

# Ready to Homeschool — Six Month Countdown

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### **WEEK 16: VARIOUS APPROACHES TO HOMESCHOOL**

Homeschooling encompasses a very wide range of educational approaches. Just because two families homeschool, it does not mean that they will agree about everything. (Huge misconception and ridiculous stereotypes!)

Several questions can help us categorize the approaches:

- “Who is in charge of determining what is learned?”
  - The curriculum company — video learning, online classes
  - The parent, using books and guides as tools
  - The student, “unschooling”
- “Who gives the grades or determines mastery?”
  - The curriculum company — private school at home
  - The parent, using a rubric or point system
  - The parent, using informal evaluation throughout the week
  - No one because it is unnecessary
- “How much parent involvement?”
  - Just pick out their books, or turn on the video/computer — the student takes responsibility from there
  - Parents give suggestions, but they don’t need to micromanage anything
  - Parents sit beside their kids and read books out loud and prepare hands-on experiments and art projects
- “Does the curriculum align with religious beliefs or is it secular?”
- “What learning materials are involved?”
  - Books, workbooks, paper, and pencil
  - Computers, Kindles, Cell phones and/or DVD/Screens
  - Manipulatives and hands-on projects
  - Art Supplies
  - Musical Instruments
  - Science Equipment
  - “The whole world is our laboratory/classroom”
- “How are students divided for instruction?”
  - By age
  - By academic stage
  - By interest
  - There is no point to dividing students
- “When and Where do Students do Homeschool?”
  - A dedicated school-room, from 8 am to noon
  - On the couch for read-alouds, at the table for workbooks, generally during the day
  - Anywhere that’s quiet — each child makes their own schedule
  - Students are learning no matter what time it is or where they happen to be

For Week 19, we will be discussing *You CAN Teach Your Child Successfully* by Ruth Beechick. This is a classic homeschooling “how-to” book with several editions available. Use this link to purchase the book, and I will benefit as an Amazon affiliate: <https://amzn.to/3KIO4Am>

## **For further research:**

The Epic Comparison Chart at butmostllymommy blog

<https://butmostllymommy.wordpress.com/2015/04/23/homeschooling-methods-an-epic-comparison-chart/>

The Quiz and the Resource List at eclectic-homeschool.com

<https://eclectic-homeschool.com/what-kind-of-homeschooler-are-you/>  
<https://eclectic-homeschool.com/homeschool-philosophies-a-resource-list/>

Guide to Homeschool Methods by Pam Barnhill (blog post)

<https://pambarnhill.com/guide-to-homeschool-methods/>

Overview of Homeschooling Styles at blessedhomeschool.com

<https://blessedhomeschool.com/homeschooling-styles/>

Rainbow Resource puts out a catalog each year that can be downloaded in PDF form (or mailed to your house). This year, the pages preceding each section contain a chart that can be helpful in making comparisons.

(Notice the color coded icons explained on pages 3-4.)

[https://www.rainbowresource.com/pdfs/2022\\_Catalog.pdf](https://www.rainbowresource.com/pdfs/2022_Catalog.pdf)

Related ideas to google search (keep the questions from Page 1 in mind as you research):

- Unschooling
- “delight-directed”
- “passion project”
- Learning Styles
- Spiral vs. Sequential
- Scope and Sequence
- Homeschool Co-op
- Morning Basket
- Loop Scheduling
- Charlotte Mason — Ambleside
- Waldorf
- Montessori
- Unit Studies (Weaver/KONOS)
- Classical Education
- Eclectic Homeschooling
- Monarch/Switched-on-Schoolhouse/Odysseyware
- BJU Press and BJU Distance Learning Online
- University of Nebraska’s online high school (<https://highschool.nebraska.edu/about>)