



Summer 2007

Homeschool Teacher

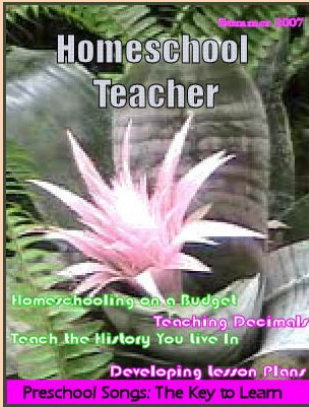
Homeschooling on a Budget

Teaching Decimals

Teach the History You Live In

Developing lesson Plans

Preschool Songs: The Key to Learn



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Each article has been tabbed by subject



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



You can teach a student a lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives.

Clay P. Bedford

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Homeschooling on a Budget; It's Not As Hard as You Think

by Doug Dillard

A child that is home schooled is a child with a world of opportunities open to him/her. As a parent, or a tutor of a home schooled child, you have complete control over what they learn and what kind of opportunities will be available to them. One may think that expensive books and workbooks are required for a child to learn, but that is simply not true. There are all kinds of ways for a child to be home schooled on any budget.

The library has a vast amount of resource material that you may borrow. These books can be checked out for weeks at a time and the only cost you will incur is that of your library card if you do not already have one. These books cannot be written in, but with a little paper of your own, the problems can be done separate from the book. A lot of text books will have answers to at least some of their problems in the back of the book. If you're timid about being able to have every answer correct, look for these types of books so that you'll know that your answers are always the right ones. Videos and CDs among other media may also be checked out from the library. These can usually only be taken for a few days at a time, but the material in many of them is invaluable and can be used to enhance lessons in the home.

Material can also be worked on in the library as well. It's important that everyone learn how to use the library, so lessons on the library itself will make a big difference in the knowledge base of your little one. Research reports can be done entirely in the library. Note taking and outlining can be done with books taken from then later returned to the shelves. There are computers at the library that can be used to further enhance the research materials gotten. These computers can then be used to write the final product of the research report once it's been through the stages of drafting, revising, and editing. The library is a wealth of knowledge just waiting for you to take advantage of and teach your little one the way that you want him/her to be taught.

Though a very good source, the library is not the only place that material can be gathered. Watch for garage sales and see if there are any retired teachers selling their left over materials. Often, the garage sale ads will list if the holder is a previous teacher and then you'll know what sales to go to. If you hit all sales in your area, you may be surprised what you turn up in the form of educational materials. There is more out there than you realize and you can purchase them usually quite cheaply. Another benefit to this is that your child/student will be able to write in these books if you choose them to.

Home schooling can be done on any budget. Often, you'll spend less on home schooling than you would have if you sent them to public or certainly private school. The rewards will be everlasting for your child/student and for yourself.

Are you considering Homeschooling, but are just not sure if it is right for you and your family? If so, get yourself a copy of the **Homeschooling Guide Book** <http://www.homeschoolingguidebook.com/>. It will answer all the questions that you have and help you make a well informed decision.



Product Description

There are plenty of robots available on the market ranging from \$140.00 for the Robosapien to priceless for Honda's Asimo. However for those on a tighter budget, there is the Soda Can Robug. Explore the world of robotic science with the Soda Can Robug science kit from Green Science. Kids age 8 and up can recycle a pop can and turn it into a working robotic bug.

**Find out more about this item at
www.printablehomeschool/hstproductpage.html**

Introducing Decimals to Kids

By Robert McKenzie

When kids learned how to count, they basically just learn numbers as some kind of continuum that continues and continues. As they go to a higher level of schooling, children might not understand how it goes in groups of tens and hundreds and thousands.

For children to understand place value, otherwise known as the decimal system, they have to learn first how to do simple additions and subtractions with small numbers. Later, you can explain that if you have lots and lots of objects, the efficient way to count them would be in groups, not individually. Here's how you can introduce decimals to kids:

1. You can use white, red, and blue inexpensive poker chips. The white are ones, the blue are tens, and the red are hundreds. Dump a bunch of them on a table and show how it is easier to count them in groups of ten. Then you can count them in groups of tens. Introduce the words 20, 30, 40, etc.
2. It is better to use same size objects so children can picture the color chip in their mind as representing a group rather than belonging to a group. That is because in writing numbers, the digit '5' represents fifty when written on a structured place.
3. Then write this down. The crucial point in teaching a child about decimals is that a certain column represents a certain size group. The digit in the columns tells the child how poker chips are organized. For example if white is ones, blue is tens, and red is hundreds then two red chips with one blue and one white would be 211. You can use this method to further illustrate the way we write numbers in columns which indicates the group they belong.

Now, do not use the word "represent" when teaching decimals. Instead, talk about trading, exchanging and making: "You can trade 10 white ones for 1 blue." Then you may start asking complex questions: If you have 15 white ones, what can you trade? I have two blue ones, how many whites can I get? How can you make the number 54 with the chips, using the LEAST possible amount??

Continue until children can easily make numbers with the chips. This way they will understand the concept that one chip in a particular order represents a group. This is a prelude to understanding how a certain column represents a group.

Robert McKenzie is a former teacher and writer. Visit his **Math Lessons** website @

<http://www.math-lessons.ca/info/teaching-decimals.html> for more information about teaching Elementary math and creative ideas for teaching decimals.

Teaching History in the Home: Don't Miss This Critical Element

By Chris Stevens

I remember when our country had a state funeral for John F. Kennedy. In fact, I specifically remember watching the black and white TV image of the horse drawn carriage pulling President Kennedy's casket down the grieving streets of our nation's capital. Now, that may not be the happiest of times from my childhood, but compared to remembering how we were taught in first grade to hold our heads between our knees if we were bombed to smithereens? (As if that would have made a difference), remembering an honorable and stately funeral for a beloved American president might not be so bad after all.

Like me, you most probably have some part of history, in all probability several defining events or times in history that played an important part of your own childhood. From John F. Kennedy's funeral to man's first step on the moon, and even to the first episode you saw of Saturday Night Live or hearing Ronald Reagan's famous "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall" speech, there are parts of history that will remain forever fixed not only in our brains but in our hearts as well. Remembering those defining points of history from our own lives may be the best place to start when teaching our children History, Social Studies, and a Godly worldview of life overall.

Children love to hear stories about their birth. Sometimes they will even come right out and ask where they "came from". It's important to a child to know where he or she came from. It means something to them; they can relate it to who they are today. After all, it is THEIR history.

We parents have an even larger base of history in our own lives. We have events that shaped us and made us who we are today. Like our children, we can relate to those events personally. Perhaps better than our children, we understand how our own history has ALSO played a part in who our children are today. We also have the depth of understanding to appreciate even earlier historical events, ones that occurred before our own time and their effects on our lives and the lives of our children today.

However, while our appreciation of earlier historical events might be keenly or at least partially developed, we parents are not that much different than our children who ask where they came from. We have a personal interest in our own past because we can personally relate to it. It's what we experienced. It means something special to us. After all, it is OUR history. And boy, can we remember parts of our history!

Why not share those parts of your lives, events, and times of historical significance during your lives, with your children as they grow in their own awareness and appreciation of the historical events and times that have shaped the world in which they live in today? Your children have an interest in you. They see you, and you mean a lot to them (whether they admit it or not). They can also see you standing right in front of them, and that makes the events you speak of seem a little more real to them, a little more believable. The additional excitement you will naturally have from speaking about those things you actually experienced and can probably remember having feelings about can help bring those events and historical situations to life in the eyes of your children as well.

Whether you have children who are studying history by making "All About Me" books out of construction paper or children who are studying history through high school or college level textbooks, sharing a part of yourselves, those special times and events from history that occurred during your own life, can help your children develop an excitement, awareness, and appreciation of times beyond their own understanding. It's also just a fun thing to do together which is always nice in and of itself when it comes to parents and children! You might even be lucky enough to discover your children are glad you were not blown to smithereens in the first grade after all!

Chris Stevens has two grown daughters as well as a teenage son, two dogs, three cats, and a multitude of backyard birds. She and her husband have led Christian marriage and family seminars both together and individually, and both have spoken at home school conventions and curriculum fairs. While Chris loves helping couples and families have a better life together, her favorite activity is traveling somewhere in the car with everyone packed in, so long as the driver gives her time for her decaf coffee and potty stops! One of her daughters doesn't like making stops though, which can be quite challenging for the entire family!

Desiring to help families battle health challenges so they can enjoy life together more, Chris became an affiliate owner of The Apple Patch Diet Company which manufactures and distributes an herbal weight loss and weight management patch to help folks with their weight loss efforts. If you or someone you love could benefit from losing weight, please check her website out at: www.super-fat-patch.com

Developing Your Lesson Plans by Mary Joyce

As a homeschooling parent you are acutely aware of how important it is to have daily plans and be organized. Everyone has their own methods and tactics. And most of these plans certainly weren't perfect right out of the gate and have evolved over time.

As homeschoolers one of the greatest benefits is that of having great flexibility with how you educate your child. But even with this great educational flexibility you shouldn't really be sailing without a compass.

When it comes to educating, that compass is your lesson plan.

Although homeschooling generally doesn't require exacting lesson plans to be turned in, however, not having one at all certainly isn't a good approach to your child's education.

Let's take a look at some general concepts and commonalities about lesson plans that may assist you in developing yours.

First of all, you have to start your thinking with what it is you are going to teach. From there, you'll need what your objectives for the lesson are. In other words, you'll want to be able to observe specific behaviors your child is going to be able to do or perform as a result of your teaching. You want the outcomes of your teaching to be measurable and quantifiable; so the more specific the better it will be.

With this in mind you'll want to be descriptive with your objectives. This not only provides feedback on how your child is progressing, but it also gives you as the educator great feedback on your effectiveness. You should also have some sort of description or statement of how you will determine whether your lesson plan objectives have been met.

Take some time to determine what your child already knows about the subject matter and what it is they need to know (prerequisites) in order to successfully

complete the lessons. As you are making your first pass at your lesson plan, be sure to include somewhere in it any materials you will need to accomplish the objectives that you have described. Materials not only necessary for the lessons themselves; but be sure to include any materials you may need for the evaluation process.

Of course your lesson plans will include much greater detail than is given here, but just to get you started here is a quick outline or review of the thought process that goes into putting a lesson plan together.

Determine what it is you are going to teach and what the priority outcomes of your teaching will be? What your child will be able to do as a result of completing the work and the activities contained in your lesson plan.

Determine what it is your child already knows about this subject matter or will need to know. Having a grasp on this will allow for a smooth transition into your current planning and into the next or related level of the subject.

Have a plan on how you are going to facilitate the learning of this subject matter. Be sure to think about any materials that you will need, such as manipulative objects for your child.

And finally, have a method of evaluation; both for the behavior of the child and the effectiveness of your lesson plan and your teaching techniques.

Once you make the loop a few times through the lesson planning process you'll soon develop a template that works best for you. Using a detailed lesson plan will greatly increase the efficiency of your teaching as well as the quality of the child's learning time.

Mary Joyce is a former educator & homeschooler who's website homeschool-curriculum-4u.com offers resources and articles on homeschool curriculum, & more.

How Preschool Songs Help Your Child Learn

by Michelle Moglia

We have all had the experience of listening to the radio when a song comes on that you haven't heard in 10, 15, or 20 years. But right away you start to sing along like you heard it yesterday; you don't miss a single word. Amazing right. Well not really. You probably heard it a hundred times in its hay day. Repetition.

Kids are no different. Those songs like Wheels on the Bus and The Itsy Bitsy Spider help your child learn simple concepts through repetition. Singing along to these simple songs helps them to become familiar with new words and concepts. The Old McDonald song helps young children learn the sounds that animals make and there are songs that help with numbers and colors.

Singing also helps young children feel confident and less shy around the other children. And when you add fun hand motions and wiggles to the song the kids really come to life. And if you really want to add some spice, give children some simple musical instruments. Tambourines, bells and bongos and kazoos are very easy for children to use and they absolutely love to play them. Exposing them to music at an early age is will encourage their love for music as they grow.

Music is a magical gift that should be nourished and cultivated at an early age, especially now that scientific evidence proves that children who have been exposed to music at an early age make better math and science students later on. Medical and health-care research has also shown evidence that there is a link between music and singing and good health and healing. Children that sing are less likely to be overly stressed and have a more positive emotional profile.

The evidence is compelling that music and singing has a positive impact on all aspects of child learning and development.

Songs At Preschool are a great way for child to learn. Find more learning tips @ The Preschool Campus www.preschoolcampus.com