

*So, you're thinking about Homeschooling...*  
**but you don't know where to start!**



**In this podcast episode we will chat about:**

1. Learning the legal ins and outs
2. Setting up your homeschool - what do I need to buy? (if you're starting at the beginning)
3. What if I'm not starting at the beginning - will my kids adjust?
4. Answering the qualification question - am I really qualified to teach my children?
5. What method should I use?

## 1. Learning the legal ins and outs

Here are the websites that I talk about in the podcast episode:

The Homeschool Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) works hard to educate parents about their legal rights and responsibilities. PLEASE go there and make sure you read your state's homeschool laws thoroughly before you start. DO NOT simply fill out whatever forms your school district office sends or gives you. Find out exactly what is REQUIRED of your legally, and do only that. Countless hours have gone into working in homeschooler's behalf; please honor that work by not giving too much information.

Here is the link to the HSLDA state homeschool laws page: <https://www.hsllda.org/laws/default.asp>

Please note: if you have a special needs child, who has an established IEP from a traditional school, please know if your state has special laws covering this. Make sure you ask HSLDA or your statewide homeschool association all of your questions.

Once you know your rights and responsibilities (and you've gotten all of your questions answered!) then move ahead to setting up your homeschool.

Notes about this section:

## 2. Setting up your homeschool - what do I need to buy? (For those starting at the beginning)

I know that it's super tempting to dive into the world of homeschool curriculum, but wait! Before you grab that credit card or checkbook and spend several hundred dollars on 5 year old Johnny, there are a few questions you need to ask yourself... AND a huge word of advice from me! :)

Questions to think through:

- What do I think education is? (Take a minute and write out your definition of education in the notes section on the next page.)
- Where are my children developmentally?
- What are my children's learning styles?
- What is my teaching style?
- Do the learning and teaching styles mesh well?

## Help for Beginners - episode 1 "Practical Tips Before You Start"

- Are there any subjects that I can teach two or more children together?
- And last but NOT LEAST, do I have my reason for homeschooling thought through and written down somewhere? If you're married, your hubby/wife needs to be part of this articulation of your big "Why?"!

Now for that big word of advice from me!  
Write it here in large lettering:

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Fill in the blanks:

\_\_\_\_\_ is not better. \_\_\_\_\_ is just \_\_\_\_\_.  
(unless we're talking about chocolate.)

PACK LIGHT for this journey!

So what do you need to buy? What are the necessities?

1. You need a good family \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ book.

\*I recommend having the *Egermeier's Bible Story Book* on your shelf as well. (CBD has these for a reasonable price. Get the hardback if at all possible.) Also, my favorite devotional book is "Today is Your Best Day" by Roy Lessin.

2. You need a \_\_\_\_\_ card! (I also recommend *Honey for a Child's Heart* by Gladys Hunt)

3. You need lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ supplies! Construction paper, white paper, safety scissors, school glue, tape, markers, crayons, colored pencils, index cards, stickers, air-hardening clay, water color paints and paintbrushes, poster paints, pipe cleaners, etc...

I recommend that you set up an area in a cupboard or hutch with simple organizational tubs, containers, or boxes. It doesn't have to be fancy. We're not talking Pinterest - we're talking functional. (Speaking of Pinterest: please be honest about your ability to be objective about what you see there!)

4. If your child is ready, you will need a good \_\_\_\_\_ program. I recommend *Foundations Phonics* (available at Master Books). This is a simple-to-use but effective approach to teaching your child to read and write.

5. If your child is ready, you will need a good \_\_\_\_\_ program. My math program, *Math Lessons for a Living Education* is available through Master Books and many other curriculum providers.

6. Biblically sound resources for \_\_\_\_\_ study. There are many Creation Science DVDs available. You can find them at Master Books, Christian Book Distributers (CBD), and Rainbow Resource.

I HIGHLY recommend no formal science or history until a child is about nine years old. Use these early years to build observation skills, which lead to critical thinking!

Notes about this section:

### 3. What if I'm not starting at the beginning - will my kids adjust?

If you are not starting at the beginning, you will still need to answer the questions that I asked at the beginning of the last section.

I'll restate them here. Take a few minutes to really think through each one and right your answers.

Questions to think through:

- What do I think education is? (Take a minute and write out your definition of education in the notes section on the next page.)
- Where are my children developmentally?
- What are my \*children's learning styles?
- What is my teaching style?
- Do the learning and teaching styles mesh well?
- Are there any subjects that I can teach two or more children together?
- And last but NOT LEAST, do I have my reason for homeschooling thought through and written down somewhere? If you're married, your hubby/wife needs to be part of this articulation of your big "Why?"!

\*If you don't know what learning style your children have, have them sit down next to you and ask them these question:

- Do you learn better by hearing information or seeing it? (auditory or visual)
- Do you need to do hands-on activities to absorb information and remember it? (kinesthetic)

Many people learn best if they can employ as many of their senses as possible in the learning process. Take time to talk through all of this with your child(ren). Get their input and take notes about ways you can make their learning journey enjoyable and permanent.

**EXTREMELY IMPORTANT:** Your children may need time to decompress from their schooling experience. If they've had school struggles, allow them time to de-school before jumping into homeschooling.

Take notes here:

Write your big homeschooling "Why?" here:

4. Answering the qualification question - am I *really* qualified to teach my children?

Short answer: \_\_\_\_\_ you are.

You bring something to the table that no other educator can: your \_\_\_\_\_ for your child.

You are not \_\_\_\_\_. Never let pride keep you isolated!

God will give you exactly what you \_\_\_\_\_, every single \_\_\_\_\_, for each of your \_\_\_\_\_.

He is the real \_\_\_\_\_, and He is going to use you to do \_\_\_\_\_ things for your family.

Write out Proverbs 3:5-6 here:

Notes about this section:

5. What method should I use?

I'm going to encourage you not to worry about \_\_\_\_\_.

When we focus on method, we tend to measure our success based on how well we are executing our chosen method. Nobody is served well when this happens!

Don't get caught up in the pursuit of perfect.

Instead, find what works for your family, and \_\_\_\_\_ !

Your homeschool is not going to look like anyone else's because your family is not like anyone else's. Be ok with being unique. Learn to embrace messy.

In the end, it's not the method of education that is going to teach your children; it is you investing in their lives, embracing the life God has given you, and letting go of the dream of perfection.

Ask yourself, when your children are all grown up, what do you want them to look back and say about their homeschooling experience?