

# Ready to Homeschool — Six Month Countdown

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## WEEK 25: SETTING UP YOUR SPACE

Your philosophy of homeschooling will impact how you set up your home to accommodate learning. If you embrace a traditional method, you will most likely want to acquire school desks and set aside a dedicated space that looks like a classroom. If you embrace unschooling then your home may not look “schoolish” at all.

(Revisit Week 16: Homeschool Approaches to refresh your memory if needed.)

Considerations for choosing a spot:

- How much space can you carve out ONLY for homeschooling?
- Do you have “overflow storage” space somewhere else in the house?
- Which electronic devices/computers are part of your schooling, and do you need to strategically position them for easy access or charging?
- Are you more likely to do school if it’s AWAY from the everyday action, or ADJACENT to the spaces you occupy most?
- Can you provide a quiet study space in a different part of the house?
- What items can easily be taken along in a backpack on errands?
- What types of materials do you need every-day access to?
- Which school supplies need to be within reach?
- Do you need to occupy toddlers or preschoolers while you teach the older kids?
- “We would be more likely to accomplish the [art/science/math/etc.] lesson if we .....

### Homeschooling “systems”

Besides the weekly planning that we’ve already discussed (Revisit Week 20: Weekly Schedules), you can implement some procedures that will simplify your implementation of homeschooling AND record-keeping. Think through how your space and systems can encourage kids to be more independent in certain situations, and where you want them to keep their homeschool materials, both before and after they have completed assignments.

Considerations:

- What does “being ready” mean? Where should they be at what time? Doing what?
- What should they do if you are interrupted by a visitor or a phone call?
- Where can they see the ideal schedule for the day? The chore chart? The menu? (Etc)
- Where should they put their completed assignments? Are they expected to redo missed problems? How do you want to follow up on past work? When are you grading it and/or giving feedback?
- What should they do if they are stuck on their homework, but you are busy teaching another child?
- What is your policy about going on technology, going outside, playing Legos, etc? How do you want them to show you what has been accomplished for the day?
- How do you want to compile records for the year? Do you need to submit a portfolio to anyone for evaluation?
- How do you want to store “school keepsakes” — items that are valued because they display their creativity or God-given bent?

### Suggested methods:

Underlying structure in your home for homeschooling

<https://www.notconsumed.com/a-tale-of-two-homeschool-room-ideas/>

Creating a 3-ring binder (or “disc-bound” notebook planner) to facilitate independent learning

<https://theunexpectedhomeschooler.com/homeschool-record-keeping>

Setting up a visual chart for younger kids and sign-in sheet for older kids:

<https://happyhomeschooling.com/site/getting-kids-to-do-schoolwork/#more-1239>

The Crate System (dividing the work into 36 folders, one per week)

<https://blueandhazel.com/homeschool-crate-system>

“Open and Go” Classification Folders (what doctors use for medical charts)

(putting all core subject worksheets into ONE folder per kid)

<https://www.catholichomebody.com/open-and-go-homeschool-folders/>

Keeping track of all the pieces!!! Office supply items to the rescue:

<https://thepelsers.com/5-days-of-organizing-your-homeschool-supplies-magazine-file-boxes/>

(SO many ideas, just keep “googling” and “Pinteresting” until inspiration strikes)