

Homeschool Curriculum Suggestions By Subject For New Homeschoolers

* Secular suggestions for Grades K-6

* I chose these selections for ease of use, because they generally follow grade level standards, and for a more “school at home” frame of mind for those wanting a back up plan to virtual learning thru their local school OR for those just getting starting and wanting more traditional choices.

* This is NOT a complete list! There are MANY programs and options for each subject but it can be very overwhelming to be faced with dozens of choices per subject. These suggestions are a good start with well regarded programs used by many homeschoolers.

* All or most of these should be covered by charter funds if using a charter.

These programs will appeal to a variety of kids but won't appeal to ALL kids!

BE SURE to look at samples or trial periods to get a better idea of the program!! Watch the intro videos and take notes to keep track of what you like/don't like. Don't expect to do this in a day, take a few weeks at least to browse and get a feel for the differences.

Be sure to do the placement test if there is one, many levels don't always coordinate with grades and program content varies greatly.

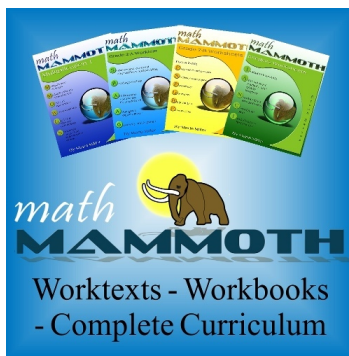
Be sure to let your child check samples out too, first impressions matter and they can tell you what they like/don't like. This will save you a lot of money (or charter funds) by taking the time up front to do this research!

Math:

Math Mammoth-workbook

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

Complete program



Beast Academy-online or workbook

<https://beastacademy.com>

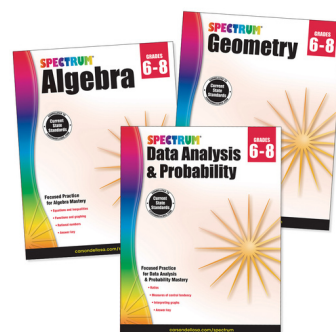
Complete program



Spectrum Math-workbook

<https://www.carsondellosa.com/search-results/?q=spectrum%20math>

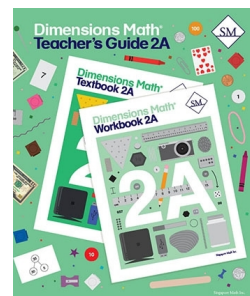
Covers all state standards but I'd add more practice with a math app or games if your child needs more review



Singapore Math-text and workbook

<https://www.singaporemath.com>

(There are different versions to choose from, choosing the newest is likely best)

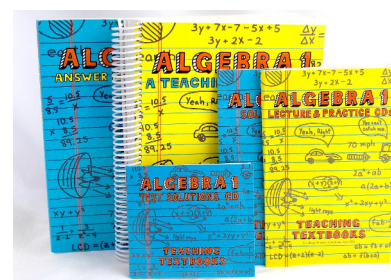


Teaching Textbooks-online streaming program with workbook as a backup

<http://www.teachingtextbooks.com>

We love this program BUT I only suggest this for short term use if you have a kid struggling and needs something engaging. It does not follow typical standards so might not cover all a "typical" grade would cover in a year but it DOES work great for some kids who dislike math, need review, and need something engaging. If you use it from the start it covers all the math skills, however, it may leave gaps if only using for 1 year. But having a child that hates math and not progressing with a program is not productive either. This program is wonderful for some kids who hated math and didn't understand it but needed something different.

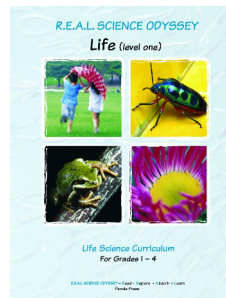
The levels DO NOT match grades, so use the placement test to determine level.



Science:

Real Science Odyssey (RSO)-text/work book

<https://www.pandiapress.com/real-science-odyssey/>



Generation Genius (K-8, adding 6-8 this fall) -online

<https://www.generationgenius.com>



Mystery Science-K-5-online, has virtual labs or you can follow along at home (you can get a year free with the basic service)

<https://mysteryscience.com>



Evan Moor Daily Science-workbook

<https://www.evan-moor.com/daily-science-grade-1-teacher%27s-edition-print>



Science can be enhanced with field trips, videos, books, and hands on exploration.

Social Studies/History:

History Quest-text and workbook (Early Times/ Ancients only available now. Multiple ages of kids can do together)

<https://www.pandiapress.com/history-quest/>



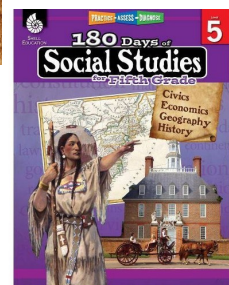
Curiosity Chronicles-text and workbook

<https://www.curiositychronicles.org>



180 Day of Social Studies-workbook

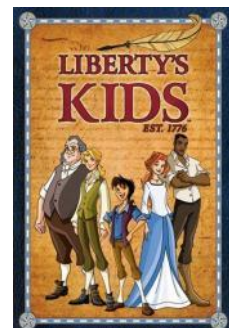
<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category/6445/180-Days-of-Social-Studies.html>



Liberty Kids-Early American history PBS series-free on youtube

You can find coordinating worksheets online if needed. (Ages 7-12ish)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHealWvdbER3Ic90BzhPsH2aj5KI3UtmM>



*If you are unsure of which history period to cover I'd suggest GEOGRAPHY instead. You can focus on world or US geography and find coordinating workbooks. You can add in culture studies for areas kids are more interested in by adding books, videos, museums, and field trips.

Solid Workbook sources-[Spectrum](#),[Evan-Moor](#),[DK](#)

Language Arts:

Language arts covers a lot of ground with grammar, spelling, writing, reading and literature. There is no single workbook that will cover it all!

For just a year or to start I'd focus on weak areas and not try to cover it all! Trust me, they don't need ALL language arts subjects every year.

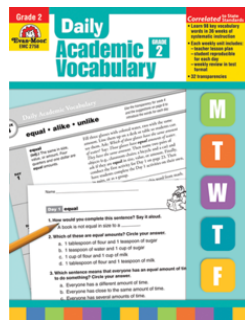
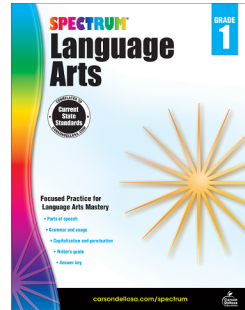
Spectrum and Evan Moor have good standards based writing, spelling, and grammar workbooks. They aren't the most exciting but will cover everything needed. But don't do them all! Just pick the areas they need help with such as reading comprehension or writing. I'd limit it to 1 or 2 LA workbooks. Look at samples online or in person to determine which you prefer.

Spectrum Language Arts-workbook

<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category/2361/Spectrum-Language-Arts-2015.html>

Evan-Moor Language Arts-workbook (many to choose from depending on need)

<https://www.evan-moor.com/series?specs=1921>



Literature(For grade 3 and up. For younger grades just read a loud and enjoy)

I'd choose a few good novels and do a literature study to round out the year. You get to read a good book, discuss various issues it addresses, explore genre, and can practice writing with various assignments. (These can be read-a-louds or independently read.)



Teachers Pay Teachers has a great variety of literature studies-print on demand

Teachers Pay Teachers

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com>

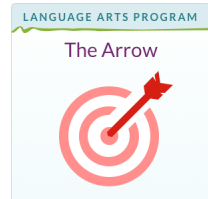
The kids can choose their own novels if you want but perhaps use the grade level reading lists to choose from if you need help (you can google for more reading lists too)

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/collections/17-18/guided-reading-book-lists-by-level/>



Brave Writer Arrow is another literature study that is highly recommended and FUN! These have preselected books. Grades 3-6ish

<https://store.bravewriter.com/collections/mechanics-and-literature/products/the-arrow>



Spelling City is a free app you can use for spelling practice if you really want spelling.

www.spellingcity.com



Kindergraden/1st and those needing reading support

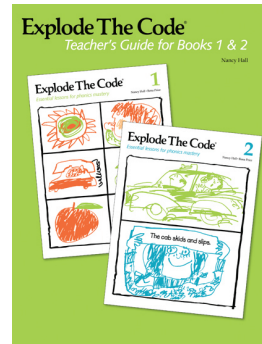
Reading/Reading Comprehension

Reading Eggs/Reading Eggspress - online
Reading Eggs is for younger kids learning to read and Eggspress is for older kids working on fluency and comprehension

<https://readingeggs.com/about>



Explode the Code-online or workbook
<https://www.explodethecode.com> (online version)
<https://eps.schoolspecialty.com> (workbook version)

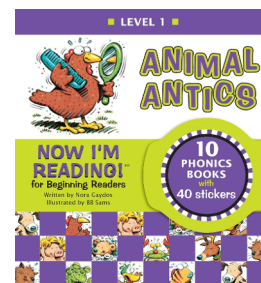


Beginning readers

Nora Gaydo's Now I'm Reading series

<https://nowimreading.wordpress.com/learn-about-the-program/>

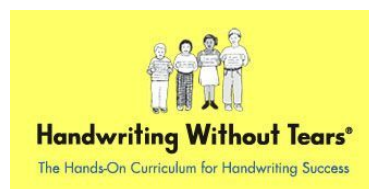
BOB books
bobbooks.com



Handwriting:

Handwriting Without Tears

<https://www.lwtears.com>



All subjects:

Outschool provides online classes in various lengths from 1 hour to 1 semester. Some are live classes with a teacher and others are pre recorded.

They cover every subject and topic imaginable!

This is a great resource for areas your child wants to learn more about or a subject you don't feel comfortable teaching.

<https://outschool.com/>



- * Games! There are tons of great games and apps that teach! Kids can learn as much from an app or board game as many textbooks out there so be aware if your child needs a different way to learn!
- * Library! The library is your friend, use the hold system to save time and let your child choose their own books! Pick a topic (or let your child pick a topic) and let them search for books, it's a great skill to learn!
- * Field Trips/Memberships-children learn by doing and the more they can experience, the better! Aquarium, zoo, museum, science center memberships are an extremely valuable homeschool investment.

Last helpful thoughts....

Join local and active homeschool facebook groups to gain insight and support. But also remember the advice can be overwhelming and you don't have to do it all! Every child learns differently so what works well for one child might not work for another, keep in mind when asking about curriculum and program suggestions.

Read over the state advocacy groups California Homeschool Network and Homeschool California for up to date laws, relevant news, and support.

EDUCATE YOURSELF! Please take the time to read what others have provided for you. Most questions have been asked and answered and there is a wealth of information just waiting for you to read. Use the search functions on FB groups, read books and articles, listen to podcasts, watch youtube videos or whatever medium you learn best from. Yes, this will take a bit of time but it's an investment in your child's education, it's worth the time!

I caution anyone from doing ALL workbooks or ALL online. Generally, a mix is usually the sweet spot BUT let your child help guide you on this. Whatever you choose, younger kids cannot teach themselves, a parent will always have to support and be engaged to some degree, so don't think a workbook or an online program will teach your child for you 100%.

Be sure to find out if you can buy a home subscription to online programs the school is using if your child likes it and learns well with it. Many programs are available for home use. This is will keep your child on track if you are sure they will be returning to school.

I highly encourage new homeschoolers to listen to some of [Julie Bogart's YouTube videos](#) on learning and homeschooling. They are insightful, helpful, and practical!

You can learn more about homeschooling by listening to my podcast, Learning Outside the Lines, at any podcast host or directly at www.learningoutsidethelines.com



Like many others, I never thought I'd homeschool my children. I had no idea what that even meant! But here I am, 13 years later, definitely with more gray hair, but wiser and happier. My oldest graduated from our homeschool June 2017 and I have 3 more to go.

While 3 of my children have always homeschooled or self taught in high school, one has attended school thru 6th grade because that's how he learned best. Experiencing education from "both sides of the fence" has allowed me unique perspectives and definite ideas about how children need individual education plans, however that may look for each child.

We are eclectic child led homeschoolers. I may be my children's teacher (mostly a guide and facilitator), but I learn new things each year right along with them (more than in school for sure!).

In my spare time (ha!) I love to read and revel in books! Books are life. So is coffee.