



WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR

Curriculum

ISN'T WORKING



Dear Homeschooler,

You are probably watching this video and reading this workbook because something in your homeschool isn't working. This is not unusual. Every homeschooler experiences this several times in their homeschooling. I homeschooled for over 20 years and needed to do this exercise again and again in order to get to the root of the problem.

Homeschooling is very personal and it works best when your curriculum is also personal and matches who you are, what you want, and how your children learn best. Before you can fix what isn't working, you need to figure out what you want. So stay with me and invest a few minutes of deep thinking. This will save you much money and frustration over the years.

Step 1: What is your “why”?

Ask yourself and ask your family, “Why are we homeschooling? What’s most important to us?”

For example:

- Faith
- Special needs
- Unschooling
- Special interest; like ballet, cooking, acting, or a sport
- Travel
- Better education
- Independence
- To catch up
- Science
- Get into an ivy-league college
- Independence

Step 2: What is your “how?”

Ask yourself and ask your children, “How do we learn best?”

For example:

- Hands on
- Learning centers
- Home Classroom
- No structure
- International schools
- Volunteering/service
- Learning styles
- Community resources
- Field trips
- Tutors
- Summer school/Summer camps
- Learning Co-ops
- Online
- Free
- Special-needs therapy
- Work/Entrepreneurship

Step 3: What products match your how and your why?

Once you know your “why” and your “how”, *then* you look for your “what.” Ask yourself, “What products, classes, curriculum and other resources match our how and our why?” (Most people start with the “what” and then are frustrated when the “what” doesn’t work.)

For example:

- Textbooks
- Above-grade level curriculum

- Below-grade level curriculum
- Horses, goats, or other animals
- Geography & language programs
- Science-based curriculum
- Art-based curriculum
- Faith-based curriculum
- Audio books
- Business supplies
- Experiments
- Kits
- Tutoring sessions
- Sports teams
- Dance classes
- Music lessons
- Art supplies
- Online curriculum
- Workbooks
- Classes at museums, libraries, etc
- Job shadowing

Would you like to see what *my* curriculum bulls-eye looks like?

1) Our “why” is:

- Flexibility,
- Interest-based, and
- Better than what they could get in school.

2) Our “how” is:

- Unschooling for the younger years
- Lots of travel
- Learning centers in the home
- Hands-on

- Summer camps
- Field trips

3) My “what” includes:

- Lots of geography & foreign language programs
- Audio books for my audio learner
- Workbooks for my visual learners
- Online learning that we could do from anywhere
- Lots of kits for hands-on learning
- Music lessons for my youngest daughter
- Lots of fun unit studies
- Tutors for the advanced subjects



what?

LOTS OF GEOGRAPHY &
FOREIGN LANGUAGE
PROGRAMS

AUDIO BOOKS FOR MY
AUDIO LEARNER

how?

UNSCHOOLING FOR THE YOUNGER YEARS

WORKBOOKS FOR MY
VISUAL LEARNERS

why?

FLEXIBILITY,

INTEREST-BASED, AND —

BETTER THAN WHAT THEY COULD
GET IN SCHOOL.

HANDS-ON

TUTORS FOR THE
ADVANCED SUBJECTS

LOTS OF TRAVEL

FIELD TRIPS

LOTS OF KITS FOR
HANDS-ON LEARNING

SUMMER CAMPS

MUSIC LESSONS FOR MY
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER

LOTS OF FUN
UNIT STUDIES

LEARNING CENTERS IN THE HOME

DYSLEXIC
FRIENDLY
PRODUCTS

ONLINE LEARNING THAT
WE COULD DO FROM
ANYWHERE



what?

how?

why?

5 Ways to Fix What Isn't Working

1. **Get consensus on your “why.”**

Is everyone in agreement? Have you chosen a “why” you really believe in? A “why” that is exciting to you?

2. **Do you need to adjust your “how”?**

Does your “what” match their learning style? Does your home setup reflect how and when they learn best? Online or in-person learning?

3. **Pick up each “what.” Does it pass the “joy test”?** Ideally, you will surround yourself with things that bring you joy.

4. **Adjust what you have so that it better fits your “why” and your “how”.** Can you use what you have differently so that it better suits you? Sometimes an adjustment in how something is used or when it is used can solve the problem. For example, your daughter may not mind her online curriculum if she is sitting on your lap when she uses it.

5. **Let go of the “whats” that aren't fixable (and aren't passing the joy test), and lovingly pass them on to someone else.** It might work perfectly for them.

Conclusion:

Every year I start the school year believing that I have it all figured out and expecting things to just sail along perfectly as planned for the next nine months. It never happens that way. I always have to do mid-year adjustments. Which makes sense, of course. Things change and you learn more as you go along. Be easy on yourself. If you get stuck and can't figure out what's wrong, go back to the beginning and remind yourself *why* you are homeschooling.