

Homeschooling Methods & Approaches

Presented By:

Sara Montague, Owner, WYSN Educational Services

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Interest-Based Learning • Child-Led Learning •
Progress Tracking • Methods Comparison

Types of Homeschooling Techniques

- Traditional / School-at-Home
- Classical Education
- Charlotte Mason
- Montessori
- Unit Studies
- Unschooling / Child-Led
- Waldorf / Steiner
- Online / Virtual School
- Eclectic / Relaxed Approach

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Interest-Based Learning

- Uses a child's passions as the entry point for teaching skills and concepts
- Parent plans lessons around interests, ensuring standards are met
- Builds engagement, motivation, and deep learning
- Easier to document progress for portfolios
- Great option for AUD/ ADHD or students with other special needs, as encourages engagement as a tool to access learning

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Child-Led Learning (Unschooling)

- Child chooses what, when, and how to learn
- Parent acts as facilitator and resource provider
- Encourages independence, curiosity, and self-direction
- Less structure and harder to document progress
- Less structure often leads to inconsistent or delayed academic progress, so be careful! Not saying don't try it, but be sure to document data to make sure you are staying on track with your child's developmental abilities!

Pros & Cons: Interest-Based vs. Child-Led

Interest-Based Learning

Pros	Cons
Keeps students engaged by connecting academics to topics they enjoy.	Requires more prep time from the parent to create lessons around interests.
Allows parents to cover required standards while still honoring student curiosity.	Risk of forcing interest connections and losing authenticity if stretched too far.
Builds intrinsic motivation by showing students learning is relevant to their passions.	Can unintentionally narrow exposure if interests are too limited.
Encourages deep learning because students retain information tied to something they care about.	Parent may still feel the need to redirect or 'sell' the topic, frustrating reluctant learners.
Easier to document for portfolios since objectives can be clearly tied to standards.	May still feel like 'schoolwork in disguise' to some kids.

Child-Led Learning

Pros	Cons
Fosters independence and self-direction, helping kids take ownership of their education.	Harder to ensure coverage of all academic areas (especially math and writing).
Builds strong critical thinking and problem-solving skills as students learn to ask questions.	Can be stressful for parents worried about gaps in learning or state requirements.
Encourages natural curiosity and a lifelong love of learning.	May lead to uneven skill development if children avoid less-preferred subjects.
Flexible and responsive to developmental needs — no pressure to learn before ready.	Requires parents to be very observant and resourceful as interests shift.
Can create a peaceful, low-conflict homeschool environment.	Harder to track progress or create a portfolio for official records.

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Lesson Example: Multiplication with Penguins (Interest-Based)

- Hook: Penguin video or fact, discussion about penguins and how it relates to multiplication/ groups of items
- Concept: Show groups of penguins to demonstrate repeated addition and other strategies
- Practice: Students use pictures, manipulatives, etc. to create groups, write equations
- Extension: Arrays and story problems, related craft activities that continue to explore the concept

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Lesson Example: Multiplication with Penguins (Child-Led)

- Invitation to play with penguin counters/ items
- Follow child's curiosity and groupings
- Introduce multiplication language naturally as they play, "Look, you made a group! If we line them up, they become an array!"
- Let child record discoveries and create new groupings in a way that make sense to them (drawing pictures, writing about it, using art to convey their learning)

Recommended- Tracking Your Child's Progress

- Collect baseline, mid-year, and end-of-year data
- Monitor strengths, gaps, and areas for reteaching
- Use data to reflect and adjust methods

IF IT IS NOT WORKING, DON'T KEEP DOING IT!

Regroup, revise, reteach! And if all else fails, ask for help (call me, or contact HEAV for other resources, information, and advice)

- Keeps homeschool purposeful and balanced

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Homeschool Methods: Structure, Involvement, Flexibility

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Homeschooling Methods Comparison Chart

	Homeschooling Method	Structure Level	Parent Involvement	Flexibility	Cost
1	Traditional / School-at-Home	High	Moderate	Low	Low-Moderate
2	Classical Education	High	High	Moderate	Moderate
3	Charlotte Mason	Moderate	High	Moderate	Low
4	Montessori	Moderate	High	High	Moderate-High
5	Unit Studies	Moderate	High	High	Low-Moderate
6	Unschooling / Child-Led	Low	High (Facilitator Role)	Very High	Low
7	Waldorf / Steiner	Moderate	High	Moderate	Moderate
8	Online / Virtual School	High	Low-Moderate	Low	Low-Moderate
9	Eclectic / Relaxed	Customizable	Varies	Very High	Varies