

Homeschooling Methods

Finding the one
that fits your style.

By
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Charlotte Mason

Summary of the method

Charlotte Mason lived at the turn of the century in England and taught teachers to use her method which was gentle in approach. This approach has become a popular home education method. It focuses on such things as forming good habits, nature study, short lessons, narration and inspiring literature. To describe her approach to education Charlotte Mason said, "Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life." This method is lacking in drill and may work less effectively for teens. It can lead into the Classical method easily.

Websites to Visit

<http://www.pennygardner.com/>
<http://www.charlottesmasoneducation.com/>
<http://www.amblesideonline.org/>

Popular Resources used for this style

- *A Charlotte Mason Education* by Catherine Levinson
- *More Charlotte Mason Education* by Catherine Levinson
- *A Literary Education* by Catherine Levinson
- *Charlotte Mason Study Guide* by Penny Gardner.
- *Wild Days: Creating Discovery Journals* by Karen Skidmore Rackliffe
- *A Charlotte Mason Companion: Personal Reflections on the Gentle Art of Learning* by Karen Andreola
- *Charlotte Mason's Original Homeschooling Series* by Charlotte M. Mason.
This six volume series is the original work of Charlotte Mason. Though intensive to read many ... An index of all six volumes, with links to excerpts from each can be found at <http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/toc.html>

Classical Education

Summary of the method

Classical Education depends on three stages of learning referred to as the Trivium. In each stage the student learns material suited to their mental development. When they are young they memorize easily but are not ready to apply what they learn until they reach the third stage. As with many methods, there are various approaches to Classical Education, and customizing it to fit the needs of your family may make it a fit for you. Using this method your child can get a solid liberal arts education.

Websites to visit

<http://www.gbt.org/clasced.html>

<http://www.welltrainedmind.com/clasced.html>

<http://www.triviumpursuit.com/index.php>

Popular resources used for this style

- *The Well Trained Mind* by Susan Wise Bauer
- *Teaching the Trivium* by Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn
- *Give Your Child a Million Dollar Education Without Breaking the Bank*, a two day workshop that focuses on customizing your child's education. Taught by Becca Evenson. (see <http://www.utahfamilies.net/workshops.htm>)

Thomas Jefferson Education

Summary of the method

This method is based on the book "A Thomas Jefferson Education" by Oliver Van DeMille. It is described as a classics-based education and a leadership education. It is also divided into three phases of learning with the Core Phase focusing on teaching children the difference of good and evil, right and wrong, true and false. As teens they focus on reading the classics. The method is a first generation theory and has not been time tested like some of the others. Look for their "Seven Keys to Great Teaching" which include ideas like focusing on your education not theirs and inspiring your children instead of requiring what they do.

Websites to visit

<http://www.tjed.org/>

Popular resources used for this style

- *A Thomas Jefferson Education: Teaching a Generations of Leaders for the Twenty-First Century* by Oliver Van DeMille
- *Thomas Jefferson Home Companion* by Oliver and Rachel DeMille and Diann Jeppson

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<http://www.utahfamilies.net/>

Unschooling

Summary of the method

Unschooling is also known as child-led learning, interest driven, natural, organic or self-directed learning. A family using this method will let children follow their own interests in learning, and help provide a means for learning about the topic of interest.

Websites to visit

http://www.naturalchild.org/guest/earl_stevens.html

<http://www.unschooling.com/>

<http://www.freechild.org/unschooling.htm>

Popular resources used for this style

- *How Children Learn* by John Holt
- *How Children Fail* by John Holt
- *The Unprocessed Child: living without school* by Valerie Fitzenreiter
- *The Unschooling Handbook: how to use the whole world as your child's classroom* by Mary Griffith

Unit Studies/Lapbooking

Summary of the method

With this method a topic is chosen and a unit planned, that includes some science, history, math and other subjects. Lapbooking is one medium that is becoming a popular way to tie the projects from the unit all together into one creation. Unit Studies can require more preparation on the part of the teacher, but can be very rewarding if they are appealing to you.

Websites to visit

http://members.aol.com/PegFlint/units_how_to_plan.html

<http://highland.hitcho.com.au/unitstudy.htm>

http://matschsticks.typepad.com/matschstick_adventures/2007/06/planning_a_unit.html

<http://www.tobinslab.com/downloads.aspx> (click Lap Book tm Information Sheet)

<http://youtube.com/> (search "lapbooking" for examples of how to build a lapbook)

<http://www.handsofachild.com/shop/>

Popular resources used for this style

- *How to Create Your Own Unit Study* by Valerie Bendt
- *Zike, Big Book of Books* by Dinah Zike
- *The Ultimate Lapbook Handbook* by Cyndy Regeling and Tammy Duby

Distance Learning/Boxed Curriculum

Summary of the method

This is just what it sounds like. A boxed curriculum is purchased as a complete program for your child. Distance learning refers to a program where you report back to a teacher or other representative. K12 and Electronic High School are tax funded programs and your children are still part of the public school system. If you feel like you need somebody else to plan out your child's curriculum and desire the structure of having a program to follow, this may be a comfortable method for you.

Websites to visit

http://www.k12.com/curriculum_and_products/participating_schools_in_utah/utah_online_academies__enrollment/

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/ehs/default.htm>

<http://ce.byu.edu/is/site/courses/select.cfm>

<http://www.abekaacademy.org/> (Christian)

<http://www.maeseracademy.com/> (LDS)

<http://www.sonlight.com/> (Christian)

<http://www.homeschoolingbooks.com/>

Popular resources used for this style

Resources are provided or purchased through the program used.

Eclectic

Summary of the method

This is the method where you learn a bit about all the methods and then pick and choose what parts of each method you'd like to try out with your family. The beauty of this is that you have a lot of freedom and are not tied to one idea. You can combine methods to achieve your goals with your family. Each method has its strengths and weaknesses. Being eclectic means you can pull the strengths from all of them and shift gears when you need to without feeling like you just quit the program.

Websites to visit

http://members.aol.com/_ht_a/clayvessel/index.htm

Popular resources used for this style

All the resources for all the other methods.