learning.com/homeschooling/by-state.html>

Plug Paperwork Deadlines into Calendar

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- Place a reminder in your calendar 2 weeks before the Homeschool Letter of Intent notification is due
- Place a reminder in Spring to work on any state requirements for 'end-of-year' assessments (example: national standardized test or portfolio review)

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Decide on Curriculum

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- For your first year, consider starting with a curriculum that provides structure.
 - This does not mean having a 'School-at-home' curriculum, rather, one that offers suggestions for books for different subjects or provides weekly pacing guides
- Try to identify a method or style of learning that works for your family and lifestyle. I discuss 6 more popular Methods of Homeschooling on HPP.
 - Show notes for Episode 29 has links to Homeschool Style Quiz. Episodes 30 & 31 have examples of curriculum in show notes
 - Once you have an idea on the style of learning you think you want, it narrows down curriculum choices.
- '102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum' by Cathy Duffy is a wonderful resource. <https://amzn.to/3xRBxAZ>
- Remember to identify any subjects that are required by your state

HPP:

Episode 29 -

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/777311/4382615>

Episode 30 -

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/777311/4451711>

Episode 31 -

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/777311/4530536>

WEBSITES:

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/#>

Order Books, Materials, & Supplies

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- Go through your curriculum to see what will be needed
- See my attached 'Getting Started Supply List' for commonly used items

Create a Schedule

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- Decide on your academic calendar, ie: year-round, 36-week school year, etc
- If curriculum you chose does not have an outline, then you can use the attached templates to help you plan. You can edit them to tailor what best suits your family.
 - Remember: You are not tied to a schedule with homeschooling! This is just to give you as much or as little structure you would like
- Identify if your state requires you to track and submit learning hours, then build schedules off those hours

Learning Space

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- Determine if you want a designated learning space. If so, where will it be?
 - Dining table, corner of family room, separate room all together, etc.
- If you do not want a designated area for learning, designate a specific spot to organize your books and supplies. - <https://amzn.to/3jTct7G>

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Find Support Groups

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- We all have our good and challenging days/phases in life. Having support will help get you through the challenging times and will bring encouragement and inspiration for all the other times.
- Join local support groups to help you know what opportunities are in your area as well as identifying state requirements.
- You can find support for your homeschooling journey with:
 - Facebook groups
 - Instagram homeschooling accounts
 - Searching google for local groups
 - Homeschool Podcasts & Blogs

Socialization

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- Attempt to find a Homeschool Co-op or Homeschool Meet Up group that meets weekly or bi-weekly. This is a way for your child to get to know the same group of kids and will be easier to make friends.
 - You as the parent will also get to know other homeschooling parents
- Find extra-curricular activities in your area
 - Sports, dance, theater, instrument lessons, join a band or orchestra
 - Clubs- 4H, Lego Club, book club, art club, etc.
 - Homeschool Classes offered at local parks, libraries, or museums

Remember, if you are choosing to homeschool:

- DO what best fits your family.
- Do NOT try to re-create school.
- If you still need encouragement, be sure to check out HPP Episode 32



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Social Media: [homeschool_project_podcast](#)

Website: <https://thehomeschoolprojectpodcast.com/>

Email: thehomeschoolprojectpodcast@gmail.com

Curriculum Options From Some Of Our Past Guests

Wild Learning Curriculum -

<https://discoverwildlearning.com/?ref=927>

The Waldock Way -

<https://www.thewaldockway.com/ref/76/>

Big Life Journal -

<https://biglifejournal.com/?aff=1417>

All About Reading -

<https://www.allaboutlearningpress.net/go.php?id=2109>

The Music Podcast for Kids Learning Package -

<https://themusicpodcastforkids.podia.com/premiumvolumone/wguqi>

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The Homeschool Project Podcast's Starter Supply List

with some of our favorites linked



- Library Card – money saver!
- Printer
- Printer ink and paper
- World Map or Globe - <https://amzn.to/2VRBvzf>
- Bookcase or cubbies - organize books, binders, and/or notebooks - <https://amzn.to/3jXvhm9>
- Pencils, pens, erasers
- Pencil Sharpener - <https://amzn.to/3iPREKY>
- Highlighters - <https://amzn.to/3AMK1uV>
- Post-It notes
- Notebook pads to write in - figure out how many you may need with curriculum - <https://amzn.to/2VWAYSH>
- 3 ring binders/ Folders - figure out how many you may need for organization of legal paperwork; collection of their work, etc. - <https://amzn.to/3g7Eg3h>
- Blank drawing pad per child - for art or nature journals - <https://amzn.to/3g8qtJy>
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers - <https://amzn.to/2UoeAYt>
- Paint or chalk pastels of choice for art - <https://amzn.to/3g8p1XC>
- Construction Paper
- Playdough or clay - <https://amzn.to/3ANJl33>
- Any other craft items you may want
- Scissors - <https://amzn.to/2VZzBcc>
- Ruler
- Tape
- Glue - <https://amzn.to/3xMBwy8>
- Stapler and staples - <https://amzn.to/3m4BuQ1>
- Paper clips
- Rubber bands
- 3 Hole Puncher - <https://amzn.to/3m7FDTe>
- Wall calendar if you have little ones learning days and months - we have a dry erase one to save money - <https://amzn.to/3snuf6H>
- Math manipulatives or counters if needed - <https://amzn.to/3CURb24>
- Balloons - many of our science experiments needed this

PRO TIP:

Create a budget so you don't over spend!

WEBSITES:

<https://thehomeschoolprintingcompany.com/>

<https://www.makingfamilycount.com/>

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Simple Weekly Template

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	SNACK/BREAK				
	LUNCH/BREAK				

Notes: This template is like the one I explained on the podcast. On this you would write down the time blocks in the left column. Under each day of the week you would write down what subjects you are doing, when. This gives you a nice and simple weekly template to refer to all year long. Then each week you could break it down further using one of the two templates below to write in what you will be doing specifically for each subject and day 😊

Monday				Snack / Break					Lunch / Break
Tuesday									
Wednesday									
Thursday									
Friday									

Notes: In this template you can write in what you will do SPECIFICALLY each day following your simple weekly template. This is optional and really for those who like to see everything planned out daily. In this option you can write in your subjects and times across the top following your simple weekly template and fill in the specifics across each day.

Simple Weekly Template EXAMPLE

Times	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30	Religion with Breakfast	Religion with Breakfast	Religion with Breakfast	Religion with Breakfast	Religion with Breakfast
8:35- 9:05	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
9:10-10:00	Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Grammar)	Language Arts (Reading & Writing)	Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Grammar)	Language Arts (Reading & Writing)	Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Grammar)
10:05-10:20	SNACK/BREAK				
10:25-10:50	US History	Literature	US History	Literature	Music Appreciation
10:55-11:20	Geography/Earth Studies	Ancient History	Geography/Earth Studies	Ancient History	Nature Study
11:25-12:00	Science	Geography/Earth Studies	Science	Picture Study	
12:05- 12:30	Art	Foreign Language	Music	Poetry Tea Time	
Done! Now Eat	LUNCH/BREAK				
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