

Cary Homeschoolers Showcase 2011

Welcome to the wonderful journey of homeschooling!

Homeschooling is a lifestyle (not just an educational choice) that offers opportunities to encourage our children's growth, individuality and love of learning, create closer family relationships, and make room for each family's priorities.

The transition from traditional school is often a challenge though. Not only is the responsibility of "education" switched from someone else to the parent (sometimes an intimidating responsibility!), but new family relationships need to be built within a completely different daily ebb and flow and different physical space requirements between parent and student (and siblings). Along with this, everyone's academic/educational paradigms have to shift — from a traditional "check the box/follow the state plan of study in the traditional schedule" to "what does education mean for my homeschool and my family and how does it fit into our lifestyle?" It can easily take 6 months to a year to make this transition — but it's worth it!

A good overall website to read about different options, curriculum, why's and wherefores of homeschooling is: www.homeschooldiner.com

The handouts included here (as well as other information and a blog full of preschool, high school, and other learning links) is available on my website. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

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HOMESCHOOLING IN NORTH CAROLINA

WHAT DOES HOMESCHOOLING LOOK LIKE?

Trying to describe the “typical” homeschooling family is akin to trying to describe the “typical” private or charter school. People homeschool for a variety of reasons — from academic reasons to family values. Each homeschool has its own educational philosophy, goals and structure.

Regardless of the approach, homeschooling is much more than an educational option; it is a

lifestyle that impacts the entire family. Learning is seldom limited to a 9 to 3, 5 day a week schedule and almost never restricted only to the kitchen table.

In Wake County, there are multitudes of opportunities for homeschoolers — from field trips to enrichment classes to sports to mentoring opportunities. The challenge for many “homeschoolers” is time for being at home.

The Numbers

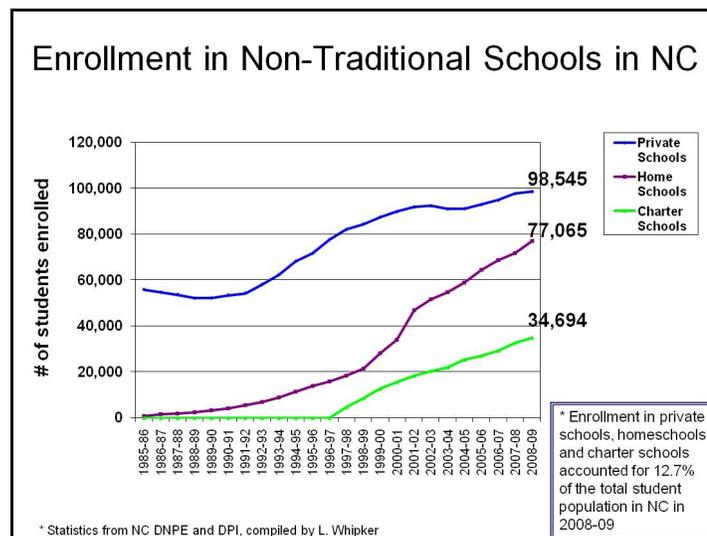
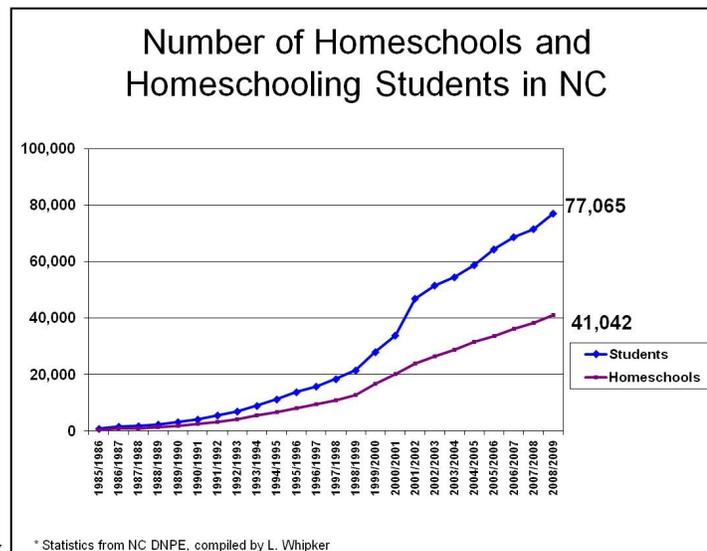
In 2009-2010, there were over 41,000 homeschools registered in NC, representing over 77,000 students. In Wake County in 2008-2009, there were 3,771 home schools registered, with an estimated total of 7,571 students.

The Legalities

Homeschooling has been legal in NC since the mid-1980’s. Homeschools are administered by the Division of Non-Public Education (NC DNPE) with laws similar to those governing private schools. Like private schools, homeschools must:

- Register with the DNPE;
- Keep attendance and immunization records on hand for each student;
- Operate on a regular basis 9 months of the year.

Homeschools must also test each student (7 year olds and older) annually with a nationally standardized test (not NC’s End of Grade tests). And, like private schools, each homeschool determines its own educational philosophy and chooses its own curriculum and schedule. Individual homeschools are limited to one family plus the students from one additional family.



Legalities:

Legalities, registration forms and statistics at the NC Division of Non-Public Education: www.ncdnpe.org

Book Recommendations:

GETTING STARTED HOMESCHOOLING

The Unofficial Guide to Homeschooling by Kathy Ishizuka

The First Year of Homeschooling Your Child by Linda Dobson

APPROACHES TO HOMESCHOOLING AND EDUCATION

Dumbing Us Down by John Taylor Gatto

Family Matters: Why Homeschooling Makes Sense by David Guterson

Homeschooling and The Voyage of Self-Discovery by David H. Albert

Learning All the Time by John Caldwell Holt

Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Homeschooling Movement by Mitchell Stevens

Support Groups in the Triangle:

Support groups provide a network for both the homeschooling family and for other students.

Cary Homeschoolers: www.caryhomeschoolers.org

Dayspring Home Educators: www.dayspringhomeeducators.com

Homeschooler Explorers: www.homeschoolexplorers.net/

There are many other groups — each with its own vision and purpose. To find a group in your area, the best option is to join an online support group and ask for recommendations:

All of the following are yahoo groups — type the specific name at the end of the following link:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/>

- [wakehsconnections](#)
- [NCLoop](#)
- [spice-line](#)

SUPPORT GROUPS IN WAKE COUNTY, NC

SUPPORT GROUPS

Belonging to a homeschool support group is not necessary for homeschooling but can provide a great sounding board and sanity check for parents, as well as a social network for homeschooling children. Support groups come in many flavors and include many different types of activities – go to a few meetings or activities to see if it's a good fit for you. There are even more email listserves that can be a great resource, depending on what you're looking for.

A list of *some* of the support groups for the Raleigh area can be found at:

<http://homeschooling.gomilpitas.com/regional/NorthCarolinaSupport.htm>

And at: <http://nche.com/regions/8>

A sampling of local in-person groups:

Cary Homeschoolers

Cary Homeschoolers is an all-inclusive, secular homeschool support group based in Cary, NC. Membership is open to all homeschooling families in and around the Cary area. We do not require or endorse adherence to any particular belief system, educational method or philosophy. <http://www.caryhomeschoolers.org>

Dayspring Home Educators

Dayspring Home Educators is a support group in Wake County NC. We sponsor monthly parent meetings, field trips, park days, parties, activities such as International Fair, Spelling Bee, Science Fair, etc. Dayspring is a Christian group that is open to all interested homeschoolers. <http://www.dayspringhomeeducators.com/>

North Wake Teens

This group is a secular homeschool support group for homeschoolers in the North Raleigh and N. Wake County area. NWTeens is for families who have at least one child of middle or high school ages.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NWTeens/>

A sampling of local on-line support groups:

WakeHSConnections: an on-line community of homeschoolers interested in sharing information about activities and resources that might be of interest to other homeschoolers in Wake County, NC.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wakehsconnections/>

Spice-line: a fully moderated, Christian based loop which, for 9 years, has provided information and encouragement to homeschooling families in the Triangle area and surrounding counties of NC.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/spice-line/>

GIFTSNC: GIFTSNC began as a place where parents in North Carolina who homeschool one or more children with physical, developmental, medical, communication or learning challenges could find other families with similar challenges. We have been able to discuss and exchange ideas regarding: curriculum choices and modifications, medical and therapy issues, providing social opportunities and so much more. We have been able to support each other as we work to meet the daily challenges of rearing, guiding and teaching all our children. <http://www.giftsnc.com/>

Curriculum and Supplies:

Homeschool Gathering Place: Both new and used curriculum options. Off of Glenwood Ave.

5204 Holly Ridge Drive

Raleigh, NC 27612 (919) 571-8106

BUT HOW DO YOU START HOMESCHOOLING?

MAJOR STEPS

- 1. Talk to people. Read. Find out answers to your questions and worries.** Some of the best ways to do that are to go to local homeschool Park Days and Game Days and hang out with people currently homeschooling. Cary Homeschoolers holds Park Days/Game Days year round that are open to anyone who would like to attend. Dayspring Home Educators offer Homeschool 101 June 11, 2011. Talk to people at the Homeschool Gathering Place in Raleigh.
- 2. Take time before buying.** You will hear many opinions, lots of ideas, lots of methods. Some will feel right for your family and some won't. Each family homeschools with a different educational philosophy, just like every private and charter school has their own approach. Take some time before investing too much money until you get a feel for what will work for your family. Also, realize that homeschooling is a lifestyle and will require some paradigm shifts in how you think about "education" vs. "school." To get the most benefits out of homeschooling, you won't be re-creating school at home.
- 3. Fill out a Notice of Intent to Homeschool** (available to print out or fill out online at <http://www.ncdnpe.org>) if your child is 7 or older (or within 2 weeks of turning 7). This opens your homeschool. You will need to supply a copy of at least a high school transcript for each parent teaching in the household. You will also need a name for your school — choose one that you feel comfortable being on a high school transcript, just in case you're still homeschooling when you fill out college applications!
 - The DNPE does not accept Notices of Intent to HS in June. If you are pulling out of year-round school, have your forms ready to arrive at their office on July 1 with a request for priority handling
- 4. Transfer your public/private school student/s to your homeschool** when you get confirmation that your homeschool is open (usually within 2 weeks). Be sure to get any records from the school (similar to what another school would expect if you were transferring to another private/public school).
 - In NC, children under 7 or over 16 do not legally need to be enrolled in school. If you want to homeschool a student under 7, simply withdraw them from the public or private school. You will not need to fill out a Notice of Intent to Homeschool until they turn 7. Once your school is open, you do not need to reapply for other siblings.
 - Copy (reduce in size) and laminate the orange card you get — you'll only receive one and it is sometimes useful to have a card with you to get Educator discounts at Barnes and Noble, ACMoore, etc.
- 5. Be aware of the legalities to maintain a homeschool in NC** (these are similar to what is expected of private schools):
 - The legal requirements are that you must:
 - Homeschool a regular 9 months of the year (any 9 months) with reasonable holidays, vacations, etc.
 - Keep in a file (at home) a copy of each child's immunization record (or religious exemption)
 - Keep in a file (at home) an attendance record showing which days you homeschooled
 - Test each student annually (any time of the year — within a year of starting to homeschool) with a "nationally standardized achievement test" (NOT EOG's, which are "state standardized"). Like a private school, these tests are required so you, as administrator, have the information available to you.
 - Your proof of having a opened a legal homeschool in NC is available on the DNPE website
- 6. You're good to go!** As a private school, you choose what your school looks like, what is required and how learning takes place. Spend some time figuring out learning styles, personality styles, topics of interest to delve into. Figure out your educational philosophy and how it relates to your children and family (article about Developing an Educational Philosophy at: <http://homeschoolgeodes.com>). Explore the many options available for learning. Goals for high school will be much different than goals for preschool, elementary and even middle school! Find a support group for your benefit as well as your children's — and enjoy the journey!

DEVELOPING AN EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

BIG PHILOSOPHICAL PICTURE

What is an educated person?

What is a successful person?

LIFELONG GOALS FOR YOUR CHILD

Life skills, values, knowledge, etc.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHIES

How do you think it's best to learn?

How do you think it's best to teach?

What teaching style do you need in order to feel OK about your choice?

What basic personality style does your child have that will impact your educational philosophy?

YOUR CHILD

Learning styles

Interests

Special needs

Strengths to build on and weaknesses to strengthen
(academic, as well as other areas)

GIVEN THE ANSWERS ABOVE, WHAT IS THE BEST LEARNING ENVIRONMENT?

Public school, Private school, Homeschool

GOALS FOR THE YEAR BASED ON LIFE LONG GOALS

Academic

Social/Community

Life skills

Spiritual

Physical

Character

TOP GOAL IN EACH CATEGORY

This provides the Focal Point of the Year/Semester/Month

IF YOU'RE HOMESCHOOLING, CHOOSE A CURRICULUM OR APPROACH WHAT ARE YOUR DAY-TO-DAY PRIORITIES?

For more information about developing an Educational Philosophy and Discovering Learning Styles, see my article at: <http://homeschoolgeodes.com>

HOMESCHOOLING PRESCHOOL

Pros and Cons of Homeschooling Preschool

PROS

- Lets kids learn & develop at their own pace
- Can work with child's interests
- More flexibility in your schedule
- Less peer pressure for child
- Closer family ties
- Less sickness
- It's fun!

CONS

- Limited sanity breaks unless whole family works together or you can find another family to trade off time with
- Challenge to find personal balance
- Hard to hold out against adult peer pressure to put children in preschool

FACTS ABOUT HOMESCHOOLING

- ✓ Legal in all 50 states but regulations vary by state*
- ✓ Over 2 million children currently homeschool in the US*
- ✓ In NC, over 70,000 children homeschooled in 2010. Growing by 20 to 30% per year**
- ✓ Homeschooling children typically score in the 70th to 80th percentile on standardized tests (Average for all children would be at the 50th percentile) *
- ✓ 74% of homeschool children successfully go on to post-high school education*

* Dr. Brian Ray, NHERI
** NC Division of Non-Public Education

Website Resources

Legalities: The Division of Non-Public Education www.ncdnpe.org

Great books for preschoolers, even if you don't do the program:

Five in a Row: <http://www.fiarhq.com/index.html>

Activities and books recommendations by "subject"

www.homeschoolingadventures.com/preschool.html

Articles and links for homeschooling preschool

www.besthomeschooling.org/gateway/inted16.html

Tot Trays and Lapbooks for Preschoolers:

lapbooksbycarisa.homestead.com/TraysforTots.html

Books to Check Out

HOMESCHOOLING BASICS

- Linda Dobson: Homeschooling: The Early Years
- Rebecca Rupp: Home Learning Year by Year
- E.D. Hirsch, Jr: What Your Preschooler Needs to Know
- Lesley Britton: Montessori Play and Learn
- Ruth Beechick: The Three R's

HOMESCHOOLING THEORIES

- John Holt: The Way They Learn
- Catherine Levison: A Charlotte Mason Education
- Raymond & Dorothy Moore: Better Late Than Early
- David Albert: Homeschooling and the Voyage of Self-Discovery
- David Elkind: Miseducation: Preschoolers at Risk

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- June Oberlander: Slow and Steady, Get Me Ready
- Jane C. Lambert: Before Five in a Row
- Peggy Kaye: Games to Play for Reading (or Writing or Math...)
- Maja Pitamic: Teach Me To Do It Myself
- Activities in a Bag: www.activitybags.com/

LEGALITIES OF HOMESCHOOLING IN NC

- ✓ Legalities at the Division of Non-Public Education's website: www.ncdnpe.org
- ✓ Before your child turns 7: **Legally** you don't have to do anything to homeschool your preschooler, or 5 to 7 yo
- ✓ A month before your child turns 7, or 2 weeks before pulling your child out of school, file a Notice of Intent to Homeschool with a copy of your high school diploma.

HOMESCHOOLING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Pros and Cons of Homeschooling Elementary

PROS

- Lets kids learn at their own pace
- Can work with child's interests
- More flexibility in your schedule
- Less peer pressure for child
- Closer family ties
- Less sickness
- It's fun! Museums, parks, coops!

CONS

- Limited sanity breaks unless whole family works together
- Challenge to find time for self
- Hard to hold out against peer pressure to put child in school
- Can be expensive (but doesn't have to be)



Website Resources

Legalities: The Division of Non-Public Education www.ncdnpe.org

Ideas, essays about homeschooling all ages: A to Z Home's Cool Homeschooling www.gomilpitas.com/homeschooling

Activities and books recommendations by subject:
www.homeschoolingadventures.com/k3.html

Lots of ideas and help: Homeschool Diner:
<http://www.homeschooldiner.com/>

CurrClick: Online curriculum choices, books, supplements:
www.currclick.com

Great books for elementary ages, even if you don't do the program:
Five in a Row: <http://www.fiarhq.com/index.html>

Books to Check Out

HOMESCHOOLING BASICS

- Debra Bell: The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling
- Gayle Graham: How to Homeschool
- Rebecca Rupp: Home Learning Year by Year
- Borg Hendrickson: How to Write a Low-Cost/ No-Cost Curriculum for Your Home-School Child
- E.D. Hirsch, Jr: What Your XX Grader Needs to Know

HOMESCHOOLING THEORIES

- John Holt: The Way They Learn
- Catherine Levison: A Charlotte Mason Education
- Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer: The Well-Trained Mind
- Mary Griffith: The Unschooling Handbook
- Raymond and Dorothy Moore: Better Late Than Early
- David Albert: Homeschooling and the Voyage of Self-Discovery

ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

- Jane C. Lambert: Five in a Row and Beyond Five in a Row (www.fiveinarow.com)
- Lesley Britton: Montessori Play and Learn
- Peggy Kaye: Games to Play for Reading (or Writing or Math...)
- Ruth Beechick: The Three R's
- Lapbooks:
In the Hands of a Child
www.handsofachild.com



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www.ncdnpe.org
- ✓ Before your child turns 7: Legally you don't have to do anything!
- ✓ A month before your child turns 7, or 2 weeks before pulling your child out of school, file a Notice of Intent to Homeschool with a copy of your highschool diploma
- ✓ Test annually with a nationally standardized test
- ✓ "School" 9 regular months of the year
- ✓ Keep on hand:
 - ☞ Test results
 - ☞ Attendance records
 - ☞ Vaccination records

HOMESCHOOLING MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pros and Cons of Homeschooling Middle School

PROS

- Lets kids learn at their own pace
- Can work with child's interests and start exploring apprenticeships
- More flexibility in your schedule
- Less peer pressure for child during a time of huge hormonal/growth fluctuations and brain development
- Closer family ties

CONS

- Challenge to find time for self
- Hard to hold out against peer pressure to put children in school
- Can be expensive but less expensive alternatives can be used
- Challenge to find like-minded peers and activities, though it's getting easier



Website Resources

Legalities: The Division of Non-Public Education www.ncdnpe.org

Ideas, essays about homeschooling all ages: A to Z Home's Cool Homeschooling www.gomilpitas.com/homeschooling

Middle School Homeschool Resources:
www.middleschool.net/hmschool/hscurpgs.htm

Brain Development in Young Adolescents (National Education Association)
www.nea.org/tools/16653.htm

Hoagie's Gifted Education Page:
Lots of great articles about middle school and learning:
www.hoagiesgifted.org/middle-school.html

Lots of ideas and help: Homeschool Diner:
<http://www.homeschooldiner.com/>



Books to Check Out

HOMESCHOOLING BASICS

- Debra Bell: The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling
- Gayle Graham: How to Homeschool
- Rebecca Rupp: Home Learning Year by Year
- Diane Waring: Abundant Life Homeschooling
- David & Micki Colfax: Homeschooling for Excellence

HOMESCHOOLING THEORIES

- John Holt: The Way They Learn
- Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer: The Well-Trained Mind
- Mary Griffith: The Unschooling Handbook
- David Albert: Homeschooling and the Voyage of Self-Discovery
- Grace Llewellyn: The Teenage Liberation Handbook

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

- Rainbow Resources (www.rainbowresource.com)
- Ruth Beechick: You Can Teach Your Child Successfully (Grade 4 to 8)
- Cafi Cohen: Homeschoolers' College Admissions Handbook

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- ✓ Test annually with a nationally standardized test
- ✓ "School" 9 regular months of the year
- ✓ Keep on hand:
 - ☞ Test results
 - ☞ Attendance records
 - ☞ Vaccination records

Homeschooling High School

Pros and Cons of Homeschooling High School

PROS

- Lets kids learn at their own pace
- Can work with students' interests for apprenticeships, career exploration, part time jobs, dual enrollment credit
- More flexibility in schedule
- Less peer pressure for student
- Closer family ties
- Highly rewarding

CONS

- Challenge for parents to find personal time, especially prior to student having a driver's license
- Hard to hold out against peer pressure to put children in high school
- Can be very expensive
- Can be intimidating
- Challenge to find like-minded peers with similar schedules



Website Resources

Legalities: The Division of Non-Public Education www.ncdnpe.org

Questions about **dual/concurrent enrollment** at Wake Tech Community College (each community college system will have their own procedures):

http://admissions.waketech.edu/index.php?page=procedures_highschool

Homeschool to College: An online group with lots of great information about homeschooling through to college:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/homeschool2college/>

HomeScholar: Online support for homeschooling highschool (books, audiotapes, newsletter) <http://www.thehomescholar.com/>

Best Homeschooling: Lots of links, articles, reading about homeschooling high school, teens, career choices)

<http://www.besthomeschooling.org/gateway/inted11.html>

Free online highschool resources: http://www.hoagiesgifted.org/online_hs.htm

Books to Check Out

HOMESCHOOLING BASICS

- Cafi Cohen: Homeschooling the Teen Years
- Diane Johnson: Home Designed High School
- Jeanne Gowen Dennis: Homeschooling High School
- Cafi Cohen: And What About College?
- Diane Waring: Reaping the Harvest

HOMESCHOOLING THEORIES

- John Holt: The Way They Learn
- Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer: The Well-Trained Mind
- Mary Griffith: The Unschooling Handbook
- Grace Llewellyn: The Teenage Liberation Handbook
- Grace Llewellyn: Real Lives

HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCES

- Beverly Adams Gordon: Homeschooling Highschooling and Beyond
- Barbara Edtl Shelton: Senior High: A Home Designed Form+U+La
- Janice Campbell: Transcripts Made Easy
- Cafi Cohen: Homeschoolers' College Admissions Handbook: Preparing Your 12- to 18-Year-Old

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LEGALITIES OF HOMESCHOOLING IN NC

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- ✓ To have a driver's license, student must be enrolled in a school of some sort. Check NC DNPE's website for up-to-date specifics!
- ✓ At least 2 weeks before pulling your child out of school, file a Notice of Intent to Homeschool with a copy of your high school diploma
- ✓ Test annually with a nationally standardized test (ACT counts, not SAT)
- ✓ "School" 9 regular months of the year
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