



## Homeschooling 101

### The Why

What is your purpose in educating your children at home? The academic reasons are obvious, but what are the deeper reasons? Do you desire closer family relationships? Are you hoping to instill character qualities you do not think they will get from a public or private school? Is it so you can have flexibility as a family to pursue interests or take vacations during “nonpeak” times of year (this is actually a very nice side benefit of being a homeschooler!) Spend a few minutes thinking about your why. Write out your why in a few sentences below:

*I am choosing to homeschool my children this year because...*

Now, take that why and make it into a mission statement for your homeschool. Here is mine as an example: *In our homeschool we are raising life-long learners who will be kind to others, and who will live their life with integrity.* Keep it short and sweet. Your mission statement is a short (1-2sentences) summary of your entire homeschool philosophy. Take what you wrote about your why and condense it into no more than two sentences. Write your mission statement below:





## 2020-2021 Family Verse

You have an assignment! Do not do this during the video! Take some time and ask God for a scripture for your school year. I do this every summer as I'm planning our year. I know it seems daunting or maybe a bit crazy to ask God for something like this, but I have seen over the years how our family verse has become a solid foundation for our year. It's always incredible to me how well the verse fits with circumstances and struggles of that school year. In the next few weeks as you are reading your Bible begin to ask God to show you what verse He wants you to keep as a family verse for this school year. Once you have it, write it below, and then post it somewhere you will see it every day!

*Our Family verse for the 2020-2021 school year is.....*





**Find P.E.A.C.E**

Fill in the acronym below from the video.

**P** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**What if your curriculum is not working?**

Even the best curriculums need adjusting from time to time. If your curriculum is not working for your student what three options should you try?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Why is it important to use pencil when writing out your plans?** (There are two reasons)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_





**What is “sandwiching” in scheduling and why is it important?**

Remember: DO NOT plan to teach hard subjects back to back!

My child’s most challenging subject is: (Hint.... Do this one early in the day)

My child’s easiest/most enjoyable subject is: (Hint.... Save this one for last or later in the day)

Plan breaks in your day. Breaks are good! Children need them. Mom’s need them! Do not try to cram everything for the entire school day into one marathon table session. The results will not be pretty. You can have breaks! Take them.





### **Our Family Schedule**

Use this space to begin working on a schedule. At this time, it is not necessary to plan your day hour by hour. This exercise is a loose idea of when each subject will be taught. Don't forget to think about when to take breaks and leave time for lunch.





## The Law

What do you need to do if your child was in private or public-school last year, and you want to homeschool this year?

What are the two organizations referenced where you can turn to for more information on the law regarding homeschooling in Missouri?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

The law in Missouri requires you to complete how many hours of instructional time? \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you have to complete this requirement?

\_\_\_\_\_

600 hours must be in what subjects?

The other 400 can be what subjects?

Do you have to submit testing results, hours, lesson logs, attendance records, or curriculum used to anyone in order to comply with Missouri Homeschool law?





You are NOT allowed to “double dip” when you count hours. What does this mean?

What is “compulsory school age” in Missouri, and what does this mean for how and when hours need to be counted?

In addition to a lesson log, and hours, what other records do I need to keep if this is my first-year homeschooling?

(This is a trick question. If this is your first year, you should keep EVERYTHING! This includes lesson logs, instruction hours completed, student work, any standardized test results, books read, field trips taken, etc. You should also keep a detailed list of curriculums used including title of the book, grade level, and publisher)

Remember: God gave your children to you because He knows that you are uniquely equipped to teach and train them. You do not need any other qualifications. “Train up a child in the way he should go, when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

There is a grace to train children at home in this season. I am praying for you and you CAN do this! 2020-2021 is going to be an amazing school year!





## Homeschool Resources

### The Law

- The Homeschool Legal Defense Association, [hsllda.org](http://hsllda.org)
  - There is a cost to become a member of this organization, but it is worth it!
  - They specialize in breaking down the law for homeschooling in each state (each state has different requirements)
  - They also defend homeschoolers in court when the need arises.
  - If you become a member there is support and resources available to you that are not on the free website. In addition, if you have a homeschool related legal matter, they will defend you in court free of charge, if you're a member.
- Families for Home Education, [FHE-MO.org](http://FHE-MO.org)
  - This is a Missouri organization that is a wonderful support to homeschooling families in Missouri
  - If you are withdrawing your child from public school, you DO need to submit that in writing to your public school. No other signed forms are required by law.
  - FHE's website has a sample withdrawal letter you can use, as well as many other helpful blog posts, and experts in homeschooling that can answer questions

### Planner

- Well Planned Gal, [www.wellplannedgal.com](http://www.wellplannedgal.com)
  - Homeschool and family life planner.
  - This is the planner I use, unlike other planners this one has plenty of space to plan lessons for up to four students
  - You can also write out a year plan for each student including strengths/weaknesses, goals for the year, and what curriculum you are using. It's great to be able to keep track of all the things required by law in one place.







## **Books and Curriculum**

- The Family Vision Library, <https://www.thefamilyvision.org/>
  - We are so blessed to have this amazing resource in our area!
  - Not only is this a Christian lending library, they also have curriculum available to be checked out if you aren't sure about a curriculum and you want to look it over at home before you buy they may have what you're looking for
  - They also have a homeschool consignment store. The selection of homeschool curriculum is HUGE! They really do have something for everyone and every style. You can save a lot of money by buying teacher guides and reusable books used. You will most likely still need to buy any consumable workbooks new (although sometimes there are a few unused workbooks in the store.) This is worth a visit!
- The Old Schoolhouse Magazine, <https://www.theoldschoolhouse.com/>
  - This is a website and print magazine full of valuable tips, encouraging articles, and ads for curriculum. While I normally do not like Ad's in a magazine, in this case it's actually very helpful because there are ads for curriculum that I wouldn't have known of otherwise.
  - The St. Charles County Library keeps this magazine in circulation as well. Check there for copies.
- Rainbow Resource <https://www.rainbowresource.com/>
  - Rainbow has a HUGE assortment of homeschool curriculum and supplemental books and educational toys.
  - While many things can be found on Amazon, they don't always have everything.
- Master Books <https://www.masterbooks.com/>
  - Another great resource for curriculum, they have some things that Rainbow does not carry.
  - Curriculum bundles. This is a wonderful help if you are not sure what you need for your student. They have taken curriculum for each grade level and bundled it as a package deal.





### **Support and Encouragement**

- Pam Barnhill <https://pambarnhill.com/>
  - I have been blessed to hear Pam speak at several homeschool conventions. She has much wisdom on how to homeschool
  - She employs something called a “morning basket” which is a wonderful concept and a great way to start the homeschool day.
- Read Aloud Revival with Sarah Mackenzie <https://readaloudrevival.com/>
  - If you need help finding good books to read aloud based on your children’s ages or interests, you need this resource!
  - At the website you will find extensive book lists organized by genre, a podcast, and homeschool supports.
  - I have heard Sarah speak at homeschool conferences as well and she is a wealth of information and encouragement!

