

HOMESCHOOL STARTER PACK

BEGINNERS SEMINAR

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Prepared for the 2010 LDSEHE Education Conference in Buena Vista, Virginia

WHAT YOU NEED TO BEGIN-- (in order of importance)

- 1 - Emotionally-stable parents with one to twenty children.
- 2 - A desire to spend time together as a family, and, preferably, confirmation from the Spirit that homeschooling is right for you.
- 3 - A "Notice of Intent to Homeschool" submitted to your school system, according to your local laws.
- 4 - Loads and loads of books, from the library, used book sales, or wherever. Books on CD for kids to listen to while playing in their rooms or while you drive in the car. Educational videos to watch while you are folding laundry or making block towers.
- 5 - Stacks of scrap paper, pencils, pens, crayons, tape, scissors, etc. (Let them go nuts with this, then have them help clean up afterwards.)
- 6 - A dry-erase board is helpful, and educational posters can be fun – buy them or make them.

For Younger Kids

- 7 - Pattern blocks, counters, math manipulatives, puzzles, blocks and building sets, rulers, tape measures, measuring cups and spoons, a cheap calculator (to play with), a cheap clock (to play with).
- 8 - A *home-made* chart or poster showing numbers 0 through 109 (in rows of 10), an addition chart and a multiplication chart. Have children find patterns in the numbers and color them.
- 9 - A letter chart showing the letters in the style of handwriting you'd like them to learn (Italic, D'Nealian, etc.). Or make a notebook with an upper and lower case letter on every page, illustrated with pictures of things that begin *and end* with that letter.
- 10 - Reference books: Children's dictionaries and

encyclopedias, children's history encyclopedias and science reference books, field guides (to bugs, birds, trees, wild flowers and weeds, and even our field guide to the crazy mushrooms and fungi that grow around here have all been very fun and useful to have)

11 - Church resources: Scripture Stories (illustrated, summarized stories from each book of scripture), Gospel Art Kit, Visual Aid Cutouts, Friend magazine, etc.

12 - Educational toys and games according to your child's preferences

For Older Kids

13- A solid math curriculum – preferably borrow it from someone first to try it out and see if it's a good fit before investing in it.

14 - Depending on your educational philosophy, you may want more curriculum materials, but don't get so much that they drive you crazy. Most everything else (grammar, vocabulary, spelling, composition, literature and fine arts appreciation, history and science) CAN be learned by wide and varied reading over the course of the teen years. You may want to follow a certain program with a certain child at a certain time, say, a course of formal logic in eighth grade, but don't bite off more than you can chew, especially at first. Here are some that we think have a high educational value and low stress factor:

READING

Bob books

Dr. Seuss books

Explode the Code

How to Read a Book, by Adler and Van Doren

VOCABULARY

Rummy Roots – Greek and Latin root word card game

English from the Roots Up
Vocabulary from Classical Roots

LANGUAGE

Latina Christiana
“Hey Andrew, Teach Me Some Greek”
Oxford Latin

GRAMMAR

Easy Grammar
Classical Writing
ABeka grammar

LOGIC

Mind Benders
Red Herrings
Introductory Logic

HISTORY

Books by Susan Wise-Bauer, Genevieve Foster, Ingri and Edgar d’Aulaire, Holling C. Holling, James Daugherty, Jeanne Bendick, Scott O’Dell, G.A. Henty, Jean Fritz, etc.

MATH

Miquon Math Lab for the younger grades
Mathematics: A Human Endeavor by Harold Jacobs
Saxon Math for the upper grades WITH the DIVE CD-ROMS by Dr. David Shorman
Many other good ones – check out the Math Curriculum Conundrum on Thursday

SCIENCE

For young children, unit studies with books from the library works great. For older kids, we’ve like Rainbow, Apologia, and Abeka science, along with the “Made Simple” series.

EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS

The Standard Deviants
Moody Science videos
The Great Courses series

HOMESCHOOL BOOKS

Teaching Children Joy, by Linda and Richard Eyre
The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook, Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore
The Well-Trained Mind: A Guide to Classical Education at

Home, by Jessie Wise and Susan Wise-Bauer
Homeschooling for Excellence, by David and Micki Colfax
A Thomas Jefferson Education, by Oliver DeMille
Teach Your Own, How Children Fail, How Children Learn, and Learning All The Time, by John Holt
You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully, by Ruth Beechick
The Original Homeschooling Series, by Charlotte Mason
The Core Knowledge Series, by E.D. Hirsch

Jennifer Georgia and her husband Paul have been homeschooling their children since birth, and their oldest is now a junior in college. www.georgiatimes.blogspot.com