

Five Simple Steps To Starting Your



Homeschooling Programme

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STEP ONE - Just Do It!

Congratulations, you have just completed Step One.

Step One is having the courage to even consider home schooling your children.

You have chosen to do things “**differently**” from the norm. Many of your friends, family and associates will not understand or appreciate the significance of what you have decided to do, and, as you may have already experienced, while well intentioned, they will question your sanity and competency to undertake such a task.

Yes, it will be difficult at times and you will want to “**give up**” and “**give in**” to the pressure and go back to the “**status quo**”, but be assured the rewards for you and your family far outweigh the cost or sacrifice you may have to make.

I would like to reassure you that you are not alone. Thousands of families have, and are presently home schooling their children. You may already know some of them and I know that you will come across many more as you meet up with the various support groups and home schooling families in your community and around the country.

Here at Home Schooling NZ we are committed to making your home schooling experience a success and will provide the assistance and help you need to make this experience a rewarding and fulfilling time for your family.

This booklet gives you a concise overview of the five simple steps to running a successful home schooling programme. Our parent training programme goes in to greater detail and explores more thoroughly many of the ideas set out in this document.

STEP TWO – Understand Why!

Is your decision to home school a “**preference or a conviction**”?

Is it some thing you would “**like**” to do or is it something you have a real “**conviction**” about?

Understanding why you are home schooling is essential if you are to stay the course.

When those well meaning relatives, church friends and neighbors question your sanity; it is your reason for home schooling that will see you through.

And, when your children grizzle and complain or become upset because they are getting hassled at youth group or are missing their friends at school, what will you say to them?

The Bible says,

“...and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you...”¹

¹ 1 Peter 3:15

There are six main reasons why parents choose to home school their children. Your reason may be a combination of any of these, or you may have unique reason of your own.

1. Practical Reasons

Some families live too far away from the local school and need to home school their children. This is why the New Zealand Correspondence School was started, to provide a school programme for children living in remote and isolated regions of New Zealand.

Some families live an itinerant life style traveling from place to place and they home school because it minimizes the disruption to their children's learning when they have to stop and start from school to school.

Many missionary families also home school so that they can provide a New Zealand based education in preparation for their return home.

2. Education Reasons

Catering for their children's individual and specific learning needs is a major concern for some parents.

Some children have specific learning difficulties or may have behavioural issues that need individual attention. They may be extremely bright and advanced for their age.

Parents may also be concerned about the quality of education their children are receiving at school or with issues such as the size of classrooms, the philosophy and methodology used in schools and the content of what is taught in the school curriculum.

Parents know and care for their children better than anyone, and can prepare and plan programmes and learning opportunities that best cater for their children's **"individual"** and **"specific"** needs.

At home you control what your child learns and how well they learn it.

3. Social Reasons

The first question most people will ask you when you tell them you are going to home school your children is always about socialization.



“What about social interaction?”
“How will they learn to relate to others?”
**“You cannot isolate your children from
the ‘real world.’”**

It is always assumed that school is the only place where they will learn how to build effective relationships with other people.

In fact the school environment very often has the opposite effect.

Peer pressure, bullying, name calling, negative attitudes towards success, disrespect for teachers, ostracizing of individuals, profanity and promiscuity are all part and parcel of the school culture; and in my experience is prevalent in both Christian and secular schools.

Parents choose to home school their children because they want to protect their children from the harmful and hurtful influences of the school environment.

They want the time to build into their children's lives the values and principles that will enable them to make sound intelligent decisions and stand against the pressure to conform to a worldly value's system that is contrary to the biblical principles of the home.

They also recognize that the foundation to a healthy society and social life is the family. It is **in the home** that children learn the values and principles that make for effective relationships.

Never apologies for providing your children with the best possible environment in which to grow up.

4. **Family Reasons**

Building life long family relationships takes time.

When we send our children to school we are removing them from the very relationships that are the most important to them.



While some parents choose to send their children to a Christian School for a Christian education, many believe that the day-to-day involvement of mum and dad in the lives of their children brings huge benefits to their lives together as a family.

They believe that the family is the natural and biblical context in which children are to be brought up. It is the environment where they grow and develop the essential ingredients for building successful life-long relationships.

After all, if you cannot get on with your immediate family, how will you get on with others?

5. **Lifestyle Reasons**

Home schooling gives parents the freedom to develop the lifestyle that best suits their family.

Being able to choose the events and organize the time of each day, develops initiative, responsibility and the entrepreneurial spirit that has been the foundation to a healthy and progressive society.

A child's time is not spent **serving an educational system** but rather, acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to discover and develop their God given gifts and talents and how to best employ them in His service.

Home schooling provides the opportunity to build a diverse and dynamic life that allows families to explore every possible option for serving God.

6. **Biblical and Philosophical Reasons**

For the Christian the scriptures are clear regarding the responsibility of parents for their children:

“And, ye fathers ...bring them (children) up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” *Ephesians 6:4*

“Train up a child in the way that he should go...” *Proverbs 22:6*

God has given parents the responsibility to ensure that their children are taught and educated according to the word of God.²

Our school system is, by law, a secular system. That means that no religious teaching or doctrine is to influence the curriculum.

That does not, however, mean that teaching will be void of a philosophical presupposition. Secular humanism is the fundamental values base for our state education and all subjects are taught from the presupposition that there is no god!

Home schooling allows parents to teach their children from a biblical world view developing in each child the ability to think and evaluate all things from a God's perspective.

STEP THREE – Determine How!

How do you want to run your home schooling programme?

There are many ways to run your home schooling programme and every home schooling family has their own preference.

Some like to run their programmes very **structured**, highly organized, routined, goal oriented, and result based while others can be very **unstructured**, preferring to be more flexible, spontaneous, contextual, interactive, and experiential in their approach.

As you meet more home schooling parents you will realize that each one of them sincerely believes that the particular way they home school is the best and only way.

And so it should be for that family. If it was not then they should change.

You too need to be convinced that the way in which you home school is the very best for your children and family as a whole.

² Deuteronomy 6:1-25

The following is a list of the most widely used methods and approaches to home schooling:

1. **Classical Schooling**

The goal of classical education is to teach children how to learn, not necessarily everything they need to know. Therefore, classical education focuses on teaching critical thinking skills by following a learning pattern called the Trivium (grammar, dialect, and rhetoric).

2. **The Home Schooling Gurus**

Diana Waring, Charlotte Mason, Sally Clarkson and Dr. Raymond Moore are some of the more well-known home schooling “gurus”. They are highly respected and successful home schoolers who bring a particular flavour, perspective, methodology and philosophy to home schooling.

You will hear their names mentioned often.

You can read about each of these people by going onto their websites:

www.dianawaring.com

<http://simplycharlottesmason.com>

www.moorefoundation.com

www.wholeheart.org

3. **Principle**

The Principle approach uses the principles of God's Word as the foundation for education while focusing on the “4 R's” (research, reason, relate, and record) in each subject. The goal is to instill in each student a Christian Worldview using seven principles (individuality, self-discipline, Christian character, conscience, government, local self-government, and political union).

4. **Unit Study**

A unit study is a home school approach that emphasizes activity learning and teaches all of a family's students the same topics at the same time. Factual information is given by the teacher, using numerous teaching methods (i.e. lecturing, writing, reading, etc.) while students complete activities based on the day's lessons.

5. **Un-schooling**

There are many definitions of un-schooling. However, the most common definitions include “child-led” (child-directed) learning or “**delight-directed**” learning. Simply put, this approach focuses on the child's interests as the source of education. The “curriculum” is developed as a child shows interest in different topics, creating a day, week or month-long study of that topic.

6. Curriculum Programmes

There are many curriculum based programmes now available to home schoolers.

The main advantage of the curriculum based programmes is that it provides parents with a well structured, planned scope and sequence that ensures children are covering essential learning goals and objectives.

Once again there is no perfect curriculum and each curriculum provider offers something unique or slightly different that may or may not suit your family.

The most common Christian based curricula available to home schooling parents are:



- Abeka
- Sonlight
- Alpha Omega
- Bob Jones
- Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)
- Interact curriculum

New Zealand Correspondence School also comes into this category but as state educational institution does not offer a biblical perspective in learning.

7. Curriculum Resources

For many parents they like the idea of planning and preparing their own programmes based on the many curriculum resources now available.

Saxon Math, Apologia Science, Progeny Press Literature, Jolly Phonics, Rosetta Stone, Singapore Math to name but a few.

This can make for an exciting programme but requires a lot of research and confidence in your ability to “**get it right**”.

8. The Home Schooling NZ Programme

The Home Schooling NZ approach is to take the best of everything and provide parents with the means by which they can choose and implement the most appropriate programmes for their children.

We recommend starting with a structured programme and then as you become more confident and aware of what is available to you develop your unique style of home schooling.

Home Schooling NZ's preferred and recommends curriculum is the ACE (Accelerated Christian Education) programme.

This is because the ACE curriculum provides parents with a quality programme they can **trust** and which takes the **hard work** and **hassle** out of running a home schooling programme.

With ACE you can be as organised and structured or as flexible and diverse as you wish. It allows you to **pick and choose** and **mix and match** with other curricula and educational resources to provide the best possible programme for your children.

With ACE and the support of Home Schooling NZ, you can be assured that your children will be taught “as regular and well as in a registered school”.

For more information on the ACE curriculum please go to the Curriculum section on our website. www.homeschoolingnz.org

The Apostle Paul said:

“And there are differences of administrations (curricula), but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations (programmes), but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”
I Corinthians 12:5, 6

The main characteristic of a successful home schooling programme is that God is at work through your home schooling programme; and if that is the case then, you cannot help but succeed.

STEP FOUR – Get Some Help!

It is a wise person who learns from others.

First Corinthians chapter twelve teaches us how we should work together as a Christian community. It teaches us that we are interdependent on one another and that by recognizing and receiving each other’s contribution we will all benefit and achieve to your potential.

Asking for help and seeking advice is not a sign of weakness but of strength and by working with others you become encouraged; and in fact you end up being an encouragement to others.

- Check out the internet for resources and home school websites.
- Get involved with your local home schooling support group.
- Read books on home schooling.
- Subscribe to our regular newsletter and updates or other publications.
- Join an association such as Home Education Foundation www.hef.org.nz
- Enroll with Home Schooling NZ.

Should you choose to enroll with Home Schooling NZ then you will have unlimited access to our professional support and advice as well as access to all our resources and support services.

Home Schooling NZ provides the support and advice that will take the stress and hassle out of home schooling and will equip you to prepare and provide a quality home schooling programme that will meet the specific needs of your family.

How? Simply visit our website

www.homeschoolingnz.org

or call us for a free no obligation consultation on

(06) 374 5597.

(Please be patient if you cannot get through immediately. It means that all our phone lines will be busy.)

STEP FIVE – Decide When!



Do it NOW!!!!

Do not wait for the right time. It may never be the right time.

Do it NOW!!!!

Do not wait until you are ready. You may never be ready.

Do it NOW!!!!

Do not wait until you have the money. You may never have enough money.

Do it NOW!!!!

Do not wait until your friends or pastor understands. They may never understand.

Do it NOW!!!!

So you've got the message.

Now that you have decided to Do it NOW what exactly do you need to do?

1. Apply for a Certificate of Exemption

If your child is six years of age or older you must apply for a Certificate of Exemption to allow you to keep your children from attending a registered school.

To do this contact your local Ministry of Education office and request an application form.

Ministry of Education Offices

North Island		South Island	
Whangarei	(09) 436 8900	Nelson	(03) 546 3470
Auckland	(09) 632 9400	Christchurch	(03) 378 7300
Hamilton	(07) 858 7130	Dunedin	(03) 471 5200
Rotorua	(07) 349 7399	Invercargill	(03) 211 3610
Napier	(06) 833 6730		
Wanganui	(06) 349 6300		
Lower Hutt	(04) 463 8699		

Home Schooling NZ offers assistance with this. Please contact our office for details.

2. Prepare Your Family

Make sure you explain to your children what you are planning to do. Get them excited about what is going to happen and give them plenty of warning.

Don't forget to tell grandparents and friends. Give them time to accept what you are doing.

3. Prepare Your Environment

You will need to re arrange furniture and set up your home to accommodate your new lifestyle

4. Prepare Your Resources

Pencils, rubbers, ruler, exercise books, curriculum resources all need to be prepared in advance.

5. Prepare Your Children's Academic Programme

"How" you want to home school your children will determine just what is involved.

You may need to:

- Complete any Training
- Complete any Diagnostic Tests
- Prepare Academic Prescriptions
- Order Materials



Well there you have it,

Five Simple Steps to Starting Your Homeschooling Programme

- 1. Just Do It!**
- 2. Understand Why!**
- 3. Determine How!**
- 4. Get Some Help!**
- 5. Decide When!**

What are you waiting for????

Ray and Christina Green
[Home Schooling NZ]

For further information on Home Schooling NZ or to enroll with our programme please go to:

www.homeschoolingnz.org

or call

[\(06\) 374 5597](tel:(06)3745597)