

THE NEW HOMESCHOOLER CHECKLIST: YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



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RESEARCH YOUR STATE'S LAWS

- **Why?** Every state has different homeschooling laws. Knowing the rules helps you stay compliant and plan effectively.
- **What to Do:** Check your state's education department website for regulations and requirements.

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UNDERSTAND YOUR WHY

- **Why?** Clarifying your reasons for homeschooling helps keep you motivated.
- **What to Do:** Write down your personal reasons—whether it's for flexibility, tailored learning, or family values.

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EXPLORE HOMESCHOOLING STYLES

- **Why?** Every child learns differently and every household is different. Finding the right style for your child/family makes learning more effective and fun!
- **What to Do:** Look into various approaches (like Montessori, unschooling, classical, Charlotte Mason, etc.) and see what resonates.

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CREATE A PLAN

- **Why?** Having a roadmap makes homeschooling smoother and less overwhelming.
- **What to Do:** Outline what subjects you want to cover and any specific goals for the year.

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GATHER RESOURCES

- **Why?** Having the right materials and resources makes lessons more engaging and effective.
- **What to Do:** Look for books, online courses, and community resources. Local libraries and educational websites are great starts!

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CONNECT WITH OTHER HOMESCHOOLERS

- **Why?** Community support is invaluable! You'll find encouragement, resources, and friendship.
- **What to Do:** Join local homeschool groups on social media or attend meet-ups in your area.

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TEST AND ADJUST

- **Why?** What works for one family might not work for another. Flexibility is key!
- **What to Do:** Regularly check in with your child about what's working and what isn't, and be open to changing things up.

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PRIORITIZE LIFE SKILLS

- **Why?** Academics are important, but so are everyday skills!
- **What to Do:** Incorporate lessons about cooking, budgeting, and even basic home repairs into your curriculum.

9

HAVE FUN!

- **Why?** Enjoying the process keeps everyone motivated and engaged.
- **What to Do:** Plan field trips, hands-on projects, or just relax with a good book together.

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REFLECT AND CELEBRATE

- **Why?** Celebrating achievements helps everyone feel proud and accomplished.
- **What to Do:** Take time at the end of each month to review what you've learned and celebrate with a fun activity or treat!

A FEW TIPS FOR NEW HOMESCHOOLERS



Start Simple: Don't overwhelm yourself with curriculum choices. Begin with a few subjects and gradually expand.



Be Flexible: Life happens! Be open to changing your plans based on what works for your family.



Follow Your Child's Interests: Use your child's passions to guide learning. It makes lessons more engaging!



Create a Routine, Not a Schedule: Find a rhythm that works for your family rather than sticking to strict times.



Incorporate Real-World Learning: Take trips to museums, farms, or local businesses to connect lessons with life experiences.



Embrace Community: Connect with other homeschoolers for support, ideas, and friendships.



Take Breaks: Regular breaks can help keep everyone's energy and enthusiasm up.



Document Progress: Keep records of what your child is learning. It can be helpful for assessments and reflecting on growth.



Encourage Independence: Let your child take charge of their learning in areas that interest them to foster responsibility and initiative.



Have Fun Together: Make learning enjoyable with games, hands-on activities, and creative projects!