

CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Many first-time homeschoolers are daunted about the decision of what curriculum to use. There are hundreds of options out there! A great place to start is Cathy Duffy's recommendations (see below). YouTube also offers videos comparing different curricula. All of the curricula listed below are ones that families at Greenmonte have used and enjoyed. Don't be afraid to jump in and start; you can make adjustments to your curriculum choices as you go.

[Cathy Duffy's Reviews](#) are the go-to for those who want to compare different curricula. Her book, [102 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum](#), can help parents navigate uncharted curriculum waters by taking into account a child's learning style, the amount of prep a curriculum requires, what ages it is suitable for, etc.

[Acellus Academy](#) (K-12th)—Acellus is a flexible online schooling program that allows students to enroll in one to six classes per semester. The courses combine instruction from some of America's greatest teachers with core technologies that enhance teaching and learning by tailoring the course content to each student's learning needs, meeting students at their level.

[The Critical Thinking Co.](#) (all ages)—This award-winning company puts out fabulous workbooks for kids that are both educational and fun! Students can put on their detective hats and hunt for spelling and grammatical errors in *Editor-in-Chief* or solve logic problems in *Balance Bender*. Their store also includes test-prep and special-needs materials. The best way to see all they offer is to [ask for their catalog](#), which breaks things down by subject and grade.

DIY Unit Studies (all ages)—Parents are often worried about “doing something wrong” in homeschooling, but the beauty of it is its flexibility—there's not a right or wrong way to do it. New homeschoolers may enjoy the freedom of allowing their kids' interests direct their studies. For instance, if a child is passionate about basketball, why not study some biographies of famous basketball players, research the history of the sport, study the science of balls bouncing, measure out a regulation-sized basketball court in the backyard, go the gym and practice free throws, or watch a YouTube video of various skills? The possibilities are endless, and your child will be enjoying the learning process.

[Fighter Verses App](#) (all ages)—This app plays scripture memory songs on a loop so that kids can learn scriptures even while their hands are busy doing something else (like chores!). The app also includes fill-in-the-blank quizzes and the chance to record yourself singing the verse.

[Five in a Row](#) (Ages 2-12)—A unit study in which one classic children's book is read five days in a row with different branches of study radiating from that one book. For example, when reading *The Story About Ping* (a Chinese duck), one day's study might be learning about Chinese culture and eating a Chinese meal; another day might be imitating the artist's rendition of water or discussing the idea of choices and consequences. An enjoyable, low-stress introduction to homeschooling!

[The Gentle and Classical Home](#) (Pre-K-6th grade)—With a goal to cultivate purpose, wonder, and joy, the gentle and classical home is a beautiful curriculum developed by a homeschool mom. Morning binders and other structured activities cultivate a wonder of God’s world. The pre-K and K programs get a thumbs-up from one of our Greenmonte families.

[Handwriting Without Tears](#)—Great for teaching print and cursive!

[Institute for Excellence in Writing](#) (4th-12th)—This writing program will help your child learn the fundamentals of essay writing, with additional forays in poetry and creative writing. Its Structure and Style® writing method will give parents the ability to fill their student's toolbox with confidence-building tools, laying the groundwork for a lifetime of excellent writing.

[KONOS](#) (Ages K-8th grade)—A Christian unit study that focuses on one character trait such as Attentiveness, Orderliness, and Honor for one to two months. Each unit integrates science, social studies, art, music, literature, information books, health, safety, and Bible. Each volume is really a teacher's manual which includes activities for Kindergarten through 8th grade allowing you to teach ALL of your children at the same time. One word of caution—while it offers great hands-on lessons that wiggly learners will enjoy, there’s a good bit of prep required of teachers.

[Math Mammoth](#) (1st-7th)— Math Mammoth offers full math curriculum and supplemental worktexts and workbooks for elementary and middle school (plus some supplemental materials for high school). All of the books are available as downloads—and most also as printed books.

[Singapore Math](#) (Pre-K-8th grade)— The Singapore math method is a highly effective teaching approach originally developed by Singapore’s Ministry of Education for Singapore public schools. The method has been widely adopted in various forms around the world over the past 20 years.

[Sonlight](#) (Pre-K-12th grade)—Sonlight is literature-based homeschooling, a highly academic approach that uses outstanding books and delightful stories as the centerpiece for learning. Real books make learning come alive and these stories give context to the information, create an emotional connection with students, and help the readers retain the information. This is an open-and-go curriculum so one doesn’t have to lesson plan. One caution: Sonlight doesn’t shy away from hard topics, so some screening of books may be necessary depending on the maturity of your child. Since the books can be pricey, you can find used copies on eBay.

[Spell to Write and Read](#) (Pre-K-12th grade)—SWR is a phonics-based spelling program. Rather than merely memorizing words, as in traditional spelling programs, students are taught how to analyze the reasons behind a word’s spelling and pronunciation, giving them a strategy to learn any word they encounter. SWR is a popular choice for homeschoolers, although some training (even from another homeschooler) is helpful in learning to teach the SWR method. Some have likened it to “getting a jumbo jet off the ground” but once it’s in the air, it goes the distance!

[The Story of the World](#) (K-8th grade)—*The Story of the World* is an award-winning resource for families looking for a history curriculum they can fall in love with. Told in the straightforward, engaging style that has become Susan Wise Bauer’s trademark, this four-volume set covers the sweep of human history from ancient times until the present. Africa, China, Europe, the Americas — find out what happened all

around the world in long-ago times. This read-aloud series makes history engaging. The audio versions are well-done, also, and can be enjoyed on the go.

The Dollar Store—Never underestimate the dollar store or Target's dollar section for cheap resources for earlier grades (pre-k, K and 1)— flash cards, workbooks, cheap alphabet puzzles, and more. One doesn't need a lot to teach younger ages.