

HOMESCHOOL TEACHER

Fall 2007



Create a Time Travel Notebook

Save Money on Curriculum

Algebra How-To

Teaching Dolch Sight Words

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An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.
- Benjamin Franklin

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Using a Time Travel Notebook by camyden

History is a subject that can be overwhelming to teach. Where to start? How much to teach? Sometimes it's hard to get a handle on things.

We developed a Time Travel Notebook, to help us keep track of what we've studied and what we still need to cover. Using an ordinary spiral bound notebook and some organization you can help your child get a "big picture" view of historical events.

Start by picking a time in history that your child is interested in. Or let your child pick a time. In the middle of your notebook write the date or time in history that you have chosen. Now, research this period by studying the major events. For example, my son loves WWII. We started his notebook with Pearl Harbor. We studied Pearl Harbor, the events leading up to the attack and what happened immediately afterwards. Now to continue, we start with Pearl Harbor and move either forward or backward through time hitting major events. When we come to an event that interests us we study it in greater detail. Every major event is chronicled in our notebook. It may take one page and one day or several pages and span many weeks depending on the children's level of interest in the particular subject.

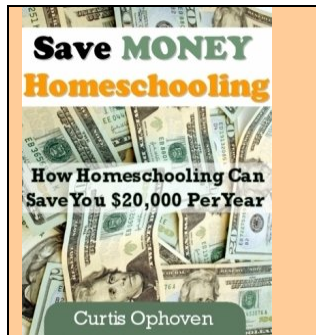
Using this technique has allowed my children to have a better idea of when major events in history occurred. It is also a great way to open dialogue with your children. It's really fun when they start studying events you have lived through. It also gives them a great opportunity to learn to respect what their Grandparents may have lived through. My son has had great conversations with his Great-Grandfather about serving in Italy during WWII. It gives them a common interest and also gives Grandpa a boost. His fourteen year old Great-Grandson wants to spend time with him.

History doesn't have to be boring. Make a Time Travel Notebook and see what adventures your children embark on.

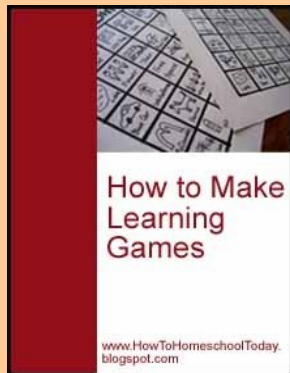
Visit www.hslit-collections.com for more homeschool resources.



3 Tips To Help You Reduce The Cost Of Homeschooling by Ricky Lim



[Save Money Homeschooling!](#)



[Make Your Own Learning Games](#)

Homeschooling can be an expensive choice for parents. There are many expenditures that need to be taken into account and the financial burden can be heavy particularly if only one parent is working.

However, many families have chosen homeschooling and found the homeschooling experience to be rewarding and fruitful.

Though homeschooling is expensive, there are some tips that will help you to reduce the cost of homeschooling and help ease your financial problems.

1. Learning materials

You can obtain your child's textbooks and other learning materials easily without necessarily buying them. You can always borrow them from the library. Your local schools may be able to lend them or sell them to you at a cheap price and you can go online and download the educational materials and print it out yourself.

Visit the homeschooling forums online and just ask where you can ask free or cheap learning materials. You'll be sure to find some tips.

2. Educational Field Trips

Educational trips can mean visits to the local zoo or science center. You can teach your child about animals and plants in your local garden or the local garden community.

You could teach history by visiting historical sites. You could teach culture by visiting other cultural sites or watching plays etc. All these are usually free or for a cheap price.

3. Be part of a community

There should be many local homeschooling communities in your local neighbourhood. By joining these homeschooling communities, you can pool their resources and shared it among the members.

For example, a homeschooling community can approach the local school and ask for

donations for used textbooks, writing materials and other items such as whiteboards,

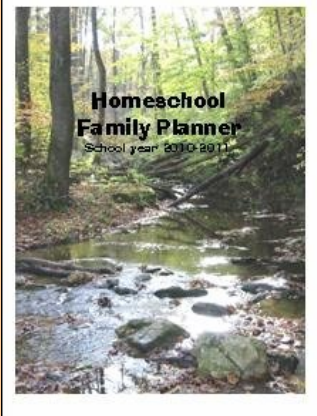
desks and chairs etc.

Or the homeschooling community can pool their financial resources together and negotiate with a publisher for cheaper prices. Since you have more bargaining power as a community rather than an individual, you stand a greater chance of successfully negotiating a deal with the publisher.

If you do not have a homeschooling community in your local area, try online homeschooling communities and forums. They offer support and guidance and often free homeschooling resources are available.

I hope I have given you some ideas on how to save money when homeschooling. As long as you are creative, you can find more ways to reduce the cost of homeschooling.

Ricky Lim runs a homeschooling reviews site. Visit his site for more homeschooling information such as Montessori Homeschooling and homeschooling cost. *Ricky's site was down at the publication of this article.*



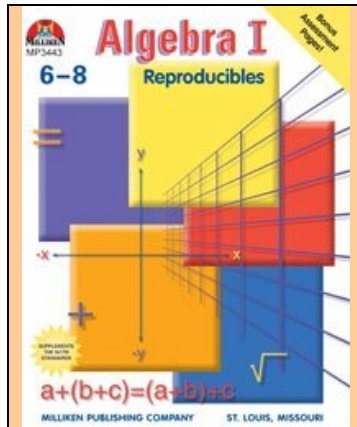
[Homeschool Family Planner](#)



[Mom's Meal Planner/BEST SELLER](#)

Algebra: How To Start and Why You Really Need to Practice a Lot

by Markella M.



[Algebra 1 Reproducibles](#)



[Or back it up to Pre-Algebra](#)

The most important factor about algebra and mathematics is that you really need to practise in order to understand the concepts. There are a lot of algebra books, tutorials, interactive lessons, online tutors and courses that can help you a lot, but without some homework and practise you are bound to fail.

You cannot remember the thousands of algebra concepts and equations without truly understand what each equation really means. What is the reason behind every algebra concept.

A key factor is to take small steps. For example learn one algebra equation, practise it for a couple of days, then move on to the next. Move on only if you feel comfortable with what you've learned. Every time you move on to the next algebra concept increase the difficulty of the equations or the exercises you're trying to solve.

Follow this procedure and soon you'll notice that your brain will be able to absorb mathematics and algebra quicker and easier. You will start to like it.

Another thing is that algebra requires you to apply specific rules. You will find these basic rules in a lot of equations and algebra concepts. The more you practise the basic algebra rules the better you'll become at learning different and more difficult algebra concepts.

A lot of people learning algebra miss out on the basic rules. In the end they mess up everything. Remember, rules are everywhere. Our society is based on specific rules. Same goes for algebra. Treat algebra rules like a game and you'll like it.

You may end up wondering.. Why should I learn math and algebra? That's a good question. You must ask yourself this question before you go on. Algebra will help you solve problems, make decisions, apply strategies and a lot more. If you want your skills to worth gold then you have to learn math and especially algebra. If you want your mental powers to

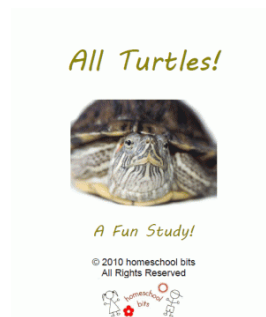
reach top level then you have to learn algebra.

If you like mathematics then you know that in order to move to advanced mathematics you have to know the basics of algebra. Algebra is everywhere in your everyday life. This is a great advantage when trying to learn algebra. Why? Because you can take the a real situation and turn it into an algebra concept or equation. Always ask yourself.. why? Here is a simplified example. You walk on the street and you see a girl carrying a birdcage. Inside the birdcage there are 4 little birds. Suddenly the cage's door opens and one of the birds escapes. You can turn this incidence into a simple algebra equation:

$$3 - 1 = 2$$

See what I mean? Now that's the first step! After that it will be easy to turn live complicated situations into algebra concepts. Your brain will soon become familiar with the idea. And soon you will be able to turn your entire life into algebra!

If you are a starter then you have to take a look at this interactive math tutor <http://www.digitalstarproducts.com/star/-detail-19.html> that will help you master the concepts of mathematics quickly. You can try the free demo lessons. It will help you a lot to get started and boost your self esteem. These fine tuned interactive algebra e-courses will help you learn faster, easier, with a funny and entertaining approach.



Curriculum Review

This unit is suggested for grades K-5 but is very flexible for lower & higher grades. *All Turtles! A Fun Study!* is intended to be read by the parent/teacher. It is a lesson that speaks directly to the child. It was created to be fun and not overwhelming. The child will feel involved in the lesson, while learning about turtles. Some of the topics covered include a little of each:

types of turtles, sea turtles, freshwater turtles, tortoises, turtle armor, beak, sounds, turtle babies and eggs, and more

Also included are fact and information pages, turtle vocabulary, diagrams, coloring pages, quiz, turtle cards, suggested websites, turtle lapbook folds & flaps, a lapbook cover page, and clipart for creating a simple lapbook. 41 pages. [Click Here to View More of This Resource.](#)

How To Teach Dolch Site Words

It is vitally important for your child to learn site words in order to make the process of reading a success. Here is a simple system to lock in those words and have a little fun with it to!

Dedicate a 3 ring notebook for this learning experience. Put a copy of the site words you will be working on in the front. Now take each site word separately and spend a week on it. Let's say we chose the word "after".

Step 1: Have your student first use it in a sentence. I was born after my brother Ben.

Step 2: Have your student draw a picture on notebook sized paper of the sentence he or she just made up. At the bottom of the picture write after in pencil and have your student trace it with a marker or crayon. Put this in your notebook.

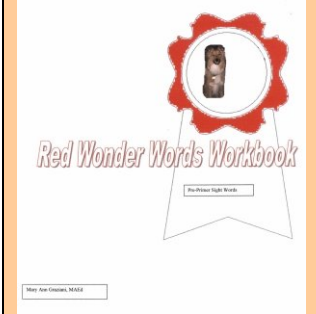
Step 3: Write your word 6 times on a page and have your student trace around it. Put that page in your notebook.

Step 4: The teacher writes down a paragraph using the word as many times possible. Have the student go through the paragraph and find and underline the site word each time he or she finds it. **Step 5:** If you have done this approach with other site words then mix in this week's word with the others and have the student pick it out.

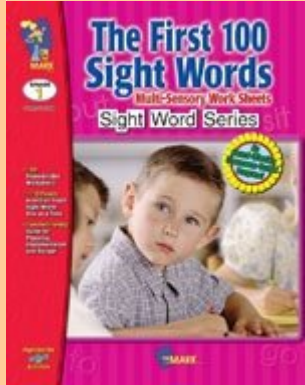
Step 6: Have the student write the word by him or herself big enough to fill a piece of paper. Then have them write it on an index card to put in a flashcard set.

Put everything in the notebook and keep the flashcards in the pockets. Run through the flash cards at the end of every week to review past site words along with the new one.

Repeat the process for words that aren't retained. As you are reading together point out sight words. On the next page is a list of Dolch site words for the first grade level.



Red Wonder Words Workbook
Pre-K



The First 100 Sight Words
Multi-Season Work Sheets
Sight Word Series

[First 100 Sight Words](#)

Both of the resources are available as an instant pdf download.

**DOLCH SITE WORDS
GRADE ONE**

after	has	over
again	her	put
an	him	round
any	his	some
ask	how	stop
as	just	take
by	know	thank
could	let	them
every	live	then
fly	may	think
from	of	walk
give	old	were
going	once	when
had	open	

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Choosing The Right Homeschool Curriculum For Your Family

by Wendy T. Young



[Less stuff to take care of is more time for people.](#) (from the author of this great resource)



[Get Organized!](#)

Both resources can be instantly downloaded.

Any first time homeschooler can recount the details of their first homeschool convention. Some may have wonderful experiences, but the many that I have come into contact with, come away feeling hopelessly overwhelmed and confused by the availability of choices. The families who go to homeschool conventions and come away with the right fit or mix of curriculum normally have a well thought out plan.

Perhaps you are the type of homeschooling parent who does not attend homeschool conventions. Possibly you prefer to order your homeschool curriculum from various catalogues that you request by telephone, mail or over the internet. Here you are selectively contacting those curriculum providers that you feel will best suit your needs.

You could possibly be part of a third group ? the homeschooler who enjoys surfing the web and sifting through the maze of homeschool curriculum advertised on line. This was where I found myself about 10 years ago. Not being in a country where annual homeschool conventions were the norm all those years ago, I needed a strategy to survive the curriculum hunt.

Here are my top 8 tips for choosing the right curriculum for your family, whether online, via catalogue or at a homeschool convention.

Tip no 1 : Know your children well.

Here I am not talking about learning styles. This is knowing their particular bent ? their interests, their heart, their hopes and dreams.

Tip no 2: Family focus

Here you consider what you as a family are about. Are you a missionary family? Are you a family with special needs children? Perhaps you want to travel more. All these issues need to be taken into account.

Tip no 3: Learning styles

Knowing your children's learning styles (and your teaching styles) is an important consideration but it should not be the only thing that you consider when purchasing curriculum.

Tip no 4: Long term goals

What are your long term goals for your family? What are your children's goals for their own lives? The answer to this question may only become clearer as your children get older. But if you desire that your children are self employed then you would look for curriculum and resources that aid you in this goal.

Tip no 5: Cost

This is an important factor. While there are many homeschooling families who feel alright with photocopying and borrowing material, I have never thought it fair to "rob" others of their income. This does not mean that buying a homeschool curriculum need to bankrupt you, but planning in advance can make all the difference if you know what your budget is.

Tip no 6: Philosophy

Research what homeschool philosophy appeals to you. There are a large number of differing schools of thought. Briefly they are: Literature Based, Unit Study, Textbook, Unschooling, Accelerated, Catholic, Classical, Delight Directed and Charlotte Mason.

Tip no 7: Time available to mom

This is an important factor to take into consideration. Do you have lots of children? Perhaps you work part time? Do your children pursue lots of activities and have other co-op classes? These need to be thought through as you prepare to purchase any curriculum.

Tip no 8: Know your child's preferences and weaknesses

Part of choosing curriculum is finding the right tools to build up your children in their weaknesses so that they achieve an acceptable standard. It is also good to have a general knowledge of all scholarly disciplines, but this is not necessarily the only goal. Make sure you also choose things in which your child can delight in.

Finally before starting out to the homeschool convention, surfing the net or sending out catalogue request, be sure that you have prayed about your choices, sought your husbands counsel and that you have your guidelines in place. Happy curriculum hunting.

Submitted by Wendy Young from www.homeschool-curriculum-for-life.com Wendy is a homeschooling mom to four children aged 12 to 5. They have always homeschooled. She has been married for 17 years and seeks to serve God in all she does.