

# LET'S HOMESCHOOL!

## GETTING STARTED CHECKLIST

### SETTING THE FOUNDATION

- Review your state homeschool laws.
- Fulfill all requirements to start.
- Have a family conversation so everyone is on the same page.
- Ask the kids for input, and make them feel heard.
- Determine which parent will do what.
- Attend a Homeschool Convention.

### DISCOVERING YOUR HOW

- Take time to think about "how" you plan to homeschool.  
(Will that be Traditional, Charlotte Mason style, Unschooling, or a combination of styles?)
- Take the Homeschool Method Quiz to help discover a method that fits.
- Learn more about the method and how you might "tweak" it to be yours.
- Are there any special considerations or purchases needed for the method you chose?

### SETTING UP AN AREA

- Think about an area of your home that would be good for learning.
- Rearrange and set up study zones.
- Let the kids help decorate!

### DETERMINING YOUR WHY

- Spend time discussing why you feel the need to homeschool.
- Write out your "why" as a vision statement.
- Keep your vision statement handy.  
(pull it out later when you wonder why you ever started)
- Set your "Big" Goals for the year.  
(these come in handy for planning monthly and weekly goals later)

### RESEARCHING THE WHAT

- Research what type of curriculum supports the Homeschooling Method you chose.
- Take the Homeschool.com Curriculum Finder Quiz.
- Visit the Homeschool Marketplace to see if there are discounts available for your curriculum.
- Test drive possible curriculum before buying.
- Purchase your curriculum on your state's tax-free day!
- Make a quiet, fun reading nook.
- Create mobile or "on the go" storage for each child.
- Buy homeschool supplies when on sale.

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## PLANNING AND SCHEDULING

- Determine how you will track achievement (grades or informally).
- Create a schedule or daily routine.
- Start planning out your monthly and weekly plans based on your year goals. See our videos on how to make this SIMPLE.
- Find a free planner and "how to plan" on Homeschool.com.
- Print out weekly kids' checklists for easy independent learning.
- Plan field trips for the year.
- Plan co-op outings with friends.

## HIGH SCHOOL

- Take a Free Career Exploration Course at Homeschool.com
- Investigate what training is needed for your teen's choice of career.
- Set up and use a four-year plan to simplify the planning process.
- Investigate hands-on learning with internships and apprenticeships.
- Start a permanent record/transcript for your teen with a free template.
- Think outside the box, not every career needs a college degree!
- Learn more at Homeschool.com High School Homeschooling!

## RECORD KEEPING

- Decide how you will keep records: Written or Digital?
- Find a free record-keeping system on Homeschool.com.
- Determine your reporting frequency: 6 weeks, 9 weeks, or by semester?
- Find a free report card on Homeschool.com  
Note: Some families choose not to report grades for elementary school.

## FIRST DAY

- Start the first day with lots of hugs and giggles and positive encouragement.
- Play soft music to help create a positive relaxing environment.
- Make a Back to Homeschool breakfast.
- Take 1st Day Pictures!
- Have a Back to Homeschool party and invite friends!
- Make emergency snack bags for each child's study zone.
- Have a fun first day!
- Talk about your first day before bed, ask the kids what they loved, what they didn't.