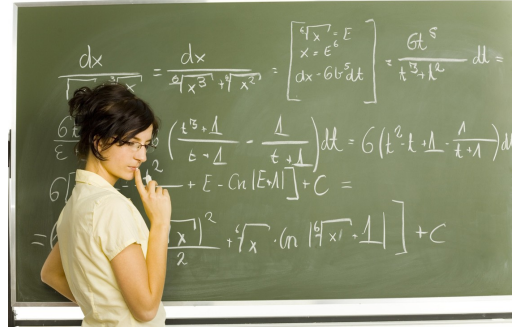


How Do I Teach

As we look at how we teach, we must again go back to knowing our why. We want to make sure that our purpose lines up with how things are done.

Your teaching does not have to be “school” at home.

At first, many parents start with a “school at home” mentality as they try to figure out the whole homeschool way of life. But, as a parent, you do not have a classroom of students to engage and keep motivated, so you don’t have to do things like that.



You can create a home and an atmosphere that promotes a love of learning.

You have freedom to explore through different methods and to allow your child freedom to learn in different environments. Because you can have a one-on-one experience, you can cater to their interests and even slow down to address problem areas without the stress of trying to keep up with other students. Find ways to develop this love of learning, so your children will be self-motivated and eager to explore the world of knowledge available to them.



Look at the options or methods for ideas to help you create the atmosphere and experience.

Because you are in control of the learning environment, become a student yourself and explore the different teaching methods. Try out a few of the methods with your student and see what “clicks”. Experience the joy of teaching!

Know that nothing created by man is perfect and be ready to adjust as God leads you.

Whatever method you find that works for your students and family, know that there will be adjustment as you go through the process. If something doesn’t work, then be willing to try something new or change it to fit your family’s needs and/or goals.

Homeschool Teaching Methods

In the homeschool community, there are many different schools of thought when it comes to one-on-one education and how it should be done. So, let's discuss some different methods.

Traditional Textbook

When families first begin to homeschool, this is probably the most comfortable method in the beginning. It is simply bringing the school books home. For the parent, the teacher's manual tells you exactly what to say or do. For the student, the work is predictable and often repetitive. Some students do well with this type of structure, but



parents are encouraged to note that these curriculums are often structured for the classroom. Don't frustrate your students with having to complete every problem if they have shown mastery of the lesson. [Visit this link](#) for more info about text-book curriculum.



Classical Education

“Classical education depends on a three-part process of training the mind. The early years of school are spent in absorbing facts, systematically laying the foundations for advanced study. In the middle grades, students learn to think through arguments. In the high school years, they learn to express themselves. This classical pattern is called the trivium.” -Susan

Wise Bauer

[Visit this link](#) for more information about this method.

Charlotte Mason

Charlotte Mason was an educator in England that believed that young students should be exposed to “living” books (that have stood the test of time), nature, and art. Her methods

build on developing that love of learning. [Visit the link](#) for books and resources from this style.

Unschooling

This method encourages parents to do the exact opposite of a school setting and allow a student to explore and develop their own interest in learning. Some unschoolers do incorporate set times for reading or math, and others simply make sure that their home is filled with educational resources for student exploration. [Visit this link](#) for more information.



Unit Studies

Many people love unit studies because it takes a particular interest and uses it to incorporate reading, math, writing, etc. This method often involves lots of hands-on, creative activities. [Visit this link](#) for ideas and curriculum.

Eclectic

Eclectic homeschoolers pick and choose the best from each method and put it all together to create a personalized plan of study. As you will study the different methods, you will find that many use elements of others, and there is already a natural blending. Again, feel free to take a little of this and a little of that to create your own! Visit [The Home School Mom](#) for more details on all of these and other methods.

Moore Formula

It is important to know that some people feel that it is not vital for children to start formal schooling until the age of 8. The Moore Formula emphasizes establishing service and responsibility at a young age and adding knowledge at a later age. [Visit this link](#) for a more thorough explanations.

As you explore these different ideas and methods, I hope you will find that one particularly jumps out and grabs you. If you are excited about it, chances are your student will follow along, but don't worry if it doesn't all work out like you think. Be ready to adjust as you create a love of learning and fulfill the purposes of your "why"!

- **Kristy Trent**

Kristy Trent has been officially homeschooling for over 8 years and currently coordinates [Highlands Homeschoolers](#), a homeschool support group in the Birmingham, AL area. This article is an excerpt from discussions at the New to Homeschooling workshops that Highlands Homeschoolers offers each summer.