

Secular Homeschool Curriculum

Some homeschoolers have found that secular materials from larger publishers are geared toward traditional public school classrooms. However, publishers are now creating religiously neutral materials specifically for the homeschool market.

Here are some of the most popular curriculum choices in all subject areas. Included are the links to the publisher websites. For some of these curriculum, there are many places to purchase them, so it's always a good idea to shop around for the best prices.

As always all purchases need to be approved in advance by your RC and must follow the District 50J funding guidelines.

Here are some sites that review curriculum. They can be very helpful if you are new to homeschooling or are looking at changing curriculum.

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

This is a great resource with lots of articles and summaries of homeschool curriculum. It even has a quiz that will help you sort out which homeschool curriculum works the best for your family. Includes the links to the publishers.

http://thehomeschoolmagazine.com/Homeschool_Reviews/

This site has great reviews on curriculum in all subject areas.

<http://www.homeschoolreviews.com/reviews/>

This site has reviews written by users and not publishers of all types of homeschool curriculum.

<http://cathyduffyreviews.com/>

Cathy Duffy provides lots of information on the approaches and different philosophies of homeschooling. The site provides extensive reviews on homeschool curriculum in all subject areas written by their staff. They always include links to the publishers and the type of learner that is best suited for the curriculum.

Please note that all of these sites include reviews of non-secular (religious) curriculum. Make sure that you check the material to see if it fits within the SCVHCP purchasing/ use guidelines.

COMPLETE CURRICULUMS

[Calvert](#) (K-8)

This is a complete integrated, classical homeschool curriculum that combines textbooks from major publishers with Calvert's own teacher guides and pacing. The Calvert Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade homeschool curriculum is built on a rich foundation of reading, writing, and arithmetic. That foundation is then layered with history, science, music, geography, and the arts to ensure no gaps in instruction.

Each course combines the best classroom-tested materials, teacher-created Lesson Manuals, and proven educational methodologies all in one complete, meticulously planned curriculum that guides you through each day of homeschooling with easy-to-use lesson plans.

[K-12](#) (K-12)

You can purchase the curriculum in each subject area or you can purchase a whole grade level curriculum. K-12 provides an integrated and engaging curriculum available for learning at home. All subjects are coordinated with each other in each grade level. So, for instance, children work on art projects that are related to what they're studying in history. Not only does our comprehensive approach save you time researching books and lesson ideas in the library, you simply can't replicate the quality, integration, and excellence of our program.

[Moving Beyond the Page](#) (K-8)

Moving Beyond the Page is a comprehensive research-based curriculum designed to challenge and stimulate creative, hands-on, and gifted homeschoolers. At its core, they view learning as an active process in which the learner actively constructs knowledge as he tries to comprehend his world.

Constructivist theory indicates that understanding, application, and competence cannot be achieved without actively engaging the learner. Learners should be constantly asked to synthesize and evaluate what is being learned. Students must “experience”, on some level, what they are being asked to learn in order for the learning to have meaning. In a constructivist-oriented learning environment, students acquire content while carrying out tasks requiring higher-order thinking.

[Oak Meadow](#) (K-12)

This is a Waldorf based curriculum that offers a curriculum that is in line with rigorous standards while maintaining a commitment to a creative, innovative, and child-centered education. They offer a unique hybrid of accredited standards delivered with imagination and heart. You can purchase a complete curriculum for each grade that includes teacher guides, student books and materials. This is a great approach for the creative child and parents who want a literature based approach to learning.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Phonics/ Early Reading Programs

[Alpha Phonics](#) (K-3)

Alpha Phonics is a one-volume, phonics-based reading program suitable for the early grades or for struggling readers. The black-and-white book begins with phonetic sounds, then progresses to syllables, words, and sentences. The program is very simple and

straightforward, and may be used alone or supplemented by games and beginning readers.

Alpha-Phonics is non-consumable, which means the book can be reused. This program is also available as a CD-Rom or on Kindle.

[Concept Phonics](#) (K-2)

Concept Phonics™ is an effective, affordable, research-based, multi-sensory program for teaching reading-decoding and spelling skills to students of any age. Its key features—fluency, flexibility, and concept training—have made it popular with mainstream and special education teachers, clinicians, and tutors across the country.

[Earobics](#) (K-3)

This is an interactive computer program that is designed to help build phonological skills with struggling readers.

[Explode the Code](#) (K-4)

Explode the Code is a favorite among homeschoolers, and can be used as a primary phonics curriculum or as a supplement to another phonics program. The program is available both as a workbook series and online.

The workbook series consists of Books A, B, and C for grades K through 1, Books 1-8 for grades 1-4, and books numbered ½ (1 ½ - 4 ½) for extra practice. The books contain child-friendly drawings and predictable exercises that provide students with the consistency they need to work independently with confidence.

Workbooks A through 8 teach phonics, reading, spelling, vocabulary, reading comprehension and handwriting using the direct instruction method. Beyond the Code books are available, and contain additional comprehension exercises.

Parents can purchase teacher's guides to assist with instruction and use placement tests to correctly position their children in the workbook series.

Explode the Code Online is a comprehensive online phonics program for grades K through four. The online program is delivered through a game-like system with rewards built in to make learning fun and engaging, and allow students to work independently.

Work is continuously assessed and monitored to keep students on track and identify areas that need work. Parents may access the continuous, real-time reporting system, which reports progress, lists skills mastered, and identifies potential problem areas.

[Hooked on Phonics](#) (Pre-K-4)

Hooked on Phonics is an award winning, Learn to Read program for children in Pre-K through grades three and up.

The program uses a multi-sensory approach to teach reading through phonics, phonetic

readers, audio CDs, CD-ROMS, flashcards, and workbooks. It begins with letter and sound recognition and moves on to instruction in blending using word families (for example; -ig: pig, rig, dig, etc.) beginning with short-vowel words. The program then moves on to long-vowel words and other phonograms. Sight words are taught as necessary.

Boxed sets of materials are available for purchase by grade level. Hooked on Phonics also produces materials for older readers who need extra practice.

[Letterville Phonics](#) (K-2)

This is a multi-sensory reading program that uses songs, stories and characters for each letter of the alphabet. Children take a trip to Letterville with Marie Carbo to meet a new funny character, listen to its story, sing its song, and practice phonemics through direct instruction and playful rhythmic patterns.

The kit includes 26 fun alphabet units plus 8 review units. Each letter unit introduces the letter character through story, song, and phonemic practice. Includes reproducible worksheets, games, letter books, and homework booklets that practice writing, reading, and phonics. Available on audiotapes or CD's.

[McRuffy Phonics](#) (K-3)

McRuffy Phonics and Reading with Spelling, Handwriting, and Language Skills is designed for students in kindergarten through grade three. Grade four is currently in development.

McRuffy Phonics includes a scripted teacher's manual, consumable color workbooks through grade 3, McRuffy readers for each grade level, and a resource pack for grades K and 1, which includes masters, games, and other materials.

Grades 2 and up include test and assessment pack. Materials are available to be purchased as a grade-level set, or as individual items.

[Modern Curriculum Press](#) (K-6)

Modern Curriculum Press Phonics, also called "Plaid Phonics," is a grade K through 6 work text program that provides instruction and space for writing within the workbook.

Levels K and A-C focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, encoding, recognizing words in context, and writing. Levels D-F focus on word study, comprehension, and composition.

Printed in full color, the work texts are lively and thorough. Teacher's editions are available but are not usually needed in the early grades

[Phonics Pathways](#) (K-4)

Phonics Pathways is a comprehensive, non-consumable phonics program that was designed to teach phonics to young learners, but is also suitable for older, struggling learners.

The program utilizes a multi-sensory approach to teaching phonics by having students hear,

trace, write, and say each letter and blend.

Students are first introduced to short vowels, and are then taught to blend as soon as they learn each consonant. This program uses the beginning blend phonics method (ba-, bi-, etc.). After each new concept is taught, words, phrases, or sentences are used for practice. This is a self-contained program so no phonics readers are necessary; although they can be added, if desired.

Instructions are contained within the text, and spelling rules, spelling charts, and pronunciation charts are contained at the back of the book. Supplemental activities are available as an addition to this program, but are not necessary.

[Right Brain Phonics](#) (1-8)

If you have tried all the phonics games and done hundreds of phonics worksheets and your child still doesn't remember phonics sounds, your child NEEDS this Right Brain Phonics Program! A whole new approach to reading that turns word guessers into word readers. Originally developed for children with Dyslexia. A 20-minute-per-day program! Over 140 pages in color! Also comes with 5 pages of instruction. Primary through Intermediate words (1-8th grade).

[Saxon Phonics](#) (K-2)

Saxon Phonics for grades K through 2 uses an incremental approach to reading instruction. Information is taught in small increments, and then continuously reviewed throughout the program so that students will master the material thoroughly.

The program is based on the Orton-Gillingham method of phonics and reading instruction. Diacritical marks, similar to those used in dictionaries, are used to teach phonics, and phonics rules, spelling and handwriting are taught throughout all three levels of the program.

Multi-sensory methods, such as oral activities, letter tiles, physical movement and games make this program appealing to students of various learning styles.

[Sing, Spell, Read and Write](#) (Pre-K -2)

Sing, Spell, Read, and Write is a multi-sensory, reading instruction program for grades Pre-K through 2 that teaches phonemic awareness, phonics, blending, reading, and handwriting.

The program teaches through songs, games and hands-on activities. Instructional materials include CDs of songs to teach phonograms, decodable readers, interactive phonics charts, progress chart, workbooks, and teacher's manuals.

Levels Pre-K and K focus on teaching phonograms and decoding. By the end of the K level students should be able to decode single syllable, short-vowel words.

Level 1 (approximately 1st grade) focuses on reading for fluency. By Level 2 (approximately 2nd grade) of the program students have progressed from decoding and learning to read, to

reading to learn and comprehension. Level 2 is a complete language arts program and incorporates social studies, drama, and music.

[Sunday Reading Program](#) (K-4)

Master teacher Arlene Sunday created this reading program based upon Orton-Gillingham methodology to teach reading from beginning letter and sound recognition through most phonograms. This is the methodology shared by *Writing Road to Reading* type programs. However, this program is much simpler to teach than many others; it requires no special training other than the 90-minute video tape that provides detailed how-to-teach information the parent/teacher watches before presenting each of the 41 levels.

The program is very systematically structured, with detailed lesson plans that include time to be spent on each section. Multi-sensory techniques are used, and students learn to read, write, and spell, simultaneously.

The kit includes the *Learning Plan Book* which is the teacher guide, *Word Book* for student reading practice, 14 small decks of cards used for instruction and practice, alphabet strips, "glue cards," audio tape, *Reading Strips* and *Reading Window*®, double sided game (laminated, light-weight board with playing pieces), small plastic sand tray, transparency sheet, transparency pen, and practice printing pages. The printing pages are the only consumable item, and using the transparency sheet and pen will preserve even those pages.

[Spell to Read and Write](#) (K-12)

Spell to Write and Read is a program that teaches spelling and reading through the use of 70 phonograms and 28 spelling rules.

The Core Kit provides instruction in reading and spelling for grades K through 12. Included in the kit are the teaching guides needed, spelling rule cards, and phonogram cards. All phonograms are taught in the first few months of kindergarten; but a child can easily be placed into this program later by taking a series of placement tests.

Spell to Write and Read uses a multi-sensory approach; teaching through, hearing, speaking, seeing, and writing. The program starts with spelling rather than reading, and teaches children to write and say the symbols that represent the sounds of speech.

Handwriting is taught at the same time as the seventy phonograms. The student then moves on to building words from phonogram sounds. Spelling rules are taught as they come up in spelling words. After building words from phonograms, the student moves on to composing oral sentences; then to writing original sentences and reading them back. It is only after this step has been achieved that students begin to read simple books.

Penmanship and composition skills are also taught, especially with older students. Enrichment activities are included to reinforce multiple language arts skill areas, and there is a focus on developing writing and reading skills.

[Stevenson Reading](#) (K-8)

The Stevenson Program is an alternative approach for teaching reading, spelling and other basic language skills. Stevenson is highly effective with students who have learning problems and provides special advantages to problem-free students as well. The program possesses several unusual qualities, but its strategic use of mnemonics is probably the most important one.

The Stevenson Program weaves together a variety of methodologies to improve students' decoding, encoding and comprehension. The program works from a base of structured phonics, and presents phonetic elements in a unique sequence. The program teaches both sound/symbol correspondence and linguistic structures with multi-sensory techniques. Stevenson incorporates specific phonemic awareness exercises, beginning in the earliest lessons. Direct instruction is also applied consistently. And, of course, the program uses mnemonics to enhance all of these strategies. Using several methodologies allows Stevenson to accommodate a variety of common learning problems.

[SuperKids Reading Program](#) (K-2)

Superkids Reading Program is a core reading program designed for Kindergarten through Grade 2 that looks like no other and works like no other, with a cast of characters that children love. As Superkids builds strong phonics and decoding skills, it simultaneously integrates instruction in comprehension, vocabulary, and fluency. The program also develops students' skill in writing, spelling, grammar, usage, and mechanics. As a result, Superkids produces students who can read and spell accurately and fluently, readers who can comprehend an author's ideas, and writers who can express their own ideas with confidence and precision.

[Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons](#) (K-3)

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons is a phonics-based program for children as young as ages 3 to 6 that is based on the DISTAR method.

Parents guide their children through a step-by-step phonics program that moves from letter sounds to blending to reading words and stories. Each lesson is scripted, and requires approximately 20 minutes.

The program is simple, effective and inexpensive, and does not require purchase or use of supplemental materials. After completing the lessons, children should be able to read on a second grade level.

[Touchphonics](#) (K-3)

This is a hands-on approach to phonics and word study that provides at-risk students with an alternative approach to phonics, word structure, and spelling with this unique, multisensory program. Students utilize tactile, kinesthetic, visual, and auditory modalities to enhance memory and learning and understand the structure of words without drill.

[Writing Road to Reading](#) (K-6)

The Writing Road to Reading is a total language arts program for grades K through 6 that teaches speech, spelling, writing, and reading.

Originally designed by Romalda Spalding, and now called The Spalding Method; this program uses spelling, writing and reading lessons to teach phonemic awareness, phonics, word parts and meanings, handwriting, grammar, composition, and much more.

Lessons in The Writing Road to Reading are teacher-intensive and include multi-sensory teaching techniques.

[Zoo Phonics](#) (Pre-K- 1)

Zoo Phonics Language Arts employs a kinesthetic and multi-sensory approach to reading instruction, and includes kits for Pre-K, kindergarten, and first grade.

The program uses animals drawn in the shape of lowercase letters to help children learn their letters. Total body learning is emphasized, with student using their eyes, ears, speech, and body movement as tools in the learning process.

Instruction begins with lowercase letters and their sounds, does not initially teach letter names. Students learn through song, puppets, stories, flash cards, movement, a CD-Rom, games, readers, and through other active methods.

Teacher's guides with detailed instructions are available. Instructors can also attend training seminars to learn how to teach the program.

Reading/ Literature

[Daybooks of Critical Reading and Writing](#) (K-12)

Students love these consumable workbooks. The Daybooks of Critical Reading and Writing combine high-interest fiction and nonfiction with direct reading and writing instruction. They're a great way to encourage active, analytical reading and help all students build key reading and writing skills.

[Five in A Row](#) (K-6)

This is a unit study approach based on literature. They have programs for 4 to 8 year olds that include some math, social and science projects with each book. They also have a literature program for 8-12 year olds based on classical chapter books.

[Great Books](#) (K-12)

This is a great literature program that helps develop critical thinking skills while studying classics. Great Books programs are frequently used by homeschoolers from kindergarten through grade 12. In most cases, students and parents read or listen to the stories at home,

but then, frequently, several students will get together for Shared Inquiry™ discussion. This provides a structured way to add a social, and academic, element to the homeschool curriculum.

[Reader's Handbook](#) (4-12)

This is a great resource for helping to teach some of the critical skills needed to be good readers. The program comes with a student handbook and a workbook. The handbooks explain the reading process, critical reading strategies, and reading tools students need to become proficient readers. It is great for visual learners and helps the students learn how to make graphic organizers and take notes.

[Lightning Literature](#) (7-12)

This program uses full-length novels, autobiographies, plays, essays, short stories, and poems to teach deep reading and composition skills. Lightning Literature guides focus on a few classics in depth, in a systematic manner. These guides are available for high school and junior high.

[Literature Units](#) (K-8)

These are comprehensive literature guides for a novel based approach. They include comprehension questions, vocabulary activities and a variety of integrated projects.

[Teaching the Classics](#) (4-12)

Teaching the Classics: A Socratic Method for Literary Education teaches parents and teachers how to understand and analyze literature using Socratic questioning and discussion. This seminar consists of a book and a set of four DVD's. After learning this method, you can apply it to all literature and won't need to buy other texts besides the literature books. Great for use in a classical education model.

Spelling

[All About Spelling](#) (K-5)

Based on the intensive phonics approach of the Orton-Gillingham methodology, it uses a multi-sensory approach that should work well with most learners. Words are taught by grouping those with similar phonograms or rules to reinforce the generalizations and rules. It might be used for beginning instruction in reading, but you would need to move at a much slower pace with a kindergartner than with a first grader or an older student. "Step One" in the Level One book outlines a basic lesson format to follow for teaching the sounds of the individual letters, including the various possibilities for vowels and consonants such as "g." Color-coded cards are used for teaching the phonograms. This could take a year with a younger student with no previous instruction while an older student might breeze through a number of letters per day.

Continuing in Level One, after introducing the letters and their sounds, the program helps children "segment" words by identifying the sounds within words. Color-coded letter tiles

are introduced, first for learning how to alphabetize the tiles, then for constructing words. When children learn a phonogram, they also learn all the sounds of that phonogram (e.g., the two sounds of the letter "g" and the various sounds for each vowel.) Children learn to read and spell simultaneously once they start creating words. They also begin taking dictation early in the program, so that by the end of Step 10 they are writing several phrases such as "big dog" each day. Note that children respond to the first dictation by identifying letter tiles rather than writing. Soon they begin responding to dictation by writing on lined paper. All of this happens in Steps 1 through 11, any of which Steps might take many days or many months to complete depending upon the student.

[Beyond Phonics](#) (1-12)

Students master each phonetic and tricky pattern in English and all the words using that pattern, simultaneously and painlessly, by simply learning a short story. Covers grade levels 1-12, remedial for all ages. Uses mnemonic devices to help learn spelling patterns. Great for students who aren't doing well in a traditional program. They have two different versions. You will need to order the general version.

[How to Teach Any Child to Spell](#) (K-8)

This is a great program for children who struggle with spelling. Some children work through spelling workbooks and memorize word lists yet still frequently misspell words in their written work. Often, the problem is they can't see that words look "funny," a natural ability for the good speller.

One of the key differences in this approach is that students create individualized spelling lists of words that they missed with focused instruction on the pertinent spelling rules. The author stresses the need to keep the rules simple, pointing out that most children struggle with only a few key rules.

How To Teach Any Child To Spell is a small teacher's manual that outlines the approach, presents the phonics rules for daily structured phonics review, and lists the six key spelling rules.

[Natural Speller](#) (1-8)

This is not a spelling workbook but a resource guide for parents. It contains all the spelling lists and rules for grades 1-8. Basic word lists are given for each grade with words containing similar patterns grouped together. Special word lists (e.g., calendar words, contractions, measurements, homophones, Latin roots) are also provided. Kathryn Stout strongly advocates keeping separate those words with similar sounds that are formed by different letter combinations (e.g., though, bow, sole). Lessons can be developed from the word lists or with words of your own choosing.

[Month by Month Phonics](#) (K-4)

The Month-by-Month Phonics books for each grade level contain a variety of motivating, multilevel activities. The students use activities with a word wall to sort words, look for

patterns and recognize high frequency words. This is not a workbook program but provides more direct instruction from the parents. The students are involved with learning how to break apart words and transfer those patterns to new words. There are a lot of rhyming activities and students keep their own high frequency word lists.

[Sequential Spelling](#) (K-7)

Sequential Spelling is a uniquely constructed spelling system with the following key features in its methodology:

- Words are taught in relationship to one another, both horizontally and vertically
- Children can figure out the rules for themselves from their relationships and commonalities, but spelling rules are not taught
- Students begin by "testing" themselves by trying to write words correctly before they study them
- Words for each grade level are selected for common elements rather than grade level appropriateness

[Spelling Power](#) (K-12)

This is a single volume that contains materials to teach spelling to K-12. *Spelling Power* It serves as instruction manual for the parent/teacher. Students compile their own work in a notebook or binder. Direct instruction will be required at first, but children will be able to work more independently as they learn how it works. Even after students become familiar, parents/teachers still need to spend five minutes per day in direct instruction. Students should spend about fifteen minutes total per day on their *Spelling Power* lessons.

Diagnostic tests help you place your child at the correct starting point. From that point, rather than working on prescribed word lists as in other spelling programs, *Spelling Power* has children review basic words but study only those with which they have trouble. This should be much more efficient and effective than typical classroom programs, although it does require more parental direction. There are also task activity cards that you can purchase with the program, which gives the students choices on how to work with their words.

[The Phonetic Zoo](#) (2-8)

This is a teacher guided phonetically based audio spelling program designed for strong auditory learners. Instead of working through workbooks, students work through a series of flashcards and guided activities that include listening and writing. Students who like to work independently will love this program. This program is designed for ages 9 and up and can cover some high school material.

[Words Their Way](#) (K-12)

This is a developmental approach to spelling, vocabulary and phonics through word study. The program provides diagnostic assessments to determine what level to place their student. A thorough explanation of each category and where students should place

according to their developmental level is given within the text.

Although this program requires more preparation from the parent, students love the hands on approach of sorting words. It helps train the brain to recognize patterns, instead of memorizing word lists. The program also provides remediation through games within the book to improve spelling and literacy within the appropriate levels that their student is diagnosed to perform best at. This program can be implemented at any time and K-12 grade. A companion CD is full of games and a database to track progress, keep records and grade assesses, while making statistics for your class.

Resources for Spelling

- [Spelling City](#) – revolutionary free spelling site that lets you put in your own spelling list, and students can hear the words in a real human voice, and play games with them. You can even use it as your weekly spelling test with the testing feature. One other incredibly cool perk is the ability to create handwriting worksheets out of the spelling words!!
- [Franklin’s Spelling Corrector](#) – for any off-computer writing, this is the tool to have. Even if a child only knows how to spell a word phonetically (by sound) this little gadget will figure out what word they are trying to spell and give them the correct spelling
- [As-U-Type](#) – if your homeschooler does most of his or her writing on the computer, this is a wonderful program to install because it not only spell checks *as they type*, but keeps track of their misspelled words in a file, so you can collect them for further spelling study, or spelling lists.
- [Skillswise Spelling](#) – this site focuses on the “whys” behind our spelling rules, and examines words from every angle. The site includes sections on root words, prefixes and suffixes, homophones, letter patterns, silent letters and more. Interactive games help students practice each of the concepts taught, and most of the lessons include printable factsheets for further reference and instruction.
- [LookWayUp](#) – similar to the Franklin spelling corrector, but in an easy to access web version. No matter what the word, or how strangely it is entered, the LookWayup program will decipher the word and give you the correct spelling and definition. Only know how the word sounds phonetically? No problem. Just type in the sounds you hear, and the program will tell you its top choice based on your input, and then list other possible choices underneath

Grammar

[Analytical Grammar](#) (4-12)

Analytical Grammar is a program for grades six and up (A junior program, for grades 4-6, is also available).

This program teaches grammar, punctuation, and usage and is designed to be taught over three years, but can be adapted for teaching over one or two years as well.

The program was designed to teach grammar in a sequential, logical manner so students retain information without excessive repetition and drill. Parents teach the first 10, weeklong units. Then, students complete one reinforcement and review exercise independently once a month for the remainder of the year.

Analytical grammar covers parts of speech and parts of sentences, diagramming, punctuation, capitalization, phrases, clauses, and usage errors. The text also includes student notes, answer key, practice exercises, grammar notebook, and a review and reinforcement workbook

[Easy Grammar](#) (3-12)

Easy Grammar is a simple, easy to use, workbook program that contains books for 3rd through 12th grades.

Teaching grammar through the prepositional method (presenting prepositions before other parts of speech), each book follows the same pattern. First instruction, followed by examples, and then exercises for students to complete. After the instruction period, students can complete most exercises independently.

Some lessons in this program are cumulative reviews of previously learned topics so it is recommended that lessons are taught in order. Easy Grammar teacher's editions contain student pages that can be photocopied, but student books are available separately as well.

[First Language Lessons](#) (1-4)

First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind uses picture study and other classical techniques including copy work and narrations to develop the child's language study in those first two all-important years of school. Each lesson leads the parent, step-by-step, through the simple oral and written projects that build reading, writing, spelling, storytelling, and comprehension skills. They have recently added level 2 and 3. Grades 1st to 4th

[Grammar Key](#) (3-12)

Grammar Key is a computer program that runs on 2 CD-ROMS; one CD-ROM for sentence structure and parts of speech and the other CD-ROM for punctuation and mechanics.

Geared for all ages, and especially students who struggle with the subject, this program teaches grammar and helps students transfer those grammar skills to writing.

The program incorporates activities for auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learners. Lessons are narrated and key concepts can be repeated until learned. CD-ROMS are available to purchase separately or as a set. A workbook and instruction manual are also available.

[Grammar With a Giggle](#) (3-11)

Caught'ya! Grammar with a Giggle Series is a different approach to grammar that engages students in an ongoing storyline and keeps them asking for more. Build grammar competency skills in students from grades 3-11 with this updated, humorous version of the classic sentence-a-day grammar technique. Included: easy-to-follow how-to's, plots, sentences, and tests.

[Great Editing Adventure](#) (4-6)

The Great Editing Adventure Series is a daily grammar review in two volumes for grades four through six. Each volume has three adventure stories and 90 lessons in which students search for errors in the stories. Editing exercises teach and review mechanics, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, synonyms, and thesaurus and dictionary use

[Growing with Grammar](#) (1-8)

This grammar course includes 8 separate grades (levels) that excel in teaching grammar rules and grammar usage. Here's how we do it.

1. Each grammar book teaches the basics of grammar in a way that is age-appropriate for the level.
2. Each grammar book also teaches advanced grammar concepts that are age-appropriate for the level.
3. Each grammar book briefly reviews the advanced concepts taught in prior levels.
4. Sentence diagramming is taught beginning in Level 3. We believe sentence diagramming is a great tool which assists the student in actually understanding the parts of speech and how they relate to each other.
5. Each Student Workbook contains lessons that reinforce concepts in teaching grammar that are appropriate for the level.
6. Each level also contains plenty of review to reinforce the concepts taught in that level.

[Hot Fudge Monday](#) (6-12)

This middle school and high school grammar curriculum brings some humor to the subject. Hot Fudge Monday brings together the study of words, the process of writing, and putting words into meaningful sentences. This book is written to make sense to students, using words, terms, and contexts they can understand. Hot Fudge Monday consists of eight chapters that focus on verbs, nouns, prepositions, adjectives, conjunctions, pronouns, interjections, and adverbs.

Students strengthen their English language skills through short writing activities that are interesting and humorous. The exercises are designed to be quite different than those found

in standard educational texts, making this resource a fun supplement to the daily classroom curriculum. Answer keys are provided at the end of the book for easy reference.

[Jensen's Grammar](#) (7-12)

The lessons are simple and direct. The exercises constantly repeat what has been formerly taught. New ideas are approached incrementally in digestible form. The nature of the exercises forces the students to use what they have learned. Grades 7 -12

[Journey Through Grammar Land](#) (5-7)

The author has designed the *Grammar Land* books to be used for grades 5-7, although any older student lacking a foundation in grammar should probably begin with this series. The books are well designed for independent study. "These books are in allegory format and tell the story of how Tank, a young fellow with grammar and writing problems, travels through Grammar Land meeting all sorts of folks and learning about the language in the process." The first half of each book is the story (with illustrations); the second half is the exercises, referred to as scrolls within the story. As students read through the story, they are actually receiving grammatical instruction. Every so often, the character is assigned to work on a particular scroll (exercise), which is a signal to the student to do that exercise. Helpful notes, definitions, and examples are scattered through the exercise section. Examinations are included.

[Winston Grammar](#) (5-8)

Winston Grammar consists of two programs designed to teach language structure and grammar in a manner that is great for hands-on learners. Instead of relying on textbooks, lectures and memorization, this program teaches using a set of color-coded clue card and a book of exercises that appeal to students' needs to move, see, hear and speak in order to retain information.

The Basic Level Grammar Program is geared toward fifth and sixth grades, and includes thirty worksheets, four quizzes, and a post-test, along with a teacher's manual, student workbook and color-coded cards.

The Advanced Level Grammar program is geared toward seventh and eighth grades, and features a brief review of concepts taught at the basic level before moving on to more advanced concepts. It includes fifty-five worksheets, four quizzes, and a post-test, as well as a teacher's manual, student workbook, and color-coded cards.

Lessons can be taught in as little as 5 to 10 minutes per day. The program focuses solely on grammar and does not teach reading, writing or spelling

Vocabulary

[English From the Roots Up](#) (2-12)

A program designed to teach Greek and Latin roots to elementary kids and older students who haven't had any exposure to Greek and Latin roots.

[Red Hot Root Words](#) (3-9)

A series of workbooks designed for grades 3- 9 that help students improve their mastery of the English language and acquire the keys for understanding thousands of words by studying Greek and Latin word parts (prefixes, root words, and suffixes). This is one of the most complete, usable presentations of vocabulary development using word parts you will find.

[Rummy Roots](#) (4-8)

Rummy Roots is a card game that offers an alternative to book approaches for studying Greek and Latin roots. It is exceptionally well designed for learning purposes, because it includes instructions for four different games using a card deck of Greek and Latin roots plus English meanings.

[Vocabulary Vine](#) (4-12)

This is a yearlong program of Greek and Latin roots. Includes a list of 108 words, examples and games that you can play once you create the lists.

Language Arts Programs

[Centrifuge Language Arts](#) (K-12)

This is a complete K-12 language arts curriculum that can be ordered on CD's. It covers phonics, English grammar, spelling, creative writing, penmanship and how to teach reading. It includes daily lesson plans and activities to print out.

[Hake Grammar and Writing](#) (5-8)

Grammar and Writing is a new language arts program fashioned after the highly effective Saxon® Math program that has served homeschool families for two decades. *It* is a comprehensive English language arts curriculum that emphasizes writing, vocabulary development, spelling, and grammar for grades 5-8.

[Shurley English](#) (1-7)

This program is teacher-intensive, and consists of scripted, 20-45 minute, daily lessons that teach grammar, vocabulary, language and writing skills.

Shurley English is a complete language arts program that teaches concepts through the memorization of jingles that help student retention. In addition, the program teaches

expository, persuasive, narrative and descriptive writing through the use of reports, creative writing, letter writing, and journal assignments.

Materials for each grade level are sold in kits that contain a teacher's manual, a student workbook and an audio CD.

[Warriner's English Grammar and Composition](#) (9-12)

Warriner's English Grammar and Composition covers grammar, punctuation and writing in one 670-page text for high school students. Currently, Warriner's is only available used. An answer key for the text is available from Seton Home Study School.

Writing

[Igniting Your Writing](#) (3-8)

Igniting Your Writing is designed to appeal to even the most hesitant or reluctant writer. The program was written for ages 8 and up, and can be used simultaneously by children of different ages and skill levels. It consists of 24 writing exercises that will teach your child to have fun experimenting with words, while learning to write creatively and effectively.

Igniting Your Writing II, for children 11 and up, offers 24 intermediate and 24 advanced lessons to help students develop further hone their writing skills and practice different types of writing. The program comes with a teachers' guide to provide parents with ideas and grading standards.

[Institute for Excellence in Writing](#) (4-12)

The Institute for Excellence has several programs available to help parents teach home school writing. Many parents begin with Teaching Writing: Style and Structure, a ten- hour DVD seminar that shows parents how to teach children to write.

The company also sells the Student Writing Intensive, a DVD course for students that helps them get started in the methods suggested in the parents' Style and Structure writing course. Student Continuation Courses provide 32 more DVD based lessons that that are a continuation of the Student Writing Intensive.

IEW also publishes history based writing lessons, advanced writing guides, grammar guides, literature content guides, poetry memorization tools, and a spelling program - The Phonetic Zoo

[Wordsmith](#) (4-9)

Wordsmith is a homeschool writing program that was written by a homeschool mom and accomplished writer. The program is written in a conversational manner, and contains exercises that even reluctant writers will find appealing.

Wordsmith Apprentice is for students in grades 4-6, or older reluctant writers. Students who use this program learn the fundamentals of writing while pretending to hold various

roles on a newspaper staff.

Wordsmith is for students in grades 7-9, and begins with a review of grammar. Students then progress through step-by-step exercises that teach writing technique and steps of the writing process, including proofreading and revision. A teacher's guide for this program is also available, and contains tips for evaluating assignments, answers for exercises and quizzes, and 36 week, 4-day schedule.

Wordsmith Craftsman is self-directed program for students in 10th-12th grades. It focuses on everyday writing, language skills, and essay writing to prepare children for college.

[Write at Home](#) (6-12)

This is an online curriculum that provides comprehensive, individualized middle and high school level composition classes created by experienced educators and facilitated by professional writing coaches. We are committed to providing quality instruction in all aspects of writing. All classes are positive, challenging, interesting, and appropriate to both age and ability. They also offer writing tutorials and pay per paper editing and feedback help.

[Write Shop](#) (6-12)

Write Shop is a home school writing program for students in 6th- 12th grades that uses a step-by-step process to teach writing and editing skills. WriteShop I teaches descriptive, informative, and narrative writing. WriteShop II expands upon the concepts taught in the first program, and also teaches persuasive and essay writing.

Students move through the program at their own pace, and can complete both courses in a semester, or spread the series over one to two years. The company also sells primary books that provide children in grades K-3 with a gentle introduction to writing.

[Write Source](#) (K-12)

This program uses the Six Traits of Effective Writing to help your students understand and apply the writing process effectively across a range of key writing forms. From writing solid paragraphs to creative, persuasive, and research writing, it's all here—and all clear! You can use it as a complete writing program with grammar and daily editing skills, or you can choose to just get the writing resource book. The program teaches writing skills through using student's writing and learning to evaluate writing using the 6 trait rubrics.

[Writer's Jungle](#) (3-8)

The Writer's Jungle is a program offered by BraveWriter that operates on the premise that parents are uncomfortable teaching writing because they don't understand the writing process.

Unlike other programs, The Writer's Jungle doesn't teach students how to write it teaches parents how to teach their children. The goal of this program is to create brave mothers who in turn create brave writers; children who are comfortable expressing themselves in

writing. The information taught in this program can be applied to any writing assignment.

The company also publishes Help for High School, a course that is written directly to 13 to 18-year-olds, and teaches all of the skills students need for college writing and beyond.

Families who want assistance and feedback from outside instructors can take advantage of Brave Writer's 4-6 week online classes.

[Writing Strands](#) (Pre-K -12)

Writing Strands offers publishes award-winning writing materials for children in grades pre-school through high school. The nine level series begins with pre-writing exercises that are designed to encourage a love of learning, and progresses to teach the skills needed for college-level writing. In addition to writing, the program also teaches syntax, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Writing Strands levels 3 and above are structured in an easy-to-follow, step-by-step format that allows students to work independently. The company also publishes Evaluating Writing, a teachers' manual that shows parents' how to provide feedback on their children's work, and Reading Strands, a reference book for teaching literature.

Math

[ALEKS](#) (3-12)

This is an online math curriculum for grades 3 to 12 that is self-paced. The courses provide individualized instruction and assessment based on student's answers.

[Chalkdust](#) (6-12)

This program combines quality videotape instruction, understandable textbook examples, and a solutions guide with step-by-step solutions to problems in the text, and personal help when needed via telephone or the Internet. The students can work independently or use the DVD lectures for instruction. They provide courses from Basic Math (6th grade) to Calculus.

[Enki Math](#) (K-2)

This is story-based math program that uses stories and hands-on activities bring basic mathematical concepts to life for K-2.

[Excel Math](#) (K-6)

Excel Math is a mathematics curriculum for Kindergarten through Sixth grade students. Math concepts are carefully woven into a spiraling curriculum. Students are repeatedly given the chance to demonstrate use of the concepts so that they develop a solid foundation on which to confidently build their skills. This is a very affordable homeschool math

program.

[The Great Courses](#) (7-12)

This program provides audio and video courses taught by professors from around the world. Some of the math courses include Basic Math up to Calculus.

[Hands on Equations](#) (3-8)

Hands-On Equations® is a visual and kinesthetic teaching system for introducing algebraic concepts to students in grades 3 to 8.

[Jacob's Math](#) (9-12)

Jacobs Geometry and Elementary Algebra are preferred by many homeschoolers as an alternative to Saxon Math. They are suitable for self-paced study. The books written by Harold Jacobs encourage an appreciation for math as well as the understanding of the concepts.

[Key Curriculum Press](#) (4-12)

The Key To... series is an instructional workbook series with seven topics, which include fractions, decimals, percent, measurement, metric measurement, algebra, and geometry. The geometry program does not include proofs.

The series can be used for grades four through twelve and may be used independently by the students. It is commonly thought of as a supplemental program to more complete programs and can be used for students needing to catch up or cement concepts in one or more areas, or to cover gaps in mathematical learning. It is also successfully used with students who are advanced and who benefit from adding new concepts to their math programs regularly.

[Life Of Fred](#) (6-12)

This is a non-traditional approach that uses stories to teach the concepts. There are a series of books starting with fractions up to calculus. Each book features the main character Fred and his exploration of math. Some of the books come with Fred's Home Companion with extra problems and answer keys.

[Math Tutor](#) (6-12)

The Math Tutor series features self-paced lessons that enable students to master the concepts of math and build proficiency in problem solving. The software is ideal as a math self-study supplement to in-class lessons, as a home school curriculum resource, and for practice and review of math topics. They have DVD for Basic Math up to Calculus.

[Math U See](#) (K-12)

Math U See is a comprehensive math curriculum that spans the levels from introductory math to Pre-Calculus. It is a manipulative-based program through Algebra 1 and works well for students who require interactive learning to cement concepts. Steve Demme, the author of this program, focuses on mathematical understanding through the memorization of basic facts and formulas, as well as the application of mathematical principles.

Most levels of the program are named according to a letter of the Greek alphabet-Alpha, Beta, Gamma, and so on. Before these levels, there is a Primer level available, and after finishing Zeta, a student may go on to higher math such as Algebra, Geometry, and PreCalculus.

Math U See combines systematic review with hands-on manipulatives to reinforce concepts. Interlocking Base 10 blocks, fraction overlays, and algebra/decimal inserts comprise the manipulatives used for teaching. The program is comprised of student text and test booklets, instructional DVD's meant to show the educator how to teach the material (but often used by the students to self-teach), and teacher's manuals.

[McRuffy Math](#) (K-4)

McRuffy Math is a consumable math workbook program based on objectives that meet or exceed state and national math standards for Grades K-4. McRuffy is manipulative-based and uses auditory, visual, and tactile methods to teach concepts.

The program contains card sets, posters, and games, which are included in a resource pack with the purchase of the program. Manipulatives, which are included in some packages, and sold separately in others, can be purchased from McRuffy Press.

It is a spiral program; re-visiting concepts throughout the year and teaching successively more complicated material in a spiral fashion each year. Teacher's Manuals contain detailed lesson plans and are included in the purchase of the program.

[Miquon](#) (K-3)

Miquon Math teaches math through investigation and discovery, and uses Cuisenaire Rods to teach.

The program consists of six student workbooks meant for grades one through three. In the first year all four operations of math and fractions are introduced. By third grade students are graphing algebraic equations.

Miquon Math encourages critical and creative thinking and allows students to arrive at correct solutions to problems without using standard logarithms or rules. The program focuses on pattern and relationship of math rather than the more typical rules taught in many math programs.

This program can be used as a stand-alone program, or as a supplement to another program. Each level consists of a consumable student "lab" workbook. Rather than a

numerical level, each workbook is coded by color. A teacher's guide, called Lab Sheet Annotations is available.

The scope and sequence of this program is significantly different from other math programs, making it difficult to enter the program mid-stream. The publishers recommend starting student new to the program in the previous grade level.

[Noble Knights of Knowledge](#) (1-4)

This is an integrated Math learning program, complete with stories, manipulatives and games. This story-based math program is centered around a Medieval castle, uses themed props and storyboards to explain math concepts, and uses some multi-sensory techniques. The entire 1st through 4th grade math syllabus is in story form, building skill upon skill at the child's level of ability. This would be a great curriculum for visual learners or as a supplement for older kids who need review to improve their base of understanding.

[Right Start](#) (1-6)

Right Start Mathematics bases its elementary and intermediate math curriculum on the AL Abacus, an abacus that groups by fives and tens for quick recognition and teaches place value to the thousands, in order to provide students with a multi-sensory learning experience and help them learn visual math strategies. Math card games are used to provide fact practice.

The program consists of Levels A-F, covering approximately grades 1-6, Transition lessons for those just coming into the program, A Hands-On Geometric Approach program, math card games, clock games, and various manipulatives.

Right Start is a teacher-intensive program and has day-by-day guidance of the teacher in its teacher guides. The lesson manual, student workbook, math games, and manipulatives are necessary for each level of this program.

[Saxon](#) (K-12)

Saxon Math is considered to be one of the most popular and complete homeschooling math programs on the market. Learning is introduced incrementally and new concepts are continually reviewed.

Saxon's K-3 programs have non-consumable teacher's manuals that contain scripted lessons plans and information that is necessary to teach the program. The early grades are teacher-intensive. In the early years, student workbooks, flash cards, and practice pages are used. Manipulatives are an integral part of the program in kindergarten through third grade.

In the middle and high school grades, the texts are non-consumable and are written to the student. Texts, tests, worksheets, and solution manuals can be purchased separately or as part of a homeschool kit. As in the earlier grades, the middle and high school program covers concepts in a spiral fashion.

Starting with Math 54, Saxon has a slightly different numbering pattern than most other math programs for the middle grades. For instance, Math 54 is suitable for average fifth graders, or advanced fourth graders (or those who have already finished the Saxon Math 3 program). Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ is considered to be a pre-algebra program. Starting in Math 54, many students are able to start working independently.

Until recently, no independent geometry program was available for high school as geometry was covered incrementally in Algebra I, Algebra II, and Advanced Mathematics. There is now a Geometry course available, however geometry is still covered in the programs mentioned above. Calculus includes analytical geometry. The addition of the new geometry program allows educators to develop a variety of different math sequences for students.

If completing Algebra I, Algebra II, Advanced Mathematics, and Calculus, Saxon's separate Geometry program is not needed. The program is available for grades K-12.

[Shiller](#) (K-6)

Montessori based multi- sensory approach to math that utilizes all the learning styles. Each kit comes with grade level books, materials, assessments and manipulatives. The lesson books have scripted lesson plans that are easy to follow. Children learn through their own pace though 15 to 30 minute lessons are encouraged. This is also good for teaching multiple ages since they come in kits: K-3 and 4-6. This is a program that involves the parents. There is not a lot of drill practice but hands on working and talking through the problems with the parent.

[Singapore](#) (K-12)

This non-traditional math program is really great in teaching problem solving and conceptual understanding. It doesn't focus on rote memorization but using the concepts to solve problem. There are two colorful workbooks for each grade level that come with a teacher's guide and additional practice. The website provides an online forum for parents that need more help or are used to a traditional program. This is a very affordable program.

[Teaching Textbooks](#) (3-12)

Teaching Textbooks is a math curriculum written directly to the student that can be self-taught. Currently available for grades 3 through Pre-Calculus. Each grade level consists of a consumable workbook (which can be purchased or printed from the CD-ROMs), non-consumable answer booklet and teaching CD-ROMs.

Teaching Textbooks follows a traditional scope and sequence and uses traditional teaching methods. Typically, this program runs at a slightly slower pace than other homeschooling math programs.

The teaching CD-ROMs which provide audio-visual solutions for every problem and the explanations for those problems make this program unique. The program is written in a quirky, fun manner with occasional cartoons, highlighted key information, the ability to self-teach through CD-Rom interaction, and a workbook that makes this program accessible and appealing to students and educators.

[Touch Math](#) (K-4)

This is a sequential math program designed for students (K-4) who prefer a multi-sensory approach. Students interact with numbers on paper by seeing, saying, hearing and touching numbers. The program is designed with uncluttered, child-friendly pages, just a few problems on each page, large print, and plentiful workspace. There is a teacher's training video and seminars available.

[VideoText Algebra and Geometry](#) (8-12)

The main components are the “videotext” (the video lessons), and a WorkText. However, unlike textbooks that may use a video supplement, in this case, the video lessons ARE the textbook! With computer-generated graphics, animation, and color sequencing, the student will actually enjoy watching the mathematics concepts develop right on the screen. They have just added online courses too.

Science

[AIMS](#) (K-9)

This is a great hands-on approach to integrated math and science. They have a variety of activity books to keep students busy in both math and science. They also publish the activity books called Brick Layers to use with Legos. What a fun approach to learning physical science concepts.

[Backyard Scientist](#) (K-6)

Sensational, thrilling, electrifying, hands-on science experiments in physics, chemistry and the life sciences.

[Bite Size Physics](#)

Join Science Jim for a fun approach to serious physics education. Each of the books is written in a conversational style and includes several fully scripted lesson plans. Each lesson contains easy hands-on experiments that bring the concepts to life. This is a fun, lively approach to physics that combines powerful explanations of physics concepts with easy to do, effective hands-on activities. The website also offers lesson plans, videos, and games for a subscription.

[Building Foundations of Scientific Understanding](#) (K-2)

This is a science curriculum for K-2 where child-centered, hands-on activities at the core of all lessons bring children to observe, think, and reason. Presents science in logical, systematic increments so that students develop a comprehensive, integrated foundation of scientific knowledge, understanding, and thinking skills. Inquiry Learning is the focus throughout the book. Interest is maintained and learning is solidified by constantly

connecting lessons to children's real-world experience. Lessons integrate reading, writing, geography, and other subjects.

[Exploration Education](#) (K-9)

This is a hands on physical science curriculum for K-9. Exploration Education's science curriculum offers the unique combination of having all of the materials included, the ability for the student to work independently, the thoroughness of a text, with the hands-on approach of a kit. Each curriculum comes with an interactive and engaging CD with 36 lessons, a student activity book, and all necessary materials to complete each project and experiment. Designed for one lesson each week for thirty-six weeks. All lessons and directions are both written and narrated to facilitate learning for those students working on their reading skills.

[GEMS](#) (K-8)

This is hands-on inquiry based approach to math and science. Get your students engaged and excited by science by giving them lots of opportunities to explore and discover for themselves. GEMS produces activity books and units on a variety of science topics and grade levels. Really great integrated activities for the younger budding scientists.

[Great Science Adventures](#) (K-8)

This is a creative approach to learning science. In each of the 24 lessons, students make a Lots of Science Library Book using the masters provided inside. Information, pictures and diagrams make the study of plants meaningful. For lab activities, our exclusive Investigative Loop process helps students get the most from their experience. Complete and clear directions are provided, along with materials lists, questions to ask, and data for students to record. 3D Graphic Organizers make complicated material simple. Students see and touch each part, increasing understanding and retention. Teacher Pages include vocabulary words, concept maps, assessments, assignments for all grade levels, and enrichment activities.

[Home Science Adventures](#) (1-8)

Hands on science kits designed for homeschoolers. They have two kits available Astronomy, Birds and Magnetism and Microscopic Explorations, Insects and Light. All the kits come with a parent guide, and enough equipment for two children working together to share. (Extra Supplies are available if you have more children.) Comes with 62 activities in 43 lessons; if you do hands-on science once a week it will last a whole school year.

[Mudpies to Magnets](#) (PreK)

224 hands-on science experiments and ideas with step-by-step instructions delight and amaze children as they experience nature, the human body, electricity, floating and sinking, and more. Children participate in projects such as making a tornado in a jar, creating constellations and growing crystals. Categorized by curriculum areas, each activity includes a list of vocabulary words and easily accessible materials.

[Quirkles](#) (PreK-2)

Are you ready to meet the Quirkles? These silly scientists are ready to teach kids some important lessons about science and phonics. Overwhelmingly approved by our product-testing panel, the 26 books in this series are sure to entertain and educate children of all ages. With one book for every letter of the alphabet you can't miss with any of the scientific topics. Each illustration is vibrant and interesting and the unique narrative uses alliteration to teach children about all types of science. Each book even includes follow-up experiments to enhance the lessons taught. Whether you know a budding botanist or a curious chemist, there is a Quirkle for every kid. From A to Z the Quirkles are sure to please! Recommended for children ages 4 and up.

[R.E.A.L. Science](#). (1-4)

R.E.A.L. Science Odyssey (Read, Explore, Absorb, and Learn) by Pandia Press currently offers Life Science, Earth Science, and Chemistry science courses for grades 1 to 4. Taught incrementally, this program teaches scientific terminology within the context of the lesson, and also incorporates the scientific method and age-appropriate math. Lessons are presented in an entertaining, story-like format and also include hands-on activities, notebooking activities, and suggested books and websites that reinforce the lessons.

Lab activities are accompanied by worksheets that allow students to record their findings and instructor's pages that contain a list of materials, instructions and teaching information for each project. You will find R.E.A.L. Science to be unlike any other science curriculum available. It is written specifically for home school and small group use. Packed full of serious science and loads of fun, it is an incremental program that gently builds on itself and incorporates a fair amount of mathematics and scientific terminology.

[Real Science 4 Kids](#) (K-9)

Real Science-4-Kids differs from typical school science programs for the elementary grades in that it covers far fewer topics but in much greater depth than most programs that teach many topics at a relatively superficial level. Rather than targeting specific grade levels, each book is geared toward a range of grade levels. The program teaches advanced science concepts in a child-friendly manner, using engaging texts and hands-on experiments. Chemistry, Biology and Physics programs are available for grades K-3 and grades 4-6. A Chemistry program is currently available for grades 7-9.

Each program consists of texts, teacher manuals, and lab manuals that are meant to be used once per week for approximately ten weeks. Lessons follow a three-step process of having the child read the text, perform the experiment and make the connections. Some lab manuals and teacher manuals are available on CD-ROM. Many products are now downloadable, and Gravitas Press expects to make all components of Real Science 4 Kids available as downloads in the near future.

Kogs-4-Kids, a supplemental workbook program that is available for purchase, teaches critical thinking skills and helps children connect science to other subjects.

[Science in a Nutshell](#) (2-6)

These are affordable hands-on science kits that are available on a variety of topics in earth, life and physical science. Each kit comes with enough materials for 3 students, including a teacher's guide, student notebooks and all the materials for the experiments. Explore and discover science concepts and processes through inquiry and hands-on learning. Fun, meaningful activities for student-directed individual or small-group learning.

[Science Weekly](#) (K-6)

This is a weekly subscription based magazine. They are great if you are teaching different ages because you can order the different grades and they cover the same concepts each week but at the appropriate level. Each topic in *Science Weekly* is written at six reading levels (K-6) and, through a series of hands-on activities, integrates reading, writing, science, math, and technology. Does include hands on science experiments but you need to provide the materials.

[Singapore Science](#) (K-10)

This science series was created by the same folks who developed Singapore Math. They have 4 different programs depending on the age of the child. A big plus for this series is that it is focused on teaching concepts more than facts. They have an EarlyBird Series for Grades 1 and 2 and suggest starting formal science instruction in Grade 3 using their My Pals Series. My Pals are Here! Science Activity Books aim to stimulate young minds, cultivate their interest, and spark their curiosity in finding out about the things around them. It adopts a hands-on and inquiry-based approach to the learning of Science, helping pupils to explore and reinforce the concepts learned in the textbook.

There are a wide variety of challenging and interesting activities in the books, ranging from experiments and investigations and worksheets to projects and research on the Internet for information. These activities develop pupils' skills and processes, while helping them understand the purpose for inquiry.

Interactive Science For Inquiring Minds series is a comprehensive package written for middle school students. It comprises a textbook in two volumes, theory workbooks, and practical workbooks.

The Interactive Science textbooks aim to provide students with a solid foundation for the learning of science at upper secondary level and beyond.

With the inquiry approach and interactive nature, students will be motivated and they will accept that science is relevant and interesting. The books also challenge students to think creatively and critically.

[TOPS](#) (K-12)

This is a hands-on inquiry based science program for K-12. Using simple materials students can work independently on task cards and activities to develop conceptual understanding of

physical, earth and life science concepts. This program also incorporates a lot of math into their science explorations.

[The Young Scientists Club Kits](#)

This subscription-based program is ideal for home schooling. The Young Scientists Club works similar to a magazine subscription in that your child will be sent a complete science kit on a regular basis (once or twice a month). Each kit reinforces what was learned in previous kits as well as introduces what will be learned in future kits, creating a continuous curriculum of science learning.

It provides a thorough science curriculum that will both challenge children's intellects and allow them to explore a vast array of scientific fields. You can custom design your own curriculum using our kits in any order you choose (please note that the science kits may have references to earlier kit topics) or you can pick your own entry point in our curriculum and follow in order from there.

History/Geography

[Hakim's A History of the U.S.](#) (4-12)

This is a storyteller's history of the United States in 10 highly illustrated books of about 200 pages, each includes an atlas.

[History Odyssey](#) (K-12)

History Odyssey is a chronological history program covering world history from ancient to modern times for grades one through twelve over three levels of study. Each level of study contains study guides that cover one major time period (ancient, medieval, early modern, and modern), and guide the instructor through a one-year program for their students. The study guide provides a framework for organizing the year and includes history and literature resources, as well as activity and project resources.

Level one of History Odyssey is meant for first through fourth grades and is specifically geared towards the elementary student with hands-on activities, crafts and cooking projects. It aims to present history as an exciting real story. Age-appropriate books are introduced and prepare students to read classical literature in level two. Modern Times is geared for grades three through six and is a bridge between levels one and two.

Level two is written for grades five and up. Level two students learn literary analysis, information organization, and research and writing skills. They also learn outlining, timeline analysis, geography and critical thinking through daily lessons meant to be used independently. Early Modern Times is geared for grades six and up and Modern Times for grades seven and up. These two study guides include writing assignments and literary analysis that are more difficult than those in the first two study guides for level two.

Level three is written for grades nine and up. Students read classic works by Plato, Shakespeare, and others, and learn to write persuasive arguments, form a thesis, and write research papers. Numerous writing and research assignments are included in this level in order to prepare students for college. Level three is not yet available for Early Modern and Modern Times.

History Odyssey by Pandia Press is available as an e-book and in a print edition.

[Maps, Charts and Graphs](#) (1-8)

Maps, Charts & Graphs is a series of colorful, consumable workbooks that teach children to read maps, charts and graphs in a fun manner. This series contains workbooks that cover grades 1 through 8.

[Studies Weekly](#) (K-6)

This is a subscription based weekly newspaper. Our unique approach to teaching combines a fun and engaging format kids love with a concise and cost-effective teaching program that requires less prep time than most textbooks. Students will eagerly devour each weekly unit as they page through exciting social studies lessons, aided by colorful illustrations that help them imagine life in historical context. And, unlike a textbook, they can mark and highlight right on their very own pages.

A one-year subscription to any Studies Weekly state or U.S. history publication consists of 24 - 32 weekly units delivered to you in four quarterly installments. Studies Weekly subscribers can visit our website at to access our extensive teacher resources, daily activities and supplementary material that will expand and enrich the classroom learning experience. Our handy scope and sequence will help you plan your daily lessons and our standards correlations are an easy way to document state standards (they even tell you which standards are NOT covered, for your planning convenience).

They also have newspapers for science and math.

[The Story of the World](#) (1-6)

Susan Wise Bauer, author of the *Well-Trained Mind*, has written this series of history books to support the classical method of education she promotes in that book.

Four books in *The Story of the World* series cover history from ancient through modern times through narration and storytelling. Although the books are written to be read aloud to children in grades 1-4, children in 5th and 6th grades can also read them independently. These books offer a selective retelling of history from around the world. The story format means that there will be more information on topics or people selected for inclusion, while other topics and people are skipped. Nevertheless, stories offer a decent representation of countries and civilizations around the world in addition to key stories of western civilization. Books are available in hardcover, paperback, and spiral bound editions.

Each volume has a companion activity book (published by W.W. Norton but also available through Peace Hill Press) that includes lesson plans, questions, narration exercises, reading lists, map work, and activities designed to enhance each chapter in the books. These are large books, with 275 or more pages each. Activity guides refer to some other books such as *The Kingfisher Illustrated History of the World* and *The Usborne Book of World History*. So you might want to purchase at least one of these as a source for more complete historical information than is found in *History of the World* books. Activity guides have reproducible student pages, which you are free to copy for your family or class group. If you prefer, you can purchase packets of these student pages ready-to-use. There is also test booklet for each of the four volumes.

[Trail Guide to World Geography \(2-12\)](#)

Trail Guide to World Geography is a one-year geography course for grades 2 through high school. It includes mapping activities, atlas usage, notebooking, and daily geography drills. This teacher's manual includes detailed lesson plans and instruction, and includes answers. Three levels are offered in order to customize instruction to each student's level. The program is available as both an e-book and in a print edition

Art

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ATELIER art lessons for children is presented on DVD, and is reinforced by lesson plans. Not only is the DVD a rich source of creative ideas and inspiration, it also clarifies the objectives, materials, techniques and procedures of each lesson. Abundant instructional coverage, as well as that of students in a virtual art class for children performing the lesson and displaying their finished artwork, consistently produces exceptional student results and learning, independent of the artistry background of the parent-teacher.

[Drawing Textbook](#)

Drawing Textbook by Bruce McIntyre is a simple, inexpensive book that consists of 222 exercises that teach the elements of drawing and alignment. Each lesson has clear step-by-step instructions, and either introduces a new concept or adds to a concept already introduced. This program is for grades 1 through adult

[Drawing with Children](#)

The method involves training students to perceive an "alphabet" of sorts focused on five basic elements of shape families that combine to form all objects. By learning to view the world through these five elements and how to transcribe the information to paper, everyone, so-called "drawers" and "non-drawers" can learn to become artists in their own right and develop their own unique style of realistic interpretation.

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