



Educate – v. to give intellectual, moral or social instructions

By: Missie Shimizu

Methods

- A method is a way in which we approach a subject matter.
- How do you want to teach or expose your kids to math, English, science, history, the arts, etc.?
- What is your teaching style?
 - Are you organized? Structured? Unstructured? Planner or non-planner? Out in the world active or stay-at-home calm?

The difficult part is figuring out how you teach versus how your student learns. Here are the different types of learning styles to help you determine how your student learns.



Content-Centered Method

Curriculum centered but focus on unique content.

Classical

– Teach children how to think. Trivium, Latin

Pro: structured, systematic

Con: heavy prep & lots of reading and paper/pencil work

Examples: The Well-Trained Mind, Tapestry of Grace, Veritas Press, Memoria Press

Unit Studies

• All subjects are integrated to be learned through the study of one common theme.

Pro: study of one topic from several related perspectives

Con: prep intensive

Examples: KONOS, History Revealed, Five in a Row, Heart of Dakota, Steward Ship(local)

The Principle Approach

✓ All learning is related to God's Word.

Pro: reason biblically, restore Christ as Lord of all subjects, student becomes self governing

Con: more prep, teacher must first learn to teach student, few pre-packaged materials

Examples: F.A.C.E., The Pilgrim Institute, The Mayflower Institute, The Providence Foundation

Child-Centered Method

Informal, unstructured, focus on learning experiences, intellectual and character development.

Focus is on the child leading the subjects to be to be explored.

- Unschooling – John Holt
 - Children possess an innate desire to learn
- The Moore Formula – Dr. Raymond & Dorothy Moore
 - Delay formal schooling (especially for boys), living books, unit studies, drill & review
- Montessori – Maria Montessori
 - Hands-on learning, self teaching tools, little adult interaction

Pro: student becomes self governing & loves to learn

Con: lots of interaction, creativity and talking about concepts. (I wrote a con in here for interaction. If you have an argumentative child, this is not the approach for you.)

Home-Centered Method

Home environment is the focus with learning done through living books, relationships and real life experiences.

Focus is on the home as God designed it and education being a part of that.

- Charlotte Mason Method
 - Character development, living books, arts, life experiences.
- Whole-Book Method
 - Using real books (not textbooks) as tools to facilitate learning.

Pro: home is the center, child seen as a person not a container to fill with facts

Con: little structured learning, high cost for books, space

Examples: Beautiful Feet Books, Cornerstone Curriculum, Five in a Row, Greenleaf Press, History Revealed, Ruth Beechick Books, SimplyCharlotteMason.com, Ambelside Online, Sonlight

Curriculum-Centered Method

Structured, age-grade appropriate material, scope & sequence, textbooks, workbooks, completing assignments.

- “Homeschool in a box”
- Age/Grade based printed curriculum. Textbooks, workbooks, tests.
- Systematic and self-contained.

Pro: little to no prep

Con: fact oriented, no real life experiences, can get boring over time, costly

Examples: Bob Jones, A Beka, Alpha Omega, Rod & Staff, The Grace Academy, K12, A-Plus, Ron Paul Curriculum (K-5 free)

Eclectic Method

A little bit of all the styles.

Start the Adventure

Talk to your kids about the concept that you will be their teacher. This is extremely difficult for kids, especially ones that have been in the public school system.

Visit Homeschool Legal Defense Association's website to see what the legal choices are in your state.

<http://www.hslda.org>

Remember that it will take time to adjust to this lifestyle. Homeschooling is a lifestyle choice.

High School and College

Determine if your child is college bound. If so, research the college of choice and their admission requirements. Adjust your schooling to meet those requirements.

Keep track of ALL work. This way you can make a detailed transcript.

Don't forget things like household work. It counts for home economics.

Write it ALL down.

- 980 Colleges accept Home Education Transcripts.
 - Yale, Harvard, Brown, Princeton, John Hopkins, Berkley, Stanford, etc.

Record Keeping

You may want to keep other records, such as:

Subjects taught, grades, work samples, test scores, reading lists, volunteer work, job experience, letters written, discussions, games played, field trips, research done, etc.

Why? Proof of actual "schooling", generate transcripts, obtain scholarships, show education level if enrolling in public school, comply with out-of-state laws if you move.

How? Computer: Homeschool Tracker or Paper: Create a form and write it down.

- Recommendation...keep a portfolio of **each grade level** your child completes. At the minimum the **current year** and **previous two years**. Once in high school, keep **detailed records to create a transcript**.

Daily How-To's

Workboxes – Youtube has a lot of great videos of how various people incorporate Workboxes into their homeschool routine. Personally I use a portable file box. This way if we ever need to go somewhere [i.e., doctor/dentist appt., car maintenance, etc.] the children have their work ready-to-go. All their supplies are in the box including: books, pencils, erasers, glue stick, along with their assignment sheet that I print from Homeschool Tracker.

Plan by subject, not date – this helps you not stress out when something doesn't get done on a certain date. Life happens in homeschool. You need to allow flexibility for it.

Plan a month to a year ahead but allow for flexibility

Here's what I mean. I plan the entire year of History in advance include activities. I also put in a blank space for any additional activities that may come up when we study that chapter. I simply check off which student did the assignment and write the date.

Year <u>2014-2015</u> Sheet ___ of ___			Students	
Tab 5. History			Student #1	Student #2
Source: <i>Story of the World, vol. IV: Modern 1848-1994</i>				
#	Date	Concepts Covered		
1		Ch.1: Britain's Empire		
2		map & outline		
3		Geography: Sun Never Sets on the British Empire		
4		Project: Make a Crystal Palace		
5		Video: HH, Britain is Everywhere		
6				
7		Ch.2: West Against East		
8		map & outline		
9		Project: Medical Records		
10		Memory: Charge of the Light Brigade		

Multiple Children

English & Math will be individual but can be the same curriculum.

History & Science can be done together. Same subject just different ability levels.

- The older one does a report
- The middle age one narrates
- The younger one watches and does the hands-on section.

Don't forget the things we do naturally – count!

Read Aloud to everyone – LITERATURE

Grocery store/Farmers Market – LIVING MATH

My Curriculum

- ✓ Bible: Who is God?
- ✓ English: Barton, Easy Grammar, Living Books
- ✓ Math: Math-U-See, Living Math, Saxon Math
- ✓ History: Story of the World (SOTW)
- ✓ Science: Science in the Beginning by Dr. Jay Wile
- ✓ PE: snow skiing, golf, karate, bike riding, etc.
- ✓ Home: daily chores

A.R.T.

A=attitude

R=relationships

T=teaching

Keep it in order!