

# HOMESCHOOL TEACHER

Spring 2008

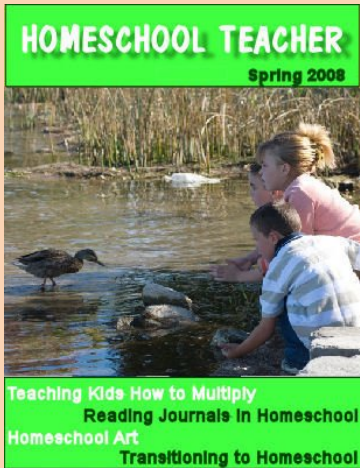


Teaching Kids How to Multiply

Reading Journals In Homeschool

Homeschool Art

Transitioning to Homeschool



Spring 2008

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Each article has been tabbed by subject

Art

To aid in organizing content when printing and saving for future use.



*Knowledge is of two kinds: we know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it.*

~*Samuel Johnson*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Homeschool Art Project Ideas.....	3
Reading Journals.....	4
Teaching Your Child How to Multiply.....	5
Making the Transition from Public School to Homeschooling.....	7
Website Review of PBS Teachers.....	9

## Homeschool Art Project Ideas by Faithe Thomas

One of the greatest aspects about homeschooling your children is the fact that you can be as creative as you want to be. You aren't locked into teaching specific art classes for an entire semester, as the public schools are. If you want to teach ceramics one day and art appreciation the next, the choice is yours.

Almost any art project is fair game, when it comes to homeschooling. It stands to reason that you should choose projects that appeal to your children. Ask them to write down several projects they'd like finish over the course of the year. Combine them with the projects you have chosen to teach and they'll be more enthusiastic about their work.

The Internet is a wonderful research tool when it comes to planning your art classes for the year. There are countless websites which contain art project ideas on almost everything imaginable. For the most part these sites have been created by homeschooling families, art supply vendors, school districts and individual teachers.

There are many online discussion groups geared toward homeschooling families which offer additional art project ideas. If you have a certain project in mind, but are having difficulty locating the instructions, this is the place to ask for advice. You'll be surprised at the responses you'll receive.

Visit your local library, especially if you are on a budget. Most arts and crafts books include all patterns needed to complete the projects contained within. Make photocopies of the supply list, instruction sheet, patterns and finished project. This not only saves money but space, as well. Instead of storing several books on a bookshelf, future project ideas can be neatly stored in a file cabinet.

Believe it or not, you can even come up with art project ideas when browsing your favorite online auction site. Do a search for 'arts and crafts'. There are always scads of new supplies being auctioned off every day.

Homeschool art projects can be anything from the traditional projects we all did in school to unique, one-of-a-kind masterpieces. Many can be created with the intent of gift giving. It's never too late to plan ahead for the holidays!

### About the Author

Mrs. Kirk Thomas is a homeschool mom and advocate of homeschooling. She has additional resources available on her website <http://www.everythinghomeschool.info> she also maintains the following sites: <http://www.diaper-coupon.com> and <http://www.breastfeedingsource.info>

## Reading Journals by Kerry Beck

In some of my workshops this past summer I admitted that writing in my reading journal was a weakness. For that reason, I believe my children had not done well writing in their journals. I made some changes for the upcoming year. So far, we are off to a good start. Here are the ideas we began.

1. Buy a special journal for each person - I bought really cool looking journals from Staples for each of my kids and myself.
2. Buy those small journals. - Mine are about 5x7 in size. My thinking was if the pages were smaller, the kids would have an easier time to put their thoughts on to paper.
3. Discuss what each one of you wrote - First, we started with Family Group Time by reading out loud. But that's another thing. Each of us talks about what we've written the previous day. This makes us accountable to one another. It's not very time-consuming, about 5 minutes per day. But if you're on an interesting topic, it might take longer... The general rule is to keep it concise and quick.
4. Give the person the freedom to choose what to read - At this point in time, I let my children journal what book they want. These entries are in response to either our reading aloud or their own individual reading. Making their own decisions helps them take control of their academics. Interest on books depends upon each reader, so the best option is to let your kids choose.
5. Provide a fun and easy atmosphere - As the reading journal activity progresses, I try to make it as fun and easy as possible for my children. They can retell the story in their very own words. As they progress over the years, I tell them to put on paper their thoughts, concerns or conclusions about that book. This can further develop their thinking skills as they consider their book.

When these methods are used with your own students, you'll see that their writings and their attitude improve. If you use reading journals in a homeschool or classroom setting, you can greatly help your students with the reading journal activity.

### About the Author

**Kerry Beck** suggests [Gileskirk](#) curriculum to further enhance reading journals with your students. She wants to give you a special report, "How to Get It All Done" at [Christian Homeschool Curriculum](#).

## Teaching Your Child How to Multiply by Anthony Joseph

When teaching kids how multiplication works, I suggest introducing them to 3 basic concepts. First, teach multiplication as groups of objects. Next, teach them to multiply using arrays. Lastly, teach kids to multiply through repeated adding.

Groups of Objects - To understand multiplication in its most basic sense, teach kids that multiplying is the process of counting equal groups of objects. For example, you might have seven bags. There are three books in each bag. How many books do you have in all? There are seven groups, (bags). There are three objects in each group. So, the multiplication process is asking you to find out how many objects are in seven groups of three.

Once they can solve this problem by counting pictures or objects, teach them that the "times sign" means "groups of."  $7 \times 3$  is exactly the same as saying, "7 groups of 3."

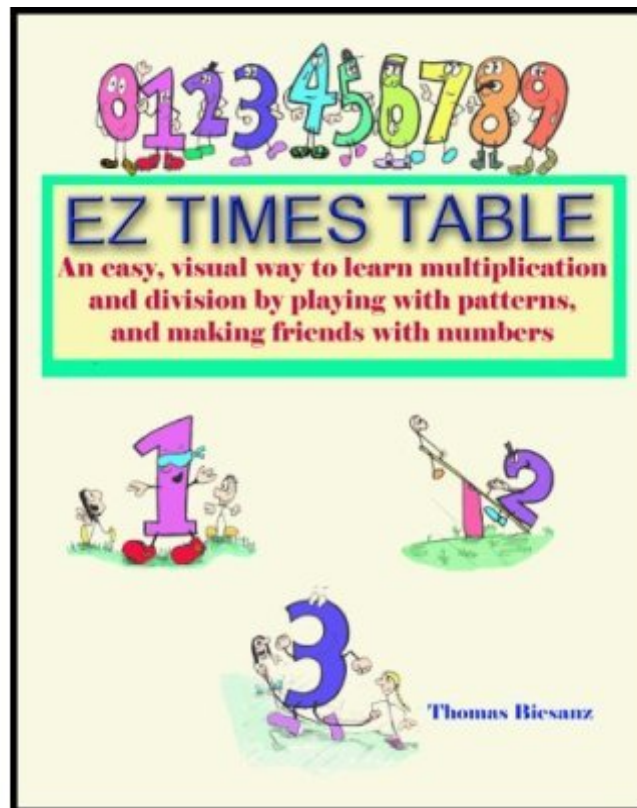
Kids should be able to answer such a problem easily by drawing a picture. For a more hands-on approach allow kids to use counters, such a jellybeans or pennies, to figure out the answer to this problem.

Below you'll find five "story problems" you can try together with your child. Give him or her some small objects to manipulate and place into groups. See if he or she can figure out the answers.

1. There are 4 flower vases. Each vase has 3 flowers. How many flowers in all? (Your child should have objects placed in 4 groups. There should be 3 objects in each group. He/she should tell you that there are 12 flowers in all.)
2. There are 4 small boxes. Each box has 8 pencils in it. How many pencils in all? (Your child should have objects placed in 4 groups. There should be 8 objects in each group. He/she should tell you that there are 32 pencils in all.)
3. There are 3 plates. Each plate has 3 cookies on it. How many cookies in all? (Your child should have objects placed in 3 groups. There should be 3 objects in each group. He/she should tell you that there are 9 cookies in all.)
4. There are 12 eggs in a carton. I have 2 cartons. How many eggs in all? (Your child should have objects placed in 2 groups. There should be 12 objects in each group. He/she should tell you that there are 24 eggs in all.)
5. There are 7 houses on a street. Each house has 3 windows. How many windows in all? (Your child should have objects placed in 7 groups. There should be 3 objects in each group. He/she should tell you that there are 21 windows in all.)

For more multiplication word problems and printable multiplication worksheets, visit [www.SuperTeacherWorksheets.com](http://www.SuperTeacherWorksheets.com) more multiplication (and other) worksheets are available on the [www.mathmiddlebook.com](http://www.mathmiddlebook.com) site.

**About the Author** A.J. has written many multiplication worksheets. At [superteacherworksheets.com/multiplication](http://superteacherworksheets.com/multiplication)



EZ TIMES TABLE by Thomas Biesanz, is a fun and easy way to view, understand, teach, and learn multiplication and division. It is a graphic organizer where students create simple patterns which reveal the whole times table. There are 22 full-page charts and amusing line drawings by Jakob Marsh. (Author added color). EZ TIMES TABLE is also useful for learning addition, subtraction, squares, fractions, graphing, and reading tables.

**Find out more about this item at  
[www.printablehomeschool.com/hstproductpage.html](http://www.printablehomeschool.com/hstproductpage.html)**

## **Making the Transition from Public School to Homeschooling by Jane Saeman**

If your child is struggling in public school, for whatever reason, and is getting more discouraged as the year progresses. Choosing to homeschool might be a valid option to consider. However, be prepared for a transition period after taking your child out of public school before jumping into homeschooling.

If your child is currently in public school, before you withdraw them, you need to determine your state's homeschooling laws. Make sure you meet all of the state's requirements before taking further action. After you've met each of the laws of your state, contact your child's school and formally withdraw your child. Failing to formally withdraw your child may lead to truancy issues in the future. Also, be prepared for them to ask questions.

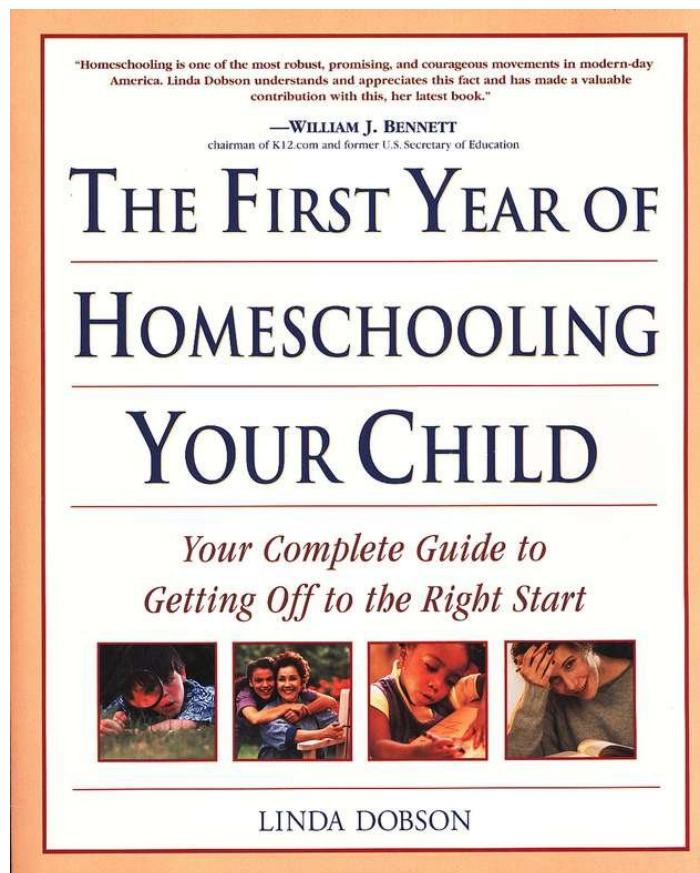
The manner in which you withdraw your child will probably vary depending on where you live, possibly writing a letter to the superintendent of your child's school system. Explain to them that you have chosen to homeschool and are formally withdrawing your child. Provide proof that you are following your state's laws and are legally allowed to withdraw your child from school. If you can quote part of the law in your letter, it will show that you understand the law and your rights as a homeschooling family.

1. When you have your child at home, be prepared to take some time off of actual school work. This will give your child a chance to learn a new lifestyle. After all, your child has been used to the school's way of doing things. They are no longer imprisoned by the rules and regulations they've come to know.
2. Take some time to get to know one another again. You may think you know your child, but it's quite possible that you don't know them at all. There may be parts of your child's personality that you never knew existed. They might learn some new things about you, as well.
3. Don't be surprised if your child continues to do the things that they've become accustomed to doing. Some new homeschoolers will raise their hand if they have a question or when they need to use the restroom. It may take some time to do, but those habits will need to be broken.
4. Keep some of the better habits they've gained. If your child has been used to having spelling tests on a particular day of the week, continue to keep that schedule. If you allow them to stop doing everything they did in public school, you may have a situation that is worse than they left.
5. Take the time to enjoy the process with your child. Choosing to homeschool, while primarily for the student, should also be enjoyable for you as well. Cut loose and have

fun. Don't take yourselves too seriously, and remember that you were a parent first. Most of all, remember why you chose to homeschool . . . to enjoy the freedom homeschooling affords.

### About the Author

Jane Saeman runs an In-Home Tutoring service called Aim High Tutors. Find out about how to help your student reach their full potential at <http://www.aimhightutors.com/blog>



The first year of homeschooling is daunting for everyone; the unfamiliar jargon, the too-many-to-count curriculum choices, the methods that everyone swears by...it's almost enough to make you give up before you've started! Let *The First Year of Homeschooling Your Child* take off some of the pressure by answering your most urgent questions, and giving you some encouragement and hard-learned advice along the way. This guide will help you to determine your first steps, build your own educational philosophy and discover the best ways to cater to your child's learning philosophy.

**Find out more about this item at  
[www.printablehomeschool/hstproductpage.html](http://www.printablehomeschool/hstproductpage.html)**

## PBS Teachers

Reviewed by the Homeschool Teacher Web Explorer

The Homeschool Teacher Web Explorer has found a website worth checking out. If you like PBS then it's time to find the free resources available at PBS Teachers. (www.pbs.org/teachers) The site is designed for classroom prek-12 teachers. PBS Teachers would work well for homeschooling families teaching at multiple levels during the day.

### Early Childhood

They have Prek-2 Thematic Units that contain activities and related books for over a common theme. There is a listing of recommended books and websites as well as ideas to help you improve as a teacher for this challenging and demanding age.

### Elementary

Pick your academic area and you will find lesson plans categorized by grade level with links and information to teach. The areas of study include the arts, reading, math, science, physical fitness, language arts, and social studies. If your child gets through the material you bought for them last fall here is a great supplement to last out the year or to reinforce lessons you are working on in homeschool.

### Secondary

If you are struggling with math at this level there are some great lesson plans with worksheets to help you through it. They also have lessons that target a student's interest at this age. For example, a lesson entitled, "How much is a gigabyte of music?" that goes on to utilize fractions. Motivation is half the battle for some kids so taking a new approach can be the difference between cooperation and noncooperation.

If you are interested in furthering your teacher skills and are willing to pay for it, PBS offers graduate level courses in many subject areas for teachers. To give an idea on the price a course for teaching reading came out to \$129. Whether teaching at home or in a classroom environment, working on becoming a better teacher is as important as the work your students do.



So check it out-PBS Teachers is worth a visit!

[www.pbs.org/teachers](http://www.pbs.org/teachers)