

LEGACY  
HOMESCHOOL  
RESOURCE CENTER

# FIRST STEPS TO HOMESCHOOLING

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[WWW.LEGACYHRC.ORG](http://WWW.LEGACYHRC.ORG)

# STEP 1:

## Legally Register Your Homeschooler

### THESE ARE YOUR LEGAL OPTIONS IN TENNESSEE:

	Cost	Process	Pros	Cons
<b>Independent Homeschooler Through Local County</b>	Free	Submit an Intent to Homeschool form with your county's homeschool coordinator prior to starting school. Forms and Coordinator information found here: <a href="http://tn.gov">Home School (tn.gov)</a>	Cost, Simple process, Minimal paperwork required. Document which days you school for at least 4 hours and ensure 180 days are completed in one year.	Must complete state testing in grades, 5/7/9.  No help preparing high school transcripts for college.
<b>Church-related Umbrella School</b>	Varied, approximately \$75 a year	Choose an approved umbrella school and follow the enrollment process. List of approved schools here: <a href="#">Umbrella Schools - MTHEA</a>	Assistance with record-keeping, curriculum selection, graduation counseling, driver's ed. forms, graduation ceremonies.	Enrollment fee paid annually. Some restrictions may apply on curriculum choices.
<b>Accredited Online Program</b>	Varied, comparable to private school	Choose an online accredited program and follow the enrollment process	Programming, curriculum, and online instruction is included in the price. Attendance and transcript records kept by organization.	Cost Limited choice in curriculum, instructional style, and course selection.

# STEP 2:

## Learn the Lingo

Homeschooling comes with its own unique set of terms and acronyms that can feel overwhelming at first. Here's a handy guide to some common homeschool-specific lingo used in Tennessee to help you feel like a pro in no time.

### BASIC HOMESCHOOL TERMS

- **Umbrella School:** Considered a private school by the state, oversees homeschool families, providing support, record-keeping, and legal compliance. Examples in TN include HomeLife Academy and Gateway Christian Schools.
- **Tutorial:** A part-time program where homeschool students attend classes taught by professionals or experienced parents. These are often subject-specific and meet 1-3 days a week.
- **Co-op:** Short for "cooperative," a group of homeschool families who come together to share teaching responsibilities and offer group learning opportunities, typically on a volunteer basis.
- **Portfolio:** A collection of a student's work that showcases their progress and achievements. Required by some umbrella schools or for independent homeschoolers in Tennessee.
- **Attendance Records:** Tennessee law requires homeschool families to keep attendance records showing at least 180 days of instruction per year.
- **MTHEA (Middle Tennessee Home Education Association):** A regional organization supporting homeschool families with events, resources, and community connections.
- **IEP/504 Plan:** Individualized education plans often referenced when accommodating special needs for students. While not required in homeschooling, families may use these terms for personal planning.
- **Standardized Testing:** In Tennessee, standardized testing is required for independent homeschoolers in grades 5, 7, and 9. Some families opt to conduct standardized testing more frequently for personal benchmarks or record-keeping purposes. Families enrolled in umbrella schools should check with their program, as testing requirements may vary.

# STEP 2:

## Learn the Lingo

### BASIC HOMESCHOOL TERMS

- **De-schooling:** The process of transitioning from traditional school to homeschool, often involving a period of adjustment where families let go of traditional school structures. Sometimes also called Child Lead learning.
- **Unit Study:** A thematic approach to learning where multiple subjects are integrated into a single topic (e.g., studying Ancient Egypt might include history, art, and writing).
- **Charlotte Mason** – an educator from the early 1900s whose personal approach to education has become a complete homeschool method which involves living books, nature study, and habit training. Many of her philosophies are written in a series of books which are still available today.
- **Living Books:** A term popularized by Charlotte Mason educators, referring to engaging, narrative-style books that make subjects "come alive."
- **Boxed Curriculum:** A complete curriculum set that includes all subjects for a grade level, often used by families new to homeschooling.
- **Accredited** – a course, program, or school that offers government approved education or credits for completed work
- **Auditory Learner** – a learning style where someone absorbs information best by listening. Popular methods of teaching a child with this style are audio books and read-alouds
- **Kinetic/Kinesthetic Learner** – a person who learns best by doing or moving as opposed to listening or watching.
- **Visual Learner** – a learning style where someone learns best by seeing. Some common options are videos, reading, and watching someone do it to follow.
- **Hybrid School** – a method of learning where a child splits their time between classroom learning and at-home learning.
- **Pod** – also called learning pod. A pod is a small group of families with kids that hires a teacher to work with their group as a private school.
- **School-at-home** – this term implies the replication of public/traditional school practices at home.
- **Virtual Learning** – classes, lessons, or programs done on the computer over the internet

# STEP 3:

## Define Your Why and Discover Your Styles

Homeschooling is more than an educational choice—it's a purposeful decision rooted in your unique values and goals for your family.

Understanding your “why” is the foundation of your homeschool journey. It clarifies your vision, helps you stay motivated, and gives you direction during challenging moments. Equally important is discovering your teaching style and your child’s learning style.

Recognizing how you naturally teach and how your child learns best allows you to create a personalized and effective homeschooling experience that works for your entire family.

In the upcoming days, [you'll receive emails from us filled with practical guidance and free resources to help you complete these steps successfully.](#) From tools to uncover your “why” to worksheets for identifying teaching and learning styles, we're here to support you every step of the way.

Be on the lookout for these resources in your inbox, and take the next step toward a confident and rewarding homeschool journey!

# STEP 4:

## Start Homeschooling

Once you've properly registered your child, defined your "why," and discovered both your teaching style and your child's learning style, it's time for the most exciting part—getting started!

This is where all your planning begins to take shape, and you embark on the incredible journey of homeschooling. Remember, this is your family's unique adventure, and there's no one right way to begin. Take a deep breath, embrace the possibilities, and let the learning (and fun) begin!

### Tips for Getting Started:

- **Create a Flexible Schedule:** Start by outlining a simple daily routine that works for your family. Maybe mornings are for math and reading, while afternoons are for science experiments or art projects. Keep it flexible—some days might go off plan, and that's okay!
- **Set the Tone with a Fun First Day:** Kick things off with something special—a family breakfast, a hands-on project, or a field trip to spark excitement. Celebrate the start of your homeschooling journey together.
- **Build in Breaks:** Don't forget to allow time for breaks. Short intervals to play, stretch, or just relax can help everyone stay focused and energized.

# STEP 4:

## Start Homeschooling

- **Start Small:** Ease into homeschooling by focusing on one or two core subjects at first, then gradually add more as you find your rhythm. This prevents overwhelm for both you and your child.
- **Make Learning Fun:** Incorporate activities your child loves—games, crafts, outdoor adventures, or baking. These moments create lasting memories and make learning enjoyable.
- **Don't Strive for Perfection:** Homeschooling is a process. Some days will be amazing, and others may feel challenging. Focus on progress, not perfection.

Remember, this is your homeschool, and you have the freedom to create a schedule, environment, and approach that reflects your family's unique needs and values. You're building more than an education—you're building relationships, skills, and memories that will last a lifetime. Enjoy the journey!



# FAQs

## How do I get started with homeschooling?

To start homeschooling in Tennessee, choose between independent homeschooling, a church-related umbrella school, or an accredited online program. Legacy HRC's Homeschool 101 workshop can help guide you in making the best decision for your family.

## What curriculum should I use for my child?

Choosing a curriculum depends on your child's learning style, your priorities, and your educational goals. Legacy HRC offers workshops and consulting services for personalized guidance.

## How can I help my child stay on track and meet academic goals?

Planning and organization are key to ensuring your child stays on track. Legacy HRC provides workshops like Teaching and Learning Styles and Curriculum Planning to help you structure your homeschool. For high school students, we offer guidance on transcript creation and graduation requirements to keep your teen on the path to success.

## How can I connect with other homeschool families?

Connecting with a supportive community is vital for homeschooling families. Legacy HRC offers events, workshops, and co-ops, and classes that create opportunities to build meaningful relationships. Additionally, several Facebook groups host regular meet-ups and field trips, making it easy to engage with Rutherford County's vibrant homeschool network.

# YOU'VE GOT THIS!

Congratulations on starting your homeschooling journey. We hope this has inspired and equipped you to confidently navigate this rewarding path. Homeschooling is more than an educational choice—it's an opportunity to create meaningful relationships with your children, foster growth, and leave a lasting legacy for your family.

Remember, you are not alone. We are here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions, need guidance, or want to connect with a community of like-minded families, don't hesitate to reach out.

Wishing you success, joy, and unforgettable moments as you embark on this incredible adventure.

— The Legacy Homeschool Resource Center Team

[LEGACYHRC.ORG](https://www.legacyhrc.org)



FIRST STEPS TO HOMESCHOOLING

# Confident Homeschooling Starts Here



01



## Homeschool Consulting

Feeling lost in the sea of homeschooling options? Need more personalized guidance than a Homeschool 101 workshop? Our consulting program offers tailored, one-on-one support to help you navigate curriculum choices, organization, and homeschooling with confidence. You will be matched with a Legacy HRC consultant who fits your specific needs.

02



## Classes, Co-Ops & Tutoring

Student learning opportunities change every semester at Legacy Homeschool Resource Center. We partner with teachers, professionals, and even parents who are passionate about various subjects to bring rich learning experiences to students.

03



## Athletics

Legacy Lions athletics is more than just sports teams—it's a platform to teach kingdom concepts and Biblical principles. Our coaches model these values to help our athletes live them out in every game, practice, and moment of their lives. We offer basketball, baseball, softball, & volleyball teams for middle school and high school athletes.

04



## Special Events

Legacy provides opportunities to connect with other homeschooling families, including learning workshops, field days, graduations, used curriculum sales, and other exciting events designed to build community and enrich your homeschool journey.



For More Information call:

**615-869-9598**

Visit Our Website

**[www.LegacyHRC.org](http://www.LegacyHRC.org)**

# YOUR STORY STARTS HERE

Take a few moments to write down your thoughts. These questions are designed to help you uncover what drew you to homeschooling and what your goals are:

1 What inspired you to consider homeschooling?

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2 What specific needs does your child have that traditional school might not meet?

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3 What are your biggest concerns about traditional schooling?

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4 What do you want homeschooling to achieve for your family?

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# FIND YOUR WHY

Prioritize what is most important to you  
in your homeschool

Reason	Rank (1 = Most Important)
Individualized Instruction	
Child Safety	
Mental Health Support	
Flexibility for Family Schedules	
Higher Educational Quality	

# TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES MADE SIMPLE

## Section 1: Discover Your Teaching Style

Answer the questions below to identify your teaching style. Circle or check the answer that resonates most with you.

1 How do you prefer to plan lessons?

- A. I love detailed schedules and lesson plans.
- B. I prefer to adapt as I go, following my child's lead.
- C. I like a mix of structure and flexibility.

2 What do you enjoy most about teaching?

- A. Explaining concepts clearly and seeing progress.
- B. Creating fun, hands-on activities.
- C. Reading stories and discussing big ideas.

3 Which resources appeal to you the most?

- A. Textbooks and workbooks.
- B. Projects, experiments, and creative materials.
- C. Literature, videos, and discussion prompts.

### Teaching Style Results:

- Mostly A: The Planner
- Mostly B: The Hands-On Teacher
- Mostly C: The Storyteller
- Mixed Answers: You're a flexible blend of styles!

# TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES MADE SIMPLE

## Section 2: Identify Your Child's Learning Style

Observe how your child naturally engages with the world. Check all statements that apply to them.

1 Your child learns best when they can:

- \_\_\_ See diagrams, pictures, or videos. (Visual Learner)
- \_\_\_ Listen to explanations or stories. (Auditory Learner)
- \_\_\_ Build, create, or move. (Kinesthetic Learner)
- \_\_\_ Read and write about topics. (Reading/Writing Learner)

2 Your child prefers to:

- \_\_\_ Watch a demonstration before trying something new.
- \_\_\_ Ask questions and discuss ideas.
- \_\_\_ Jump in and figure it out as they go.
- \_\_\_ Take notes or research independently.

3 When learning, your child enjoys:

- \_\_\_ Watching videos, looking at charts, or drawing.
- \_\_\_ Listening to audiobooks or having discussions.
- \_\_\_ Using hands-on materials or participating in activities.
- \_\_\_ Writing, journaling, or reading books.

### Learning Style Results:

- Most checks in Visual: Visual Learner
- Most checks in Auditory: Auditory Learner
- Most checks in Kinesthetic: Kinesthetic Learner
- Most checks in Reading/Writing: Reading/Writing Learner

# TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES MADE SIMPLE

## Section 3: Aligning Styles

Use this section to brainstorm ways to combine your teaching style with your child's learning style.

My Teaching Style: \_\_\_\_\_

My Child's Learning Style: \_\_\_\_\_

### Ideas for Alignment:

#### Example:

- If I'm a Planner and my child is a Kinesthetic Learner, I'll include structured hands-on projects in our schedule

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

You're doing an amazing job! By understanding your strengths and your child's needs, you're creating a homeschool environment where both of you can thrive.

# MORE RESOURCES FOR EXPLORING TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES

Finding the right tools and information is key to building a successful homeschool. Below are curated resources to help you better understand teaching and learning styles and find curricula tailored to your family's needs.

## Homeschool-Specific Resources

- [Homeschool On: The Learning Style Quiz.](#)  
A quick quiz to identify your child's learning style with suggestions for homeschool curriculum tailored to their needs.
- [Simple Homeschool: Understanding Your Child's Learning Style](#)  
A detailed guide for homeschoolers to match their child's learning style with effective homeschooling methods.
- [Cathy Duffy Reviews: Learning Styles Questionnaire.](#)  
Use this questionnaire to assess your child's learning preferences and find curriculum reviews tailored to their style.
- [Tina's Dynamic Homeschool Plus:](#)  
Curriculum by Learning Style. A comprehensive list of homeschool curricula organized by learning styles, making it easier to find the perfect fit for your child

# MORE RESOURCES FOR EXPLORING TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES

## Additional Resources for Homeschool Success

- [Five Flavors of Homeschooling Video](#)  
Learn about the five major homeschool approaches: traditional, classical, Charlotte Mason, unit studies, and unschooling.
- [Homelife Academy High School Planning Tools](#)  
Guidance and resources for planning high school, including goal-based planning and downloadable forms.