

Principle Approach

The Principle Approach is a philosophy and method of education based upon Biblical reasoning and a Christian worldview. Based on the works of Rosalie J. Slater and Verna M. Hall, this approach seeks to teach using the methods of our founding fathers, relating and applying God's Biblical principles to all areas of education. Seven Principles of America's Christian History and Government are identified, studied and used as a foundation for further learning: individuality, self-government, Christian character, conscience, government, local self-government and political union.

Writing is an important element of this approach and students use a "Notebook Method" using the four R's - research, reasoning, relating, and recording. All subjects are studied through a Biblical worldview recorded in their notebook.

Parents are encouraged to develop their own notebooks and become the "living textbooks" for their children. While the Principle Approach requires much study on the part of the parent and students, curriculum has been developed to assist in its implementation. The Noah Plan is the best known Principle Approach curriculum and curriculum guides may be purchased separately.

Resources:

Foundation for American Christian Education (F.A.C.E.) *The Noah Plan*
www.face.net

American Christian Education History Institute
www.achipa.com

The Pilgrim Institute
http://www.pilgriminstitute.org/pilgrim

A Guide to American Christian Education for the Home and School, The Principle Approach
James B. Rose

Building a Biblical Philosophy of Education and Building a Biblical Worldview Curriculum
Paul Jehle

Lori Harris, *Research Tips Using the Principle Approach*
www.home-school.com/Articles/phs27-loriharris.html

Carole G. Adams, *American Classical Education*
www.crosswalk.com/1108616/print/ Ph. D.,

The Christian History of the American Revolution
Verna M. Hall

Encyclopedia of Bible Truths for School Subjects
Ruth Haycock

The Christian History of the Constitution of the United States of America, Volume I: Christian Self-Government and Volume II: Christian Self-Government with Union
Verna M. Hall

Come Let Us Reason
Kris Bayer

Traditional Textbook Based

This approach follows a scope and sequence using graded textbooks intended to cover a subject over the course of a school year. This method is the backbone of conventional school systems. It allows structure and has the benefit of being prepared and completely laid out with lesson plans and support materials readily available. Parents may use grade level textbooks, purchase teacher's manuals, tests, and other supplementary materials to teach each subject.

Teaching formats using textbooks include:

- Parent as teacher
- Private, Correspondence and Satellite Schools
- Video/DVD
- Software- tutoring, practice and drill

Record keeping and transcripts may be kept in some programs where a student is enrolled. Accredited diplomas may be awarded in some situations.

Resources:

A Beka Book
www.abeka.com

Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) formally known as School of Tomorrow
www.aceministries.com

Alpha Omega Publications
www.aop.com

Bob Jones University Press
www.bjup.com

Christian Liberty Press
www.christianlibertypress.com

Christian Light Education
www.clp.org

Landmark's Freedom Baptist Curriculum
www.landmarkbaptistchurch.org/modules/lfbc/htmls

Rod and Staff Publishers
www.rodandstaffbooks.com
Sonlight Curriculum-International

HomeQuest

Moore Foundation Curriculum Programs

Sycamore Tree

Hewitt Research Foundation

Various University Independent Study Courses
North Dakota Division of Independent Study
Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Oklahoma

Unit Study

This method involves the study of a theme or specific topic and grouping learning activities around it. Several subjects such as Bible, history, language arts, math, science, geography, social studies, physical education, art, and music are incorporated in ways that relate to the theme or topic.

A unit study may be simple or complex, lasting a few days to the entire year. Parents may set up their own unit study or take advantage of the many prepared unit studies available. Unit studies are used in classrooms and often referred to as "thematic units".

This approach appeals to many, because of the ability to include multiple children in the same study, each working at their own level. Another benefit is the variety of learning methods which may be employed helping with retention. Students are involved in doing activities rather than simply reading about them. Subjects are seen as interconnected rather than completely separate.

Resources:

Everything You Need to Know about Homeschool Unit Studies
Jennifer Steward

Design-A-Study Guides to History Plus
Kathryn Stout

How to Create Your Own Unit Study
Valerie Bendt

The Unit Study Idea Book
Valerie Bendt

Examples of Unit Study Curricula

KONOS

Tapestry of Grace

Heart of Wisdom

Far Above Rubies

KONOS History of the World

Laura Ingalls Wilder

Beautiful Feet

The Weaver

Kym Wright's Units

Media Angels Creation Science

Teaching with God's Heart for the World

Amanda Bennett's units

Five in A Row

Learning Adventures/A World of Adventure

Advanced Training Institute International

My Father's World

Prairie Primer

TRISMS

Approaches to Homeschooling

A few of the popular homeschooling approaches are highlighted in the following pages.

While the lists are not exhaustive, we hope they provide some direction as you investigate various homeschooling methods.

The best method is the one God directs you to.

E.R.C.H.A.

Eagle River Christian
Homeschool Association
www.ercha.com

Charlotte Mason

Charlotte Mason was a British educator who believed that education was about more than training for a job, passing an exam, or getting into the right college. She said education was an atmosphere, a discipline, and a life; it was about finding out who we were and how we fit into the world of human beings and into the universe God created. But this kind of thinking was pretty much eclipsed during the 20th century by demands for more exams and more workers. In 1987, Susan Schaeffer Macaulay wrote a book called *For the Children's Sake*, which reintroduced parents to Charlotte Mason's methods and philosophy, and it started to gain a foothold with a new generation of homeschoolers.

Charlotte Mason believed that children are able to deal with *ideas* and *knowledge*, that they are not blank slates or empty sacks to be filled with information. She thought children should do the work of dealing with ideas and knowledge, rather than the teacher acting as a middle man, dispensing filtered knowledge. A Charlotte Mason education includes first-hand exposure to great and noble ideas through books in each school subject, and through art, music and poetry...

...There is some overlap in Charlotte Mason and classical schooling, especially in the upper years; but there are also differences in methods and viewpoint. CM is not unschooling, although it uses some informal teaching methods and does encourage a fair amount of free time, especially outdoors. It's not a back-to-basics approach, although the basics are not neglected, just taught in different ways. And it's not a unit study method, although history and literature studies are combined... (amblesideonline.org/WhatIsCM.shtml)

Resources:

A Charlotte Mason Education

Katherine Levison

More Charlotte Mason Education

Katherine Levison

For the Children's Sake

Susan Schaeffer Macaulay

Books Children Love

Edith Wilson

Teaching Children

Diane Lopez

A Charlotte Mason Companion

Karen Andreola

<http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/toc.html>

<http://simplycharlottesmason.com/>

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

Classical Approach

The "classical" method began in the Middle Ages and was the approach used by some of the greatest minds in history. The goal of the classical approach is to teach people how to learn for themselves. The five tools of learning, known as the Trivium, are reason, record, research, relate, and rhetoric. Younger children begin with the preparing stage, where they learn basic reading, writing, and arithmetic. The grammar stage is next, which emphasizes compositions and collections, and then the dialectic stage, where serious reading, study, and research take place. All the tools come together in the rhetoric stage, where communication is the primary focus. (www.homeschool.com/Approaches/Classical.asp)

Resources:

Teaching the Trivium: Christian Homeschooling in a Classical Style

Laurie and Harvey Bluedorn

Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning

Douglas Wilson

The Well Trained Mind

Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer

Story of the World: History for the Classical Child

4 volumes

Susan Wise Bauer

Trivium Pursuit

www.triviumpursuit.com

Veritas Press

www.veritaspress.com

Greenleaf Press

www.greenleafpress.com/index.php

WholeHeart Method

The WholeHeart Method emphasizes home nurture, home discipleship and home-centered education. It is a comprehensive, uncomplicated approach that integrates all required areas of study for children aged 4-14. *Educating the WholeHearted Child* shows you how to use real books and real life to liberate learning in your home from the tyranny of textbooks, the grip of curriculum, and the rigid rule of school.

Resources:

Educating the WholeHearted Child

Sally and Clay Clarkson

www.wholeheart.org/whmain.php

Delight Directed

(overlaps with Relaxed, Unschooling, Montessorri)

Delight-directed learning takes advantage of the natural motivation in our children toward a passionate interest. Under parental supervision, support and guidance, the child is given the time and space to investigate and explore his interests. By providing the materials and applying the educational tools of learning (reading, writing, arithmetic, reason) to the subject matter, the parent can encourage the child to acquire knowledge for himself. In delight-directed learning, there is no scope and sequence in which to learn "the facts." Rather, the facts are acquired as a subject is developed from our child's interests.

There are many ways to incorporate this method in our homes - some formal (starting a unit study) and some very informal (providing reference books, field trips, notebooks, paper and supplies). Whatever your approach, you'll want to consider these gems from the delight-directed perspective: life purpose, developing creativity, motivation, and exploration. (www.homehearts.com/delight.html)

Resources:

Homeschooling for Excellence

David and Micki Colfax

The Relaxed Homeschool

Mary Hood

The Unschooling Handbook

Mary Griffith

www.homehearts.com/delight.html

Robinson Method

This method seeks to eliminate the teacher's role as soon as possible. Dr. Robinson developed this curriculum after the unexpected death of his wife and his desire to continue homeschooling his six young children.

After children are taught to read they are introduced to a variety of books for history, science, and literature. The daily schedule includes reading, writing and math – five hours everyday in the Robinson home. Saxon math is recommended to supplement the CDs as are college level science texts when the Saxon math books have been completed.

The philosophy of this method is that children do not need the direct instruction typical in schools; students can learn through independent study with only essential feedback and interaction from their parent.

Central is a collection of 22 CD-ROMs which contain the books to be read in the order presented. The CD collection includes more than 230 books, the *1911 Encyclopedia Britannica*, the *1913 Webster's Dictionary*, 6000 vocabulary word flashcards, 2000 historic illustrations, progress exams for selected books, and vocabulary/comprehension quizzes for some of the literature.

www.robinsoncurriculum.com

Literature Based

Literature conveys information in an enjoyable format.

...Most of us remember in vivid detail many of our favorite childhood books. In fact, it's not at all uncommon for us to want our kids to read the same books we read as children.

In those books you read as a child, you gained valuable insights, practical information, exposure to various cultures, and a desire to acquire — or avoid — certain character qualities. There was literally a world of knowledge and experience right at your fingertips. And you wanted to enter that world... and enjoyed it when you visited.

Literature conveys information in a form that is easy to remember. Facts and figures devoid of context are difficult to remember. That's why a lot of memory systems rely on mnemonics and other memory tricks to memorize raw data.

But put those same facts and figures into a story — give them context — and all of a sudden, it's easy to remember the information! Stories serve as anchors for facts and figures that would otherwise be lost in the great sea of information in your mind.

Literature encourages you to interact with your kids. Many parents struggle to get their kids to talk to them. But when you use literature as the foundation of your curriculum, you'll find it's much easier to spark conversations. *Good* conversations. *Significant* conversations...

Interaction with your children is vital to their education. And literature, more than any other educational medium, encourages this interaction.

(www.sonlight.com/literature.html)

Resources:

Honey for a Child's Heart

Gladys Hunt

Books Children Love

Elizabeth Wilson

The Read Aloud Handbook

Jim Trelease

Who Should We Then Read

Jan Bloom

All Through the Ages

Christine Miller

Best Books for Kindergarten through High School

Bob Jones University Press

Sonlight

www.sonlight.com

Beautiful Feet Books

www.bfbooks.com

WinterPromise Curriculum

www.winterpromise.com