

# Homeschooling Tips for Newcomers

As you bring your child home to teach, consider using some of these suggestions as you seek to develop a joy for learning:

- Start small, just with subjects and activities that you like, and then build on successes by expanding and integrating techniques, activities, and subjects.
- Develop a daily routine.
- Assess your child's learning style—try visual, auditory, and tactile experiences with spelling, math, or science.
- Utilize and emphasize the dominant learning style, but also develop other styles for reinforcement and variety, and to maintain interest.
  - try using textbooks, readers, workbooks, experiments, manipulatives, art and songs related to subject of study, videos, discussion
  - experiment with singing vs just monologue
  - use leading questions to get them to think up answers or to recap concepts, discuss issues or stories and the values therein
  - have them teach you or siblings to better understand concepts, to organize their thinking, and to develop speaking ability, or writing and then reading aloud, with emphasis, what they have written
- Use co-ops for variety, competition, socialization, and breaking up the schedule.
- Use non-distracting learning environments with one main learning area, plus other comfy areas for reading, activities, movement; move around to avoid prolonged sitting; have an activity each day, especially involving movement (games, chores, cooking, creating, building, gardening, ball play & sports, fun dramatic speaking/reading, and fun skits).
- Use toys requiring following directions for assembly or creating.
- Use board games and other games, especially ones involving words, recall, or strategy.
- Provide proper nutrition, rest, healthy hydration; avoid (or at least minimize) individual screen time, which is hard on young eyes and can stifle thinking, develop unwanted habits and addictions, invite dangerous content, and promote unbiblical values.
- Prioritize relationship with Jesus Christ, getting to know Him and love Him in devotions, Bible reading, praying together, worshipping together with Psalms and singing, and giving and ministering to others together with an emphasis on honoring Him.
- Online Help:
  - Typing – <https://www.typingclub.com/> (free)
  - Spelling & Vocabulary - <https://www.edclub.com/vocabulary-spelling> (free)
  - Xtra Math – <https://home.xtramath.org/> (free or \$4.99 for the mobile app)