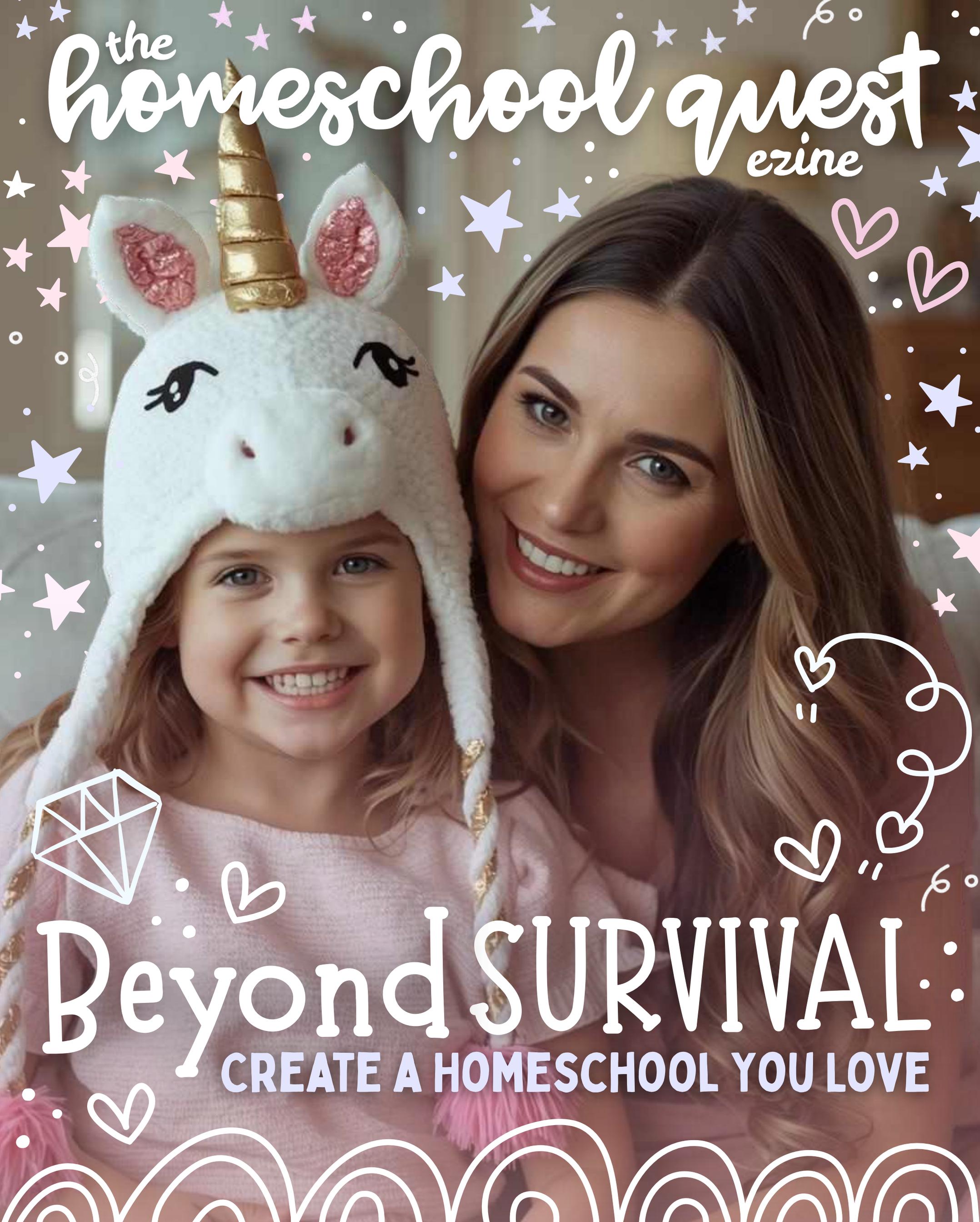


the
homeschool quest
ezine



Beyond SURVIVAL:

CREATE A HOMESCHOOL YOU LOVE



WELCOME

homeschoolers!

Homeschooling isn't just about checking boxes; it's about crafting a life you love. This issue is your guide to reclaiming joy, whether you're exhausted, or simply need a reset. From bare-minimum days to student-led adventures, we'll help you ditch burnout and build a homeschool that thrives, not just survives. Let's begin.



Janet & Amelia

Editors of the Homeschool
Quest magazine

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Just do the next thing. Keep putting one foot in front of the other, and you'll be shocked at how much you accomplish when you look back.

GAIL WESTALL ALLARD
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



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OF YOUR HOMESCHOOL**

BY TINA AROZENA

**MOM'S DAY OFF CHECKLIST
FOR INDEPENDENT LEARNING**

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ENOUGH" HOMESCHOOL DAY**

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**AVOID HOMESCHOOL
BURNOUT AND GO THE
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**TAKING BREAKS WHEN
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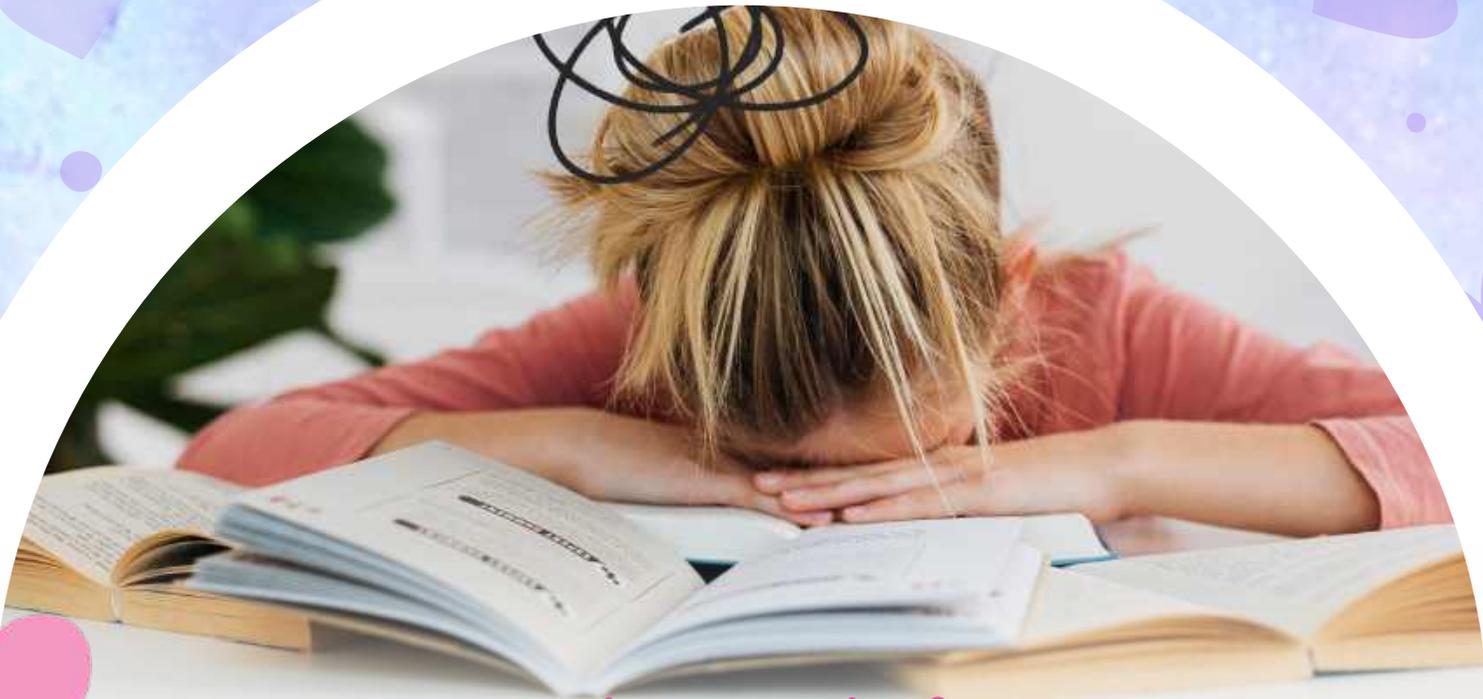
FINDING THEIR PASSIONS

**BY JANET, LANDY &
AMELIA DEFIELD**



REDISCOVERING
the heart of your homeschool

BY TINA AROZENA OF TIDE WIND ACADEMY HOMESCHOOL

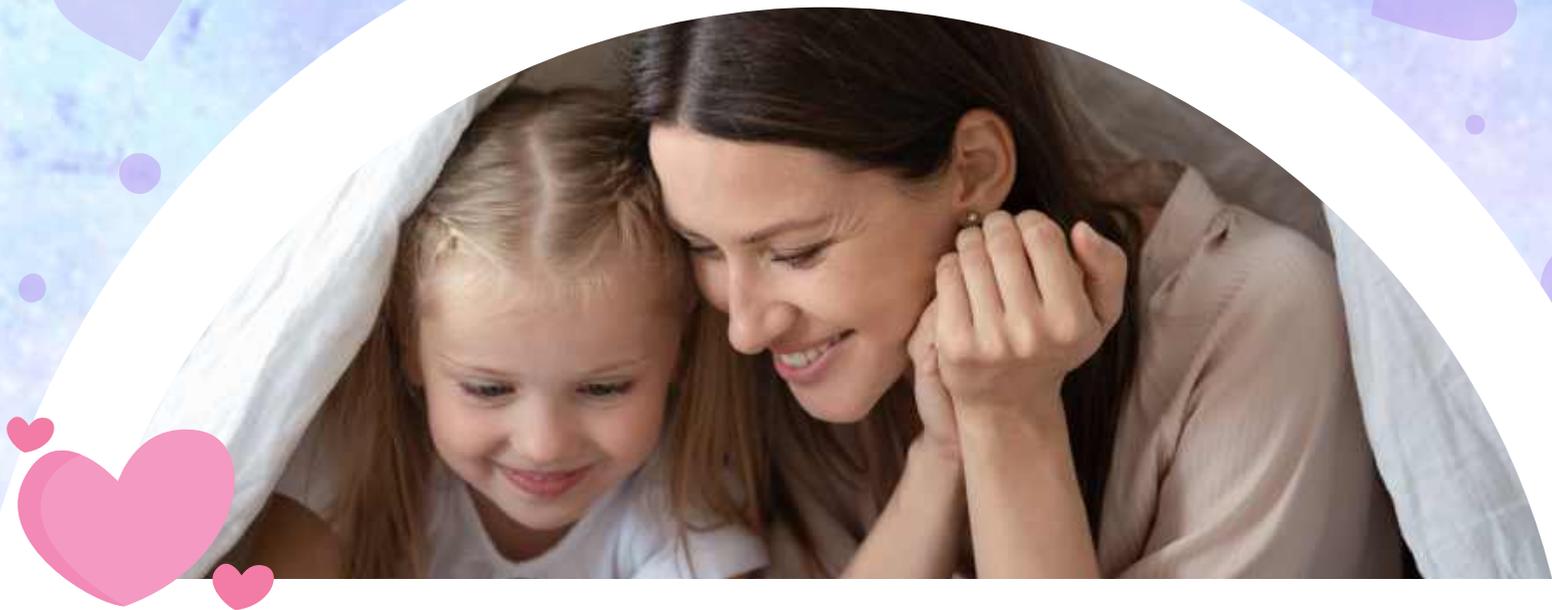


Rediscovering the heart of your homeschool

THOSE OVERWHELMING MORNINGS

I have been sitting at my kitchen table looking at a stack of 9th-grade curriculum, and if I am honest, some days it feels like a mountain I am not sure I can climb. We have all had those mornings, right? The "daily grind" starts to feel less like a calling and more like a heavy weight. For a split second, you wonder if you are actually qualified to be the principal, teacher, lunch lady, counselor, and janitor all at once. But then I look at my daughter, and I remember exactly why we are here.

I remember the "shadow version" of her. The 5th-grade girl who used to trudge out the door to public school with her head down, paralyzed by the dread of what the bullies would say that day. I spent months watching her spirit fracture while the school system basically shrugged its shoulders and looked the other way. It was not just about her grades; her light was going out. I realized then that I was leaving her in a place that did not share our faith, did not respect our core beliefs, and certainly was not protecting my daughter's precious heart.



THE DAY I STOPPED ASKING FOR PERMISSION

The day I withdrew her from public school and brought her home was not just a "choice." It was a rescue mission. I was done with the indoctrination and done with the "one-size-fits-all" machine. I wanted our faith to be the air we breathe, not just a Sunday morning activity. When we started, I was shocked. I realized that the 7 or 8 hours she spent suffering in that brick-and-mortar could be covered in 2 or 4 hours of focused work at our table, on our living room couch, or in our homeschool office. It gave her back her afternoon. It gave her back her childhood. Most importantly, it gave her back her mental health.

YOU ARE NOT FALLING BEHIND

If you are feeling overwhelmed today, I need you to hear this: You are not falling behind. We get so wrapped up in these imaginary public school schedules, rules, and timelines, but those were not made for your child. They were made for a system. A system that has been broken for many years. You cannot be "behind" when you are finally moving at the exact pace your child or children need to heal. At Tidewind Academy Homeschool, my "why" is my Mission Statement. If my daughter is safe, if she is growing in her faith, and if she knows she is loved, we are exactly where we need to be.



Rediscovering the heart of your homeschool

SHAPE THE HEART OF YOUR HOME

Stop trying to turn your living room or kitchen table into a public school. You do not need the bells, the rigid schedules, or the stress. You are the "Culture Creator" of your home. You set the tone. You decide that today, maybe the most important lesson is not in the math book. It is the conversation about life skills or current events that you have over coffee or the prayer you say together when things get tough. You are doing enough. In fact, you are doing the most important work there is. You are raising a soul, and that is a mission worth every messy day during your week.

BE THE CULTURE CREATOR YOUR FAMILY NEEDS!

Download the free Culture Creator kit with a mission statement template, grace-based rhythm guide, 'No Falling Behind' checklist, journal prompts, and the Culture Creator's Manifesto to print.



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HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



The game changer was making sure he knows exactly what he has to complete for the day. He opens the calendar, sees his subjects, and knows what to do. I also never answer a question he can look up himself. I say "I don't know, let's find out." That teaches him to get to the answer on his own and love learning while he's at it.



FROMA TRICKLE LEATHER
HOMESCHOOL MOM

THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST

Early Reading Routine

**Build Confident Readers
in Just 10 Minutes a Day!**



Tired of reading battles?

This step-by-step handbook makes daily practice simple, fun, and stress-free. Perfect for busy homeschool parents who want real results—no prep, no fuss. Turn short sessions into big wins!

Get the Routine Now!

MOM'S DAY OFF CHECKLIST

For Independent Learning



BY KATHLEEN BAILEY OF HOMESCHOOL4FREE

Mom's Day Off Checklist for Independent Learning

In January 2024, I was in the hospital for major shortness of breath, which turned out to be heart failure. I was stabilized and have been on medications to keep it under control. I've only been hospitalized for heart failure one more time since then, so I'm doing well.

I was also in the hospital for pneumonia and infections that year too. After being in the hospital a few times and being unwell at home, I noticed my kids still needed my help since we don't use an open-and-go curriculum.

It was then that I designed what I call "Mom's Day Off" checklist. I started by thinking about the classes my children were doing that year and which ones were most important. I found a way that they could cover those subjects all on their own. After that, I typed up a checklist on Canva, but you can use Microsoft Word or Google Docs as well.

I keep it in a sheet protector in the front of their binders or in their bins, and they know to use it if I'm in the hospital or if I tell them it's a Mom's Day Off day.

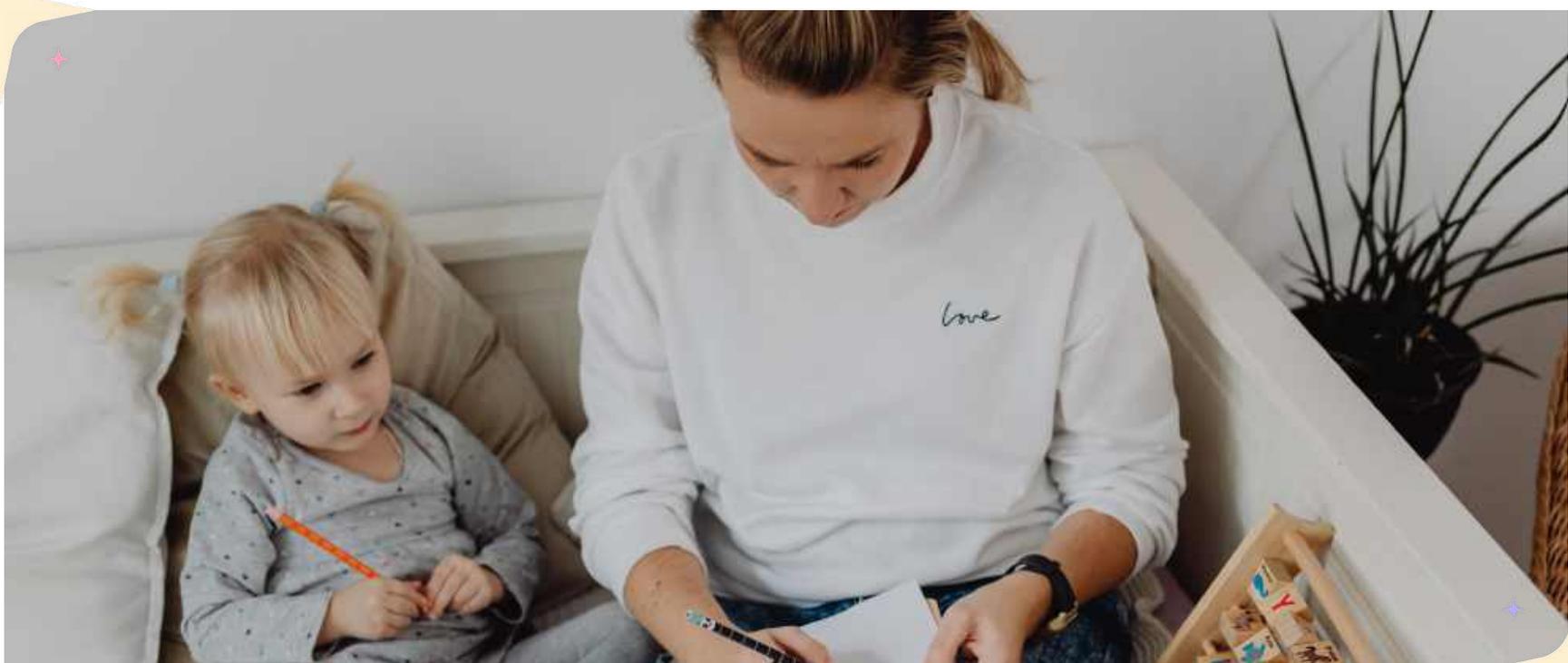
It doesn't have to be a serious illness; you can use it when physically exhausted or mentally unwell too.



Mom's Day Off Checklist for Independent Learning

Which Subjects To Include

This is up to you, but generally Math and ELA (Language Arts) are considered the most important. If you're only unwell for a short time, Math and ELA may be enough.



For **math**, if they have an open-and-go curriculum and can work independently already, then they would just do the next page. If not, though, you need something they CAN do. I had my kids play math games online from a free site. If you have an IXL subscription, that would be good. Perhaps you have a math workbook from a grade lower that they could use as review.

It has to be something that isn't specific to the topic they are learning in math right now, as you don't know **WHEN** you will be sick or in the hospital and they will need to use it.

Mom's Day Off Checklist for Independent Learning

What about English Language Arts? Depending on their age and independence level, you could have them do some free writing, read a book of choice for a certain amount of time, or go to a word-of-the-day website and learn a new word and then use it in a sentence.

If you want to include **science and/or history**, I would stick with something like watching a video they select from a YouTube science/history channel for kids that you pre-approved. For a foreign language, Duolingo comes in handy whether you use it as part of your regular day or not.



Test Drive Your Plan

If you want, you can test out the mom's day off on a day you are feeling fine. Have them go through the checklist and try the activities. Make adjustments when needed. Update your list every year if needed. Make it your own.

[Click here to read more](#)



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Includes botany and secular learning about holidays in nearly 80 pages.

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HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



You are not behind. You set the pace. Some subjects need more time, some less. Meet your child where they are and keep moving forward.

BREANNA MILNER
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



THE ART OF A
"Good Enough"
HOMESCHOOL DAY

BY COSTA MARAZITA

THE ART OF A "GOOD ENOUGH" HOMESCHOOL DAY

Have you ever woken up already tired, looked at your homeschool plan, and thought, I can't do this today?

I've been there many more times than I can count. The lesson plan looked great on paper, but my energy just wasn't there, and the kids were feeling the same as me. I used to believe I had to push through no matter what. If I didn't follow the routine exactly, my kids would fall behind.

So I pushed the lesson plan, and I felt guilty when it didn't work.

One day, that pressure got to all of us. My kids were as overwhelmed and emotionally done as I was. The more I tried to force the plan, the worse the day went. Voices got tense, patience disappeared, and by the end of the day, nothing meaningful had been accomplished, except proving how miserable we all felt.

That was the moment I realized I was trying to recreate a public school model inside my home. And in doing so, I had drifted far from what I had envisioned homeschooling and unschooling to be in the first place.



THE ART OF A "GOOD ENOUGH" HOMESCHOOL DAY

What actually matters today?

Our homeschool day doesn't try to impress anyone. It doesn't need to be productive or perfect every single day. Instead, we focus on staying connected and keeping learning alive.

Some days, learning looks like:

- Reading together on the couch.
- Choosing one subject and letting the rest go.
- Having a long conversation that teaches more than a worksheet.

At first, this felt uncomfortable. I worried I was "lowering the bar."

But here's what surprised me: learning didn't stop. In many ways, it deepened. When the pressure lifted, my kids were more engaged. When I was calmer, they were too.



THE ART OF A "GOOD ENOUGH" HOMESCHOOL DAY

Why these days matter more than we think

Good enough days are often what make homeschooling sustainable. They teach our kids that learning isn't all-or-nothing. They model flexibility instead of burnout.

For parents, these days remove the pressure to perform, which is often what drains the joy from homeschooling in the first place.

Ironically, allowing good enough days led to more consistency over time, not less. Because we weren't constantly recovering from exhaustion.

A quiet permission slip

If today feels heavy, here's what I remind myself of:

- You don't need to do everything.
- You don't need to make it look good.
- You don't need to prove anything.
- Do what you can. Leave the rest. It will still be there tomorrow.

That's the art of a good enough homeschool day, and honestly, it's the most meaningful kind of learning there is.

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a magical landscape. On the left is a castle with two towers and a large pink door. In the center, a knight in full plate armor stands holding a sword and a shield. On the right, a princess in a pink gown and crown waves. The scene is set on a green hill with a blue stream, surrounded by green trees and a large, glowing blue circular aura in the background.

[Click here to read more](#)

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



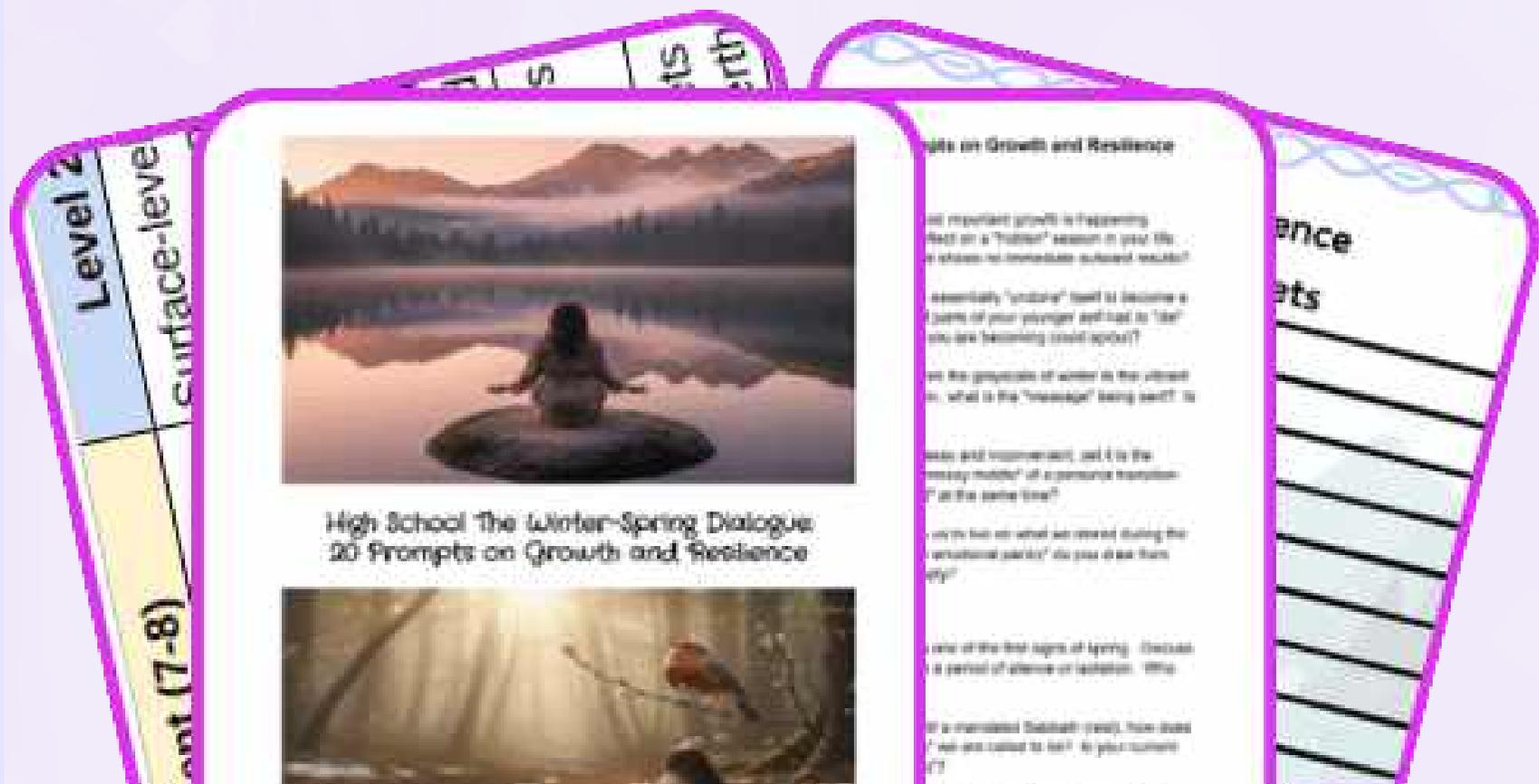
A 10-minute conversation
about a real problem can do
more than weeks of workbook
pages. Be present. Ask
questions. Let them think it
through.

AMANDA LEIGHTY
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST

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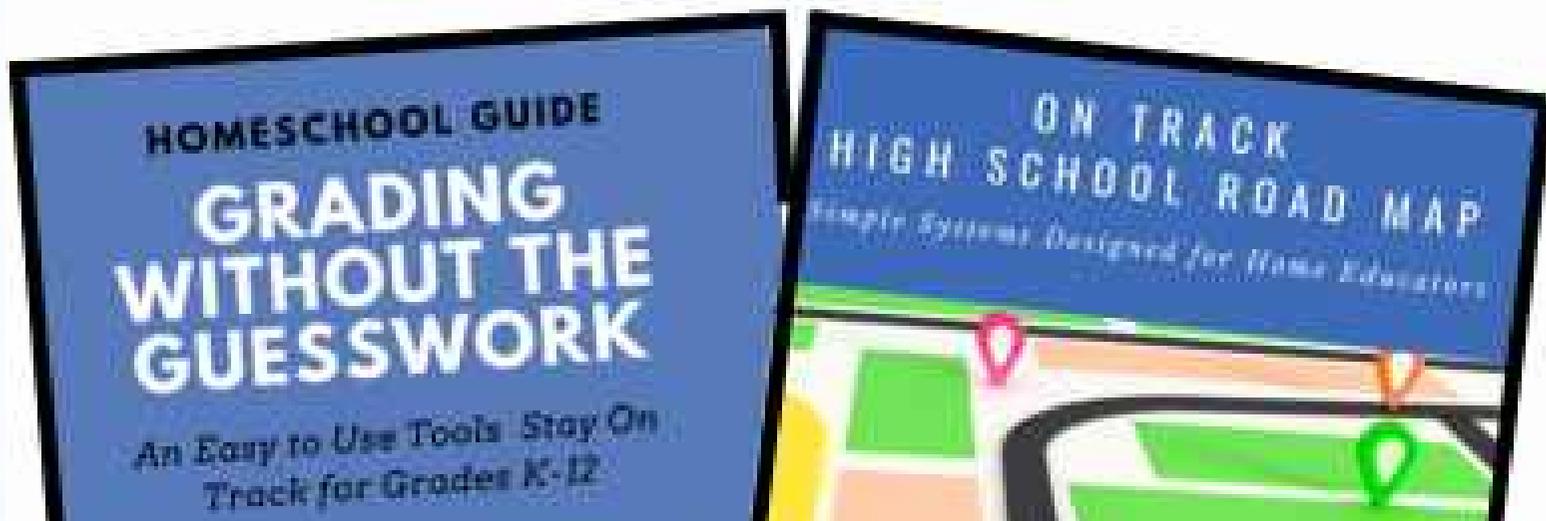
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★
★
★
Bare Minimum Days:

**HOMESCHOOLING WHEN
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED**

BY ASHLEY RUEDY

Bare Minimum Days: Homeschooling When You're Exhausted

Some homeschool mornings do not start with coffee, motivation, and smiles. They begin with brain fog, physical weakness, deep tiredness, and the pull to stay in a warm bed longer. In the quiet, the thought comes: “I don’t know how I’m supposed to do this today.”

If this sounds familiar, hear this first. **You are not failing.** You are not alone. You are human. Homeschooling cannot run on constant high energy. Pushing through too often leads to burnout, tears, or resentment. Every homeschool needs a plan for days when mom is exhausted and rest matters.

This is where a Bare Minimum Day becomes helpful and freeing.



Bare Minimum Days: Homeschooling When You're Exhausted

What Is a Bare Minimum Day?

It is a pre-planned, low-pressure outline of a few subjects or activities to cover. Just enough to keep learning moving and end the day with a sense of accomplishment. A Bare Minimum Day is strategic (not reactive), focused on consistency (not intensity), and built to protect your energy and long-term vision. It lets you show up sustainably on hard days.

What a Bare Minimum Day Is Not

Guilt creeps in fast, so let's be clear. It is not a break from homeschooling, giving up, letting kids do nothing, a sign of being behind, or a failure of discipline. It is wisdom in action, adjusting expectations without dropping the mission.

Why These Days Matter

Burnout builds slowly from too many forced days and no rest margin. Bare Minimum Days prevent burnout and resentment. They model flexibility and emotional awareness for kids. They teach that rest and rhythm matter. They keep learning alive without overwhelming anyone. Consistency means doing something, even when it is hard.



Bare Minimum Days: Homeschooling When You're Exhausted

The 3 Non-Negotiables

Pick two or three core subjects ahead of time that align with your family's goals. For our family, they are Bible, Math, and Reading. Deciding early removes tough choices on low-energy days.

Gentle Ways to Cover Core Subjects

Reading: One of the best learning tools. Try read-alouds on the couch, audiobooks, independent reading in bed or outside, picture books, or chapter books. If reading happens, learning happens.

Math (Keep It Light): Skip new concepts. Use one short worksheet, a review game, a math app, or review old material. The goal is exposure and consistency, not mastery.

Bible: Even imperfect time in Scripture builds a foundation. Read a verse or short passage, pray briefly, sing a hymn, color Bible pages, do copywork, or read a Bible story aloud.

Life Skills and Real-Life Learning: Homeschooling shines here. Cooking together, light cleaning, talking about faith or values, or watching an educational documentary all count. They build independence and real-life readiness.



Bare Minimum Days: Homeschooling When You're Exhausted



Sample Rhythms

Couch School Day: Audiobook or read-aloud, quick math review, educational show, free play, or rest.

Independent Learning Day: Child-led reading, math app or review, journal, or drawing, Mom rests while supervising.

Prepare Ahead

Exhaustion makes decisions hard. Plan when your mind is clear: save audiobooks, keep review pages ready, list trusted shows, and set clear kid expectations. On a hard day, just follow the plan; no overthinking.

A Sustainable View

Homeschooling measures faithfulness, adaptability, and wise responses to seasons, not perfect days. Bare Minimum Days show rest and learning work together. They build an effective, lasting rhythm for you and your children.

[Click here to read more](#)

Weird Unsocialized Homeschoolers



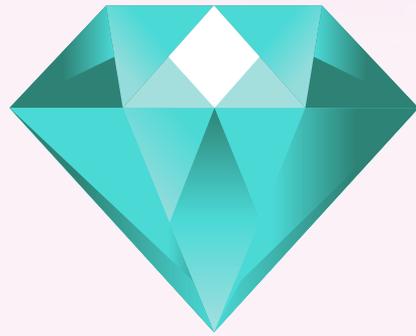
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Kids examine real clues, including flight paths, radio logs, and weather reports, and weigh theories to crack the 1937 disappearance themselves. No memorization is needed. This is all about critical thinking as they map routes, analyze evidence, and write their own conclusions. Perfect for curious minds who love mysteries.

Buy it now for \$5

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Homeschooling is a marathon. Rest days teach kids to listen to their bodies. Cuddles, simple crafts, sticker books, outdoor play, or a cozy show episode works great. Refuel with grace.

KINDELL LOPEZ
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST

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Mom's Day Off: STUDENT-LED "THEATER DAY"

BY BETHANY BALDWIN, OWNER & CREATOR OF
MUSIC, ART & DRAMA "MAD" SOCIETY

Mom's Day Off: Student-Led "Theater Day"

You need something fresh to squelch homeschool burnout. Not a "light school day." Not a "read quietly while I catch up on emails" day.

Something fun, while your kids are still learning.

Enter... Theater Day!



A Theater Day is a simple, powerful way to hand your homeschool day over to your kids completely while they create, imagine, collaborate, and learn to work as a team. Best of all? You don't lead it. You don't plan it. You don't rescue it. You just step back and enjoy whatever "show" comes out of it.

Mom's Day Off: Student-Led "Theater Day"

Find a free readers' theater script on Teachers Pay Teachers (TPT), an inexpensive, homeschool-friendly skit script on websites like dramanotebook.com, or ask AI to help you find something fun based on what you're looking for.

NO CURRICULUM. NO WORKSHEETS.

Just kids telling a story and making grand memories.

Print this list for your kids and see what happens:

- Assign roles
- Create props and costumes from what's on hand
- Rehearse
- Pick a performance time
- Present your "show" (who else could join the audience for fun?)



Mom's Day Off: Student-Led "Theater Day"

This works for all ages from early elementary through teens and adapts beautifully to mixed-age households. You could even invite another family or two over to increase the cast size.



When learning is about creating, that's where the fun is.

When kids participate in theater, they're engaging in:

- Public speaking and confidence
- Collaboration and leadership
- Creative problem-solving
- Emotional expression and regulation
- Executive functioning (planning, sequencing, follow-through) and much more!

Mom's Day Off: Student-Led "Theater Day"

"But What If It Turns Into Chaos?"

It might. And that's okay.

That's where "extra" learning happens: social skills, flexibility, conflict resolution, creativity under pressure, and more.



These are life skills no workbook can teach.

Kids build confidence not because Mom told them they're smart, but because they experienced what they're capable of.

So take the day off and let your kids lead the show.



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HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Make time to connect with your kids beyond lessons. Play together, laugh, have fun talks eye to eye every day. The relationship matters more than checking off schoolwork.

MARISSA GLEASON BADGER
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THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST

Heather Huhman



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5 Real-Life Strategies

TO AVOID HOMESCHOOL

BURNOUT

AND GO THE DISTANCE

BY MELISSA MUIR, MAT IS A HOMESCHOOLING MOM
OF FOUR, EDUCATOR, AND FOUNDER OF CURIO

Avoid Homeschool Burnout And Go The Distance

For many of us, our heroes aren't celebrities or influencers. They're the parents who have been homeschooling for twenty years, quietly watching their kids grow up, graduate, and step confidently into adulthood. We look at them and wonder, how did they do it?

As a homeschooling mom of four and an educator for over a decade, I've learned that longevity doesn't come from having the "perfect" curriculum or an impressive first year. It comes from building rhythms, supports, and mindsets that protect your peace and preserve your family's joy for the long haul.

Here are five strategies from your homeschooling "big sister" to help you avoid burnout and keep going with clarity and confidence.

1. Prioritize Your Physical "Vessel"

Homeschooling often happens at the kitchen table, on the couch, or hovering between lessons and laundry. But if you're going the distance, your body matters.

Make movement a non-negotiable. Whether it's an early morning walk, a run, or a 30–45 minute home workout, caring for your physical health isn't indulgent. It's foundational.

You are the vessel doing this work every day. When you take care of yourself, you're not only sustaining your energy. You're modeling stewardship, discipline, and self-respect for your children.





Avoid Homeschool Burnout And Go The Distance

2. Build a Community That Fits Your Life

Community doesn't have to mean a traditional co-op, especially if that model drains more energy than it gives. The goal isn't participation for participation's sake. It's a meaningful connection.

For some families, that looks like a small group of local "homeschool buddies." For others, it's an online community where kids connect around shared interests.

The right community reminds both you and your child that you're not doing this alone.

Avoid Homeschool Burnout And Go The Distance

3. Treat Homeschooling Like a Professional Commitment

One mindset shift that changes everything: treat homeschooling like a real job, because it is.

That doesn't mean rigidity. It means excellence, intention, and boundaries. Set protected work hours (for many families, something like 9:00–12:00 works beautifully) and treat them as non-negotiable. When homeschooling becomes "whatever we squeeze in," it often gets the leftovers of your energy.

Professional rhythms also mean systems that foster independence: visual checklists, clear expectations, and flexible time-blocking. These tools move you out of the micromanager role and empower your children to take ownership of their learning, an essential life skill.

4. Know When to Outsource

You don't have to be the expert in everything. And needing help doesn't mean you're failing. It means you're paying attention.

Outsourcing is a strategy, not a shortcut. It can be especially helpful when you lack the knowledge, you lack the time, especially while balancing work or caregiving, or there's a lack of will when a subject consistently leads to frustration or conflict. The right outside support acts as scaffolding. It provides structure without lowering expectations, helping students rise to challenges they aren't ready to tackle alone yet.



Avoid Homeschool Burnout And Go The Distance

5. Embrace Flexible Rhythms (Including "Fun Friday")

One of the most sustainable homeschool rhythms we've used is a four-day academic week. By focusing on core work Monday through Thursday, Friday becomes a built-in margin day, a collective exhale.

That margin might hold library visits, nature walks, field trips, creative projects, or simply space to breathe. It also allows for off-peak travel in October or November, saving money and avoiding crowds, one of homeschooling's underrated perks.

Flexibility doesn't mean a lack of structure. It means building a structure that bends without breaking.

A Note for the Journey

Mama, if your child struggles to explain their ideas, shuts down during structured discussions, or melts down when expectations rise, you are not "behind." You're noticing what matters.

You are doing important work. With thoughtful rhythms, strong systems, and the right scaffolding, homeschooling doesn't have to be something you survive. It can be something you sustain with joy.

[**Click here to read more**](#)

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Once your kids have learned something, don't rush to the next level. Use what they already know to practice independent learning. I build a daily binder they can work through without me. After a while, they learn to manage their own workload.

EBONY SHIDER
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST

Read our latest blog posts!



Homeschooling a busy family is part wild adventure, part organized chaos. The good news? You don't need expensive tools to bring order to the learning and living. Below are 20 budget-friendly planners and chore charts designed to turn hectic days into smoother, more joyful ones so you can focus less on the mess and more on the moments that matter.

[Read the blog post!](#)

The Homeschool Quest



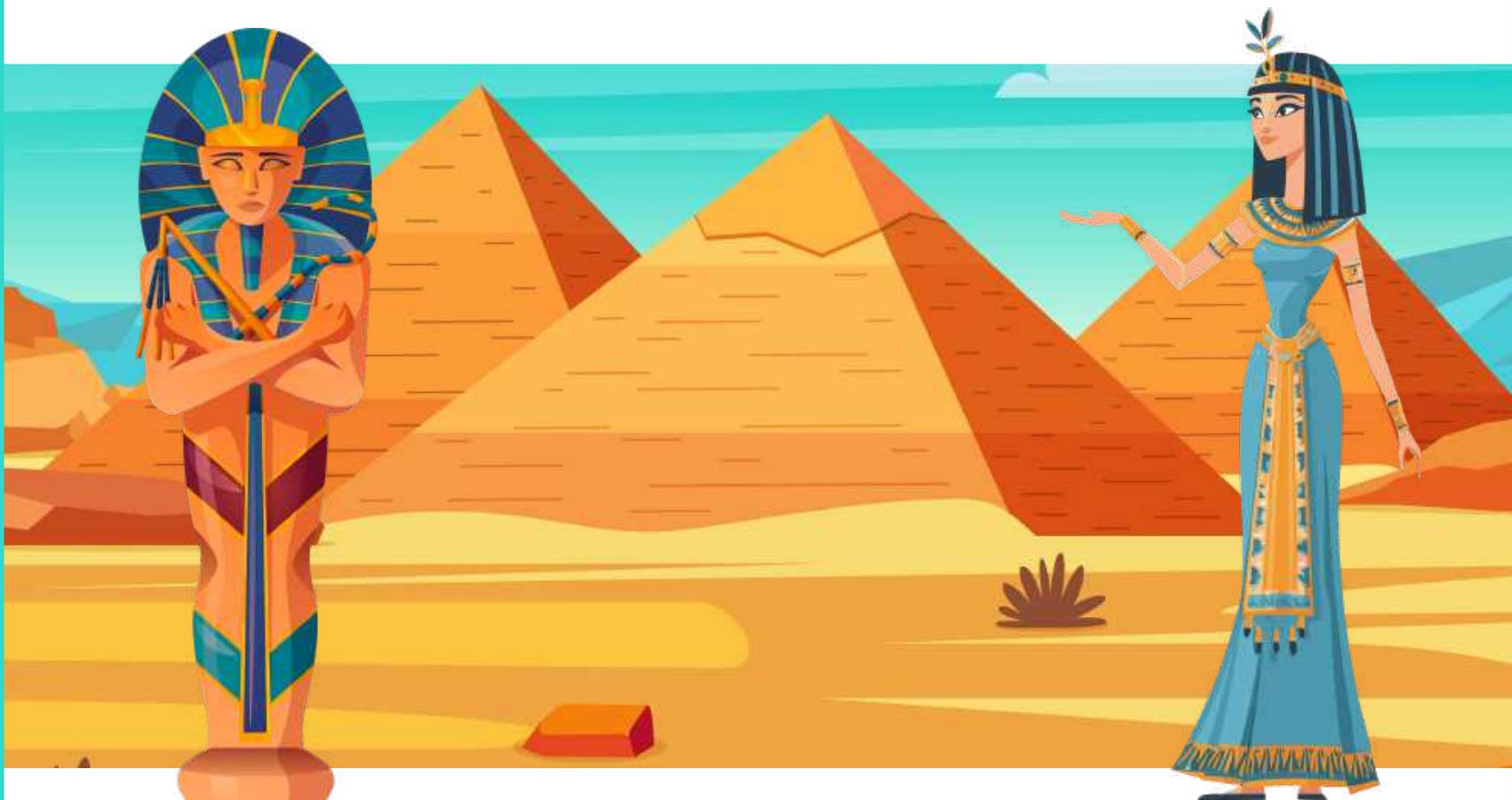
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The Ultimate Reading Journal Bundle fixes that with trackers for wishlists, series, and rewards that turn finishing books into a game. Includes 100+ worksheets, a Book of the Year Tournament, and proof of reading for homeschool records.

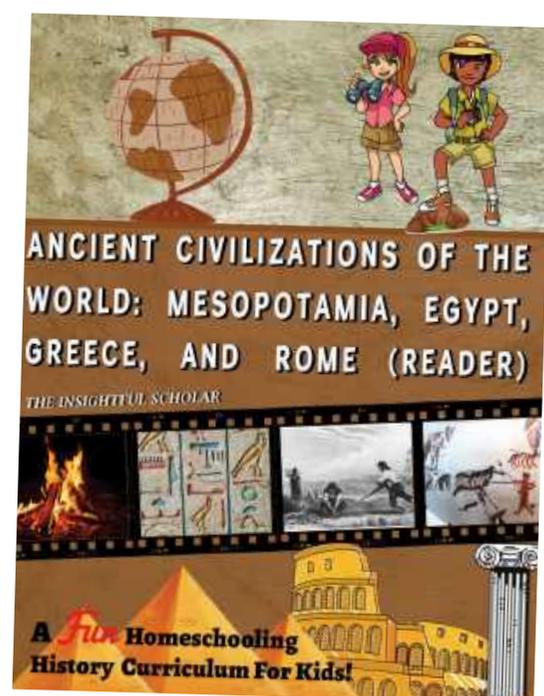
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TAKING
BREAKS WHEN

HOMESCHOOLING

BY ASHLEY WRIGHT OF GYPSY GAMESCHOOLER

TAKING BREAKS WHEN HOMESCHOOLING

You're exhausted and overwhelmed. Your house is in chaos. Your kids are whiny, resistant, bored, or out of control. You're at the brink of panic or a breakdown. Sound familiar? What should you do?

Not everyone will agree with me, but I'm here to tell you that you can take a break. And not just a day or two, but a long break.

MY FAMILY'S LONG BREAK

The year was 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic had just hit the West Coast in full force, and our state was in lockdown. Activities and playdates were canceled. Fear was rampant. Then, my new neighbors sued us. I won't get into details because they don't matter anymore, but it was nasty, terrifying, and made me sick with panic and dread. I could barely get through the day, let alone teach anything.



TAKING BREAKS WHEN HOMESCHOOLING

My kids were still pretty little, barely 6 and almost 5. However, this situation and stress lasted years, and then it took me about a year to recover after we moved. So, it wasn't until the summer of 2023, when my kids were just barely 8 and 9 ½, that we started up anything formal again.

You read that correctly. We didn't do anything educational for 3 years; my kids did nothing but play during that time. We didn't do any unit studies. We were barely surviving.

It's a few years later now, and at 10 and 12, my kids are thriving. They're still avid readers, both about a year "ahead" in math, and working on middle and high school level in science and history. We needed that break, and my kids needed that playtime. The three-year break was really good for all of us, but especially my kids.

SO, HOW DO YOU RECOVER FROM BURNOUT?

The reality is that no one can pour from an empty cup. We, as parents, have to take care of ourselves in order to take care of our kids. And when we're tapped out, we're not the best parents we can be. So that's my first recommendation: self-care.



TAKING BREAKS WHEN HOMESCHOOLING

If your kids are old enough to play unsupervised, you might be able to just let them go play. If they're not, reach out to your community and see if anyone would be willing to watch your kids for a bit.

Everyone rests and recovers differently. If you don't know what works best for you, now is a great time to figure that out. Maybe it's taking in a favorite show, video game, or book. Maybe it's crafting, baking, or running. Outdoor time helps everyone; can you take your kids on a walk or a hike?

Once you are feeling a bit better within your own skin, I would tackle your day-to-day next. If your house is a mess (and that's stressing you out), choose one room or even just one portion of a room to get organized.

A good next step is creating a loose routine. This might be mealtimes and bedtimes. Maybe rather than specific times, it's just an order you do things in. Routines can help our bodies feel more secure and can help our kids, too.



TAKING BREAKS WHEN HOMESCHOOLING



NEXT UP: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR KIDS.

Try to find some one-on-one time with each of your kids.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION?!?

I promise you, kids (and adults!) are always learning. When we take breaks and practice self-care, we are teaching our children the importance of looking after ourselves.

Another benefit of taking a long break is that kids learn faster, easier, and better when they're older and more developed. Not to mention that no one can learn anything when they're stressed. And if you're stressed, your kids are, too.

The formal academics will still be there after your break.

Take that break. Rest, recover, and reorganize.

You'll all be better for it.

[Click here to read more](#)

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Don't try to do it all. If you or your kids feel overwhelmed, cut back or change things. Focus on your goals and what's most important. Doing a few things well beats spreading yourself thin.

SHARA SULKOV
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



Language Learning Needs a Real Voice—Not Just an App!

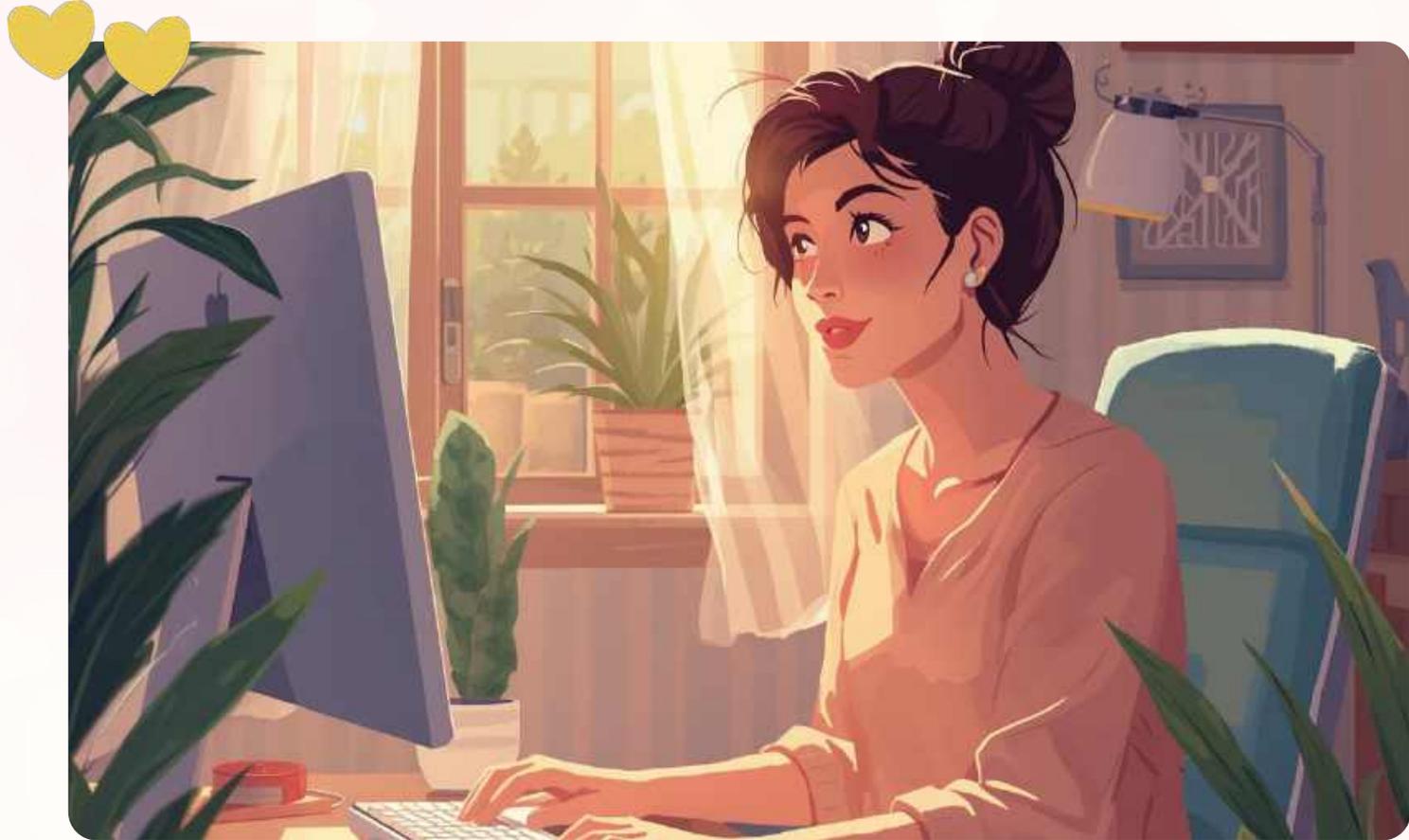
You're doing everything you can, and language learning can still feel frustrating. Apps help, but real progress comes from conversation, connection, and confidence. Curio's live 1:1 Spanish and French classes (ages 8–18) pair students with native-speaking teachers who meet them exactly where they are.

Try it free!

Get your first 25-minute 1:1 Spanish or French lesson FREE with code QuestCurio

Homeschool Schoolhouse Online

Free Homeschool Mom Club!



Tired of doing homeschool alone?

Join the Homeschool Mom Club!

Inside You'll Get:

- **Bible Study** Grow in faith with other moms
- **Math Hour** Live math help & support
- **Mom Chats** Real talk. Real encouragement.
- **Free Classes** Rotating topics for your kids
- **Weekly Lessons & Printables**

No pressure. No overwhelm. Just moms helping moms.

[Click here to join!](#)

Read our latest blog posts!

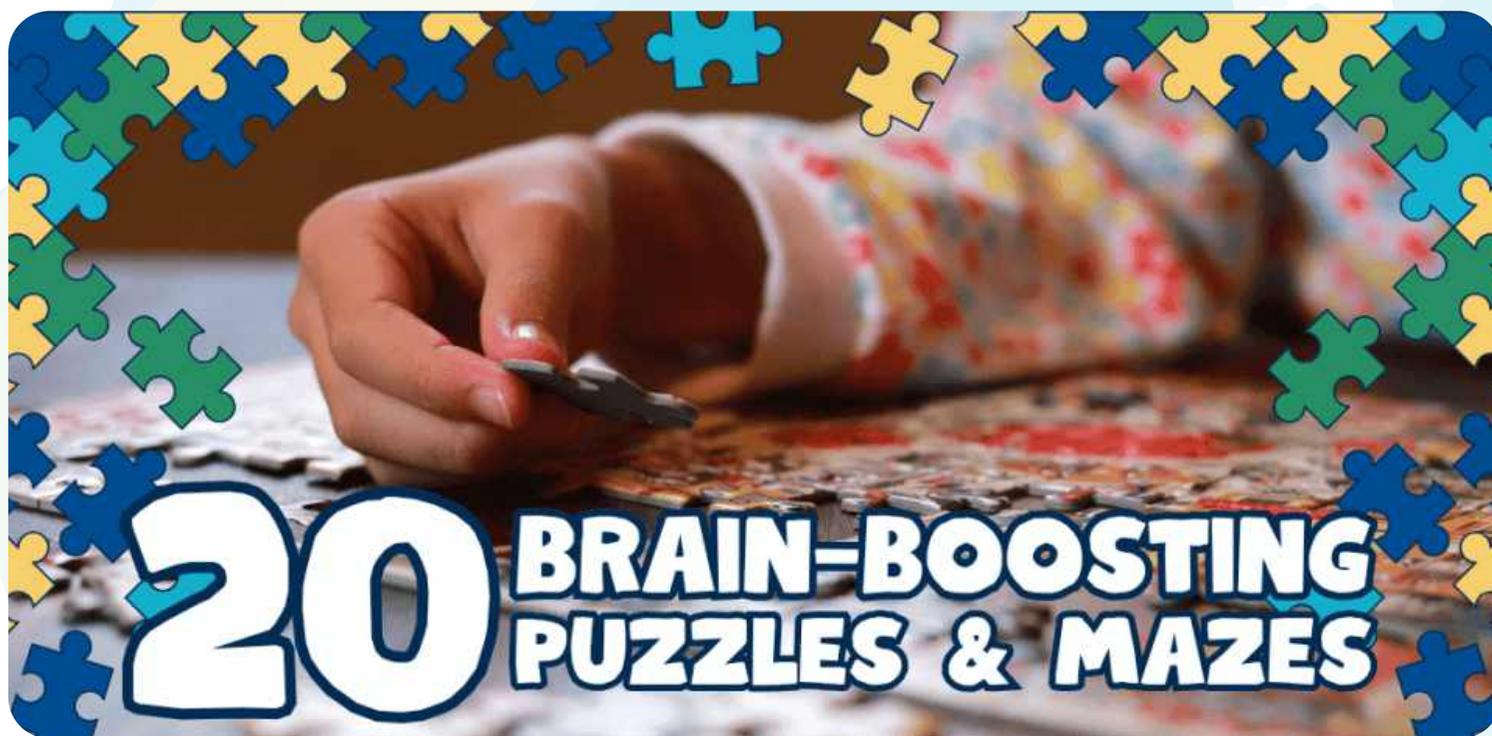


Pets often become unexpected teachers. A new puppy might lead to researching dog breeds, while a swarm of ladybugs could turn into an unplanned (but welcome) deep dive into nature. Here are 23 resources for studying dogs, cats, turtles, horses, rabbits, ferrets, gerbils, guinea pigs, and more including coloring pages, life cycle printables, crafts, and writing projects. Perfect for kids who adore the family pet or are begging for a gecko of their own.

[Read the blog post!](#)



Read our latest blog posts!



Puzzles and mazes sharpen minds while they entertain. This set of 20 printables is perfect for homeschool breaks, rainy afternoons, or whenever you want to blend fun with learning. Just print, solve, and watch critical thinking skills grow.

No screens, no fuss, just hands-on fun that quietly strengthens young minds. Keep a stash in your lesson planner for those "I'm bored" moments or as a reward for finishing assignments.

[Read the blog post!](#)

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



We watched Titanic today, and it sparked a discussion on history, geography, icebergs, physics, humanity, coal power, pistons, social classes, morality, and mortality. Life is learning. Opportunity is everywhere.



KIMBERLY O'NEILL
HOMESCHOOL MOM

THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST

Stock Market Unit Study!

**Flexible, web
based unit study
for grades 4-8!**

Through games, videos, quizzes, and creative projects, students learn how stocks work, why markets matter, and what influences them at their own pace, with lifetime family access.

Buy now!

JUST \$5 WITH
CODE: **STOCKS**





FINDING THEIR *passions*

**How Passion-Based Learning
Transforms Education**

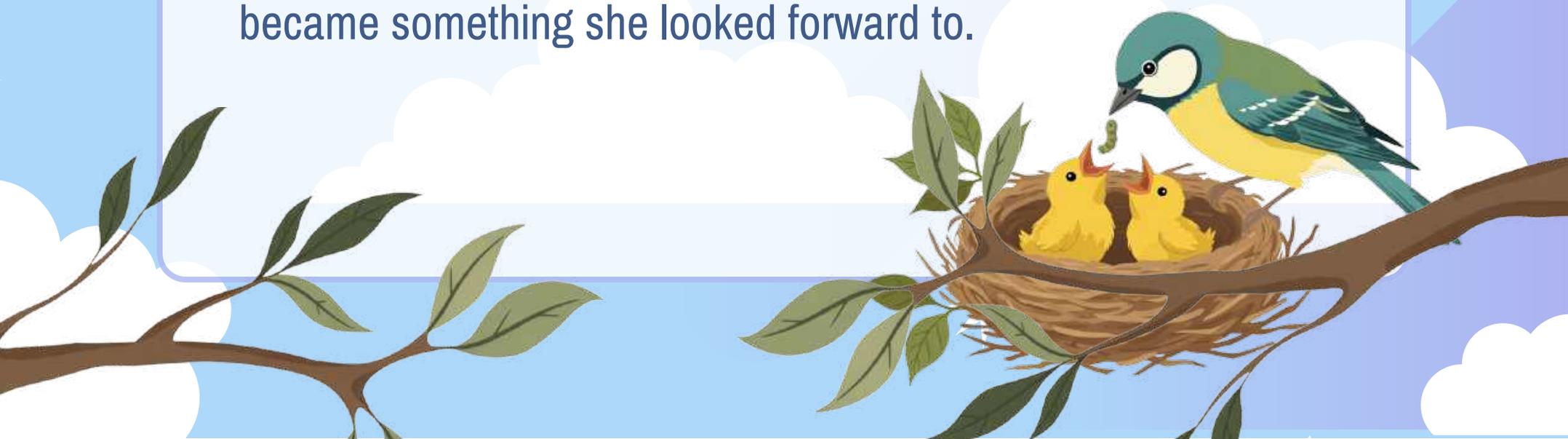
BY JANET, LANDY & AMELIA DEFIELD

FINDING THEIR PASSIONS

Every child has interests that can become powerful tools for education. When you notice and nurture those passions, learning shifts from a chore to an adventure. Our family discovered this firsthand by following our children's curiosity. We created an engaging, effective way to learn that still shapes how we approach education today.

Why Passion-Based Learning Works

We wanted our children to love learning, not endure it. Traditional schoolwork often feels like a checklist, but passion-based learning turns lessons into discoveries. The key? Paying attention to what excites them. When our daughter Amelia became fascinated by a bird building a nest outside our window, we turned that moment into "nature school." She studied bird behavior, sketched observations, and wrote daily journal entries because the topic thrilled her. What had once been a struggle (writing assignments) became something she looked forward to.



FINDING THEIR PASSIONS



How to Spot and Support Interests

The first step is observation. Children often show their passions through questions, repeated play, or deep focus on a subject. When Amelia fixated on that nest, we provided books, documentaries, and discussions to deepen her understanding. The goal wasn't to force a project but to let her curiosity guide the way.

This approach doesn't require elaborate plans. On low-energy days, we'd watch a documentary, read aloud, or talk about her interests over dinner. Learning stayed alive without pressure.



FINDING THEIR PASSIONS

The Role of Family in Learning

Education doesn't have to happen in isolation. Some of our best lessons came from family discussions. We discussed bird behaviors, compared notes on ladybugs, or shared stories about what we'd learned. These conversations strengthened everyone's knowledge and made learning a shared experience.

Lasting Benefits of Passion-Based Learning

The impact goes far beyond childhood. Amelia's early fascination with birds didn't just fade. It grew into a lifelong love of birdwatching and painting them. What started as a simple interest became a skillset. Her daily journal entries about birds turned writing from a chore into a tool she now uses in her career. Passion-based learning doesn't just teach subjects. It builds confidence, creativity, and abilities that last.



FINDING THEIR PASSIONS

A Simple Truth

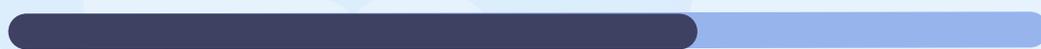
Every child's curiosity holds potential. By noticing and encouraging their interests, parents can create an environment where learning feels like exploration, not obligation. The result? A foundation of wonder, creativity, and joy that lasts a lifetime.

Want to hear more?

Tune in to The Homeschool Quest podcast, where we dive deeper into passion-based learning and share practical tips for making education an adventure.

Episode #1

Finding Their Passions and That Light Bulb Moment



Blue Manor Academy



FREE WEBCLASS

Want a prep-school-level education without the \$50K price tag?

Discover the three key differences between public and elite methods, plus the nine core disciplines most curricula miss. Proven results, divine purpose. Register now for the Educate for Greatness webclass!

Watch For Free!

Roar into fun with cute dinosaur coloring pages!



Download free playful dinosaur printables, perfect for kids who love T-Rex, Triceratops, and all things prehistoric! These silly, friendly dinos are ready for your child's imagination. Color them green, pink, or rainbow. Pair with dino books or toys for extra adventure.

Start coloring today!

Read our latest blog posts!



Science doesn't have to be complicated or expensive! Whether you're exploring chemistry with fizzy reactions, diving into physics with hands-on challenges, or uncovering the wonders of weather, these 20 budget-friendly experiments make learning engaging and accessible for all ages. From bouncing bubbles and potato batteries to LEGO pulleys and snowflake science, each activity is designed to inspire curiosity and creativity without breaking the bank.

[Read the blog post!](#)



My Speech And Debate Coach

Unlock Your Child's Voice

Join the Homeschool Debate Club!



Give your 8–15-year-old the tools to think sharply, speak boldly, and debate with confidence. Our weekly virtual club, led by national debate champions, turns big ideas into powerful skills. Small groups, fun topics, and a supportive space to grow. Rated #1 on Outschool! Ready to listen, question, and shine?

Join the Waitlist Today!

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!

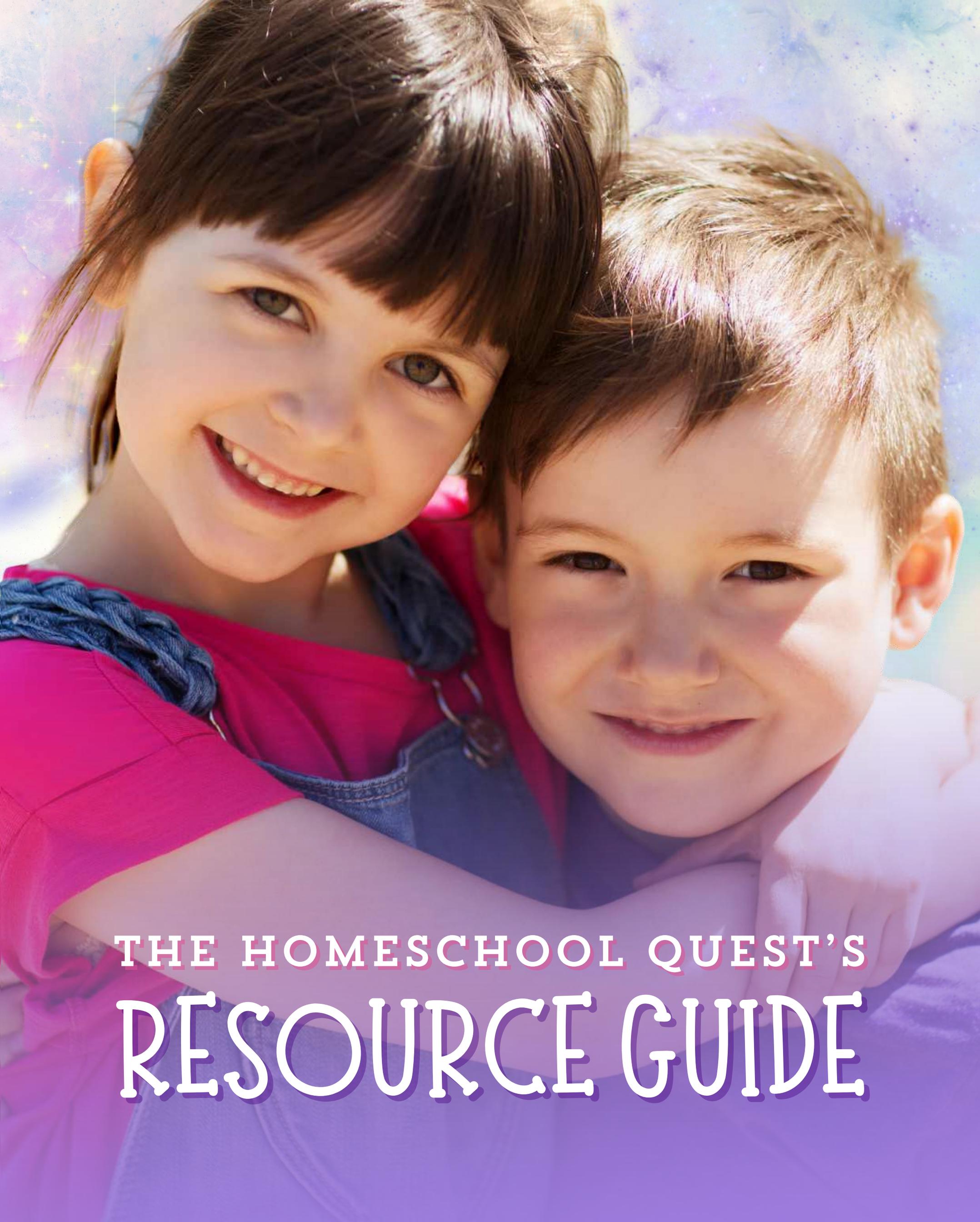


Keep reading aloud to your kids no matter their age. Audiobooks count too. Discuss the story together. It builds vocab & listening skills and helps even kids who struggle with reading on their own.



JENNY DANGERFIELD CROFT
HOMESCHOOL MOM

THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST'S
RESOURCE GUIDE



Learn to Count from 1-100!

Help children learn all numbers from 1-100

LEARNING NUMBERS

PRINTABLES

Only \$9.99!

This all-around fun writing and learning activity will help children learn all numbers from 1-100. This digital product is a fun way to encourage kids to want to learn and count! Why is this important to know? Kids learn very quickly. This is a fun way to learn number patterns, different animals, and more!

Buy now for just \$9.99

Access the Printable Playground!

The Printable Playground

Where homeschooling is fun and the printables are free!

Life can be expensive, but homeschooling doesn't have to! Get access to a growing collection of hundreds of homeschool printables...for free! Learning should be meaningful, memorable, and fun - the printables inside That Homeschool Family's Printable Playground helps with that!

FREE Downloads!

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



On low-energy days. Try quick life skills for a fast win. Bake a recipe, change a light bulb, or top off car fluids. These short tasks give a dopamine boost and feel like real accomplishment.

AMY BAILEY
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



Free Homeschooling Academic Skills Checklist



Grab your **FREE** Homeschooling Academic Skills Checklist to help guide you through your homeschooling journey! This checklist is an overall guideline of what to teach your child in each subject!

[Download For Free](#)

7-Day Parent-Child Challenges!



Looking for meaningful, screen-free learning at home? The 7-Day Parent-Child Challenges guide families through thoughtful reading, problem-solving, and communication activities designed to build skills and connection. Structured, calm printables for ages 6–10. Explore the full Nest & Notebooks collection on TPT.

[Buy now for only \\$7.50](#)



HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



You control homeschooling.
On tough days, drop the guilt.
Watch documentaries, cook
together, play outside, draw, or
play games. Everything can be a
learning opportunity.

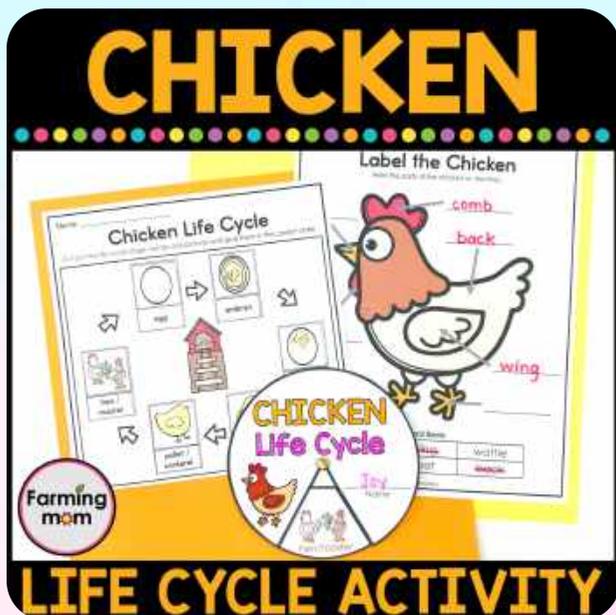
TIFFANY CHUMLEY
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



Chicken Life Cycle Activities



Learn about the chicken life cycle. These free printable worksheets, activities, and coloring pages help to reinforce concepts and make learning fun. Plus, they're easy to prep!

[Download For Free](#)

Free Rainforest Science Unit: 80+ Pages of Fun!



Explore climate zones, seven major rainforests, and unusual plants/animals with hands-on activities, a board game, and review pages. Includes a free digital escape room for 3rd–6th graders. Zero cost, zero prep, just print and learn!

[Download For Free](#)

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Every day ask your kids what they **WANT** to learn about and add it to the end of regular lessons. Fridays let them watch an educational movie on the topic of their choice. They'll be pretty well-rounded on their own accord.

KRISLYNN JUDITH
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



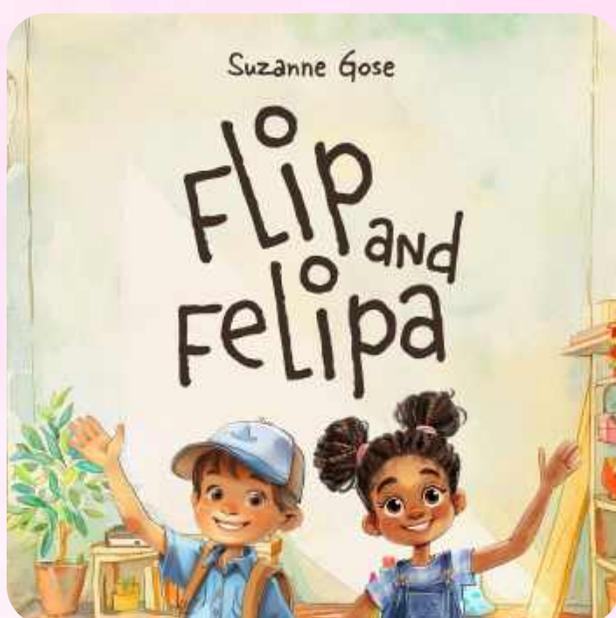
The Homeschool Planning Checklist



A simple, calming homeschool planning checklist to help you stop overthinking and start planning with confidence. Use the 3-step prompt process (child, family, curriculum) to choose resources that actually fit your values, your rhythm, and real life (not Instagram).

[Download For Free](#)

Learn Spanish Through Adventure!



Meet Flip, the curious explorer, and Felipa, the shy dreamer. This \$14.95 bilingual tale follows two 8-year-olds as they solve mysteries, face challenges, and discover the power of friendship. Packed with surprises, it makes learning Spanish simple, fun, and unforgettable. Perfect for young amigos!

[Buy it now for \\$14.95](#)

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Try a jar system. Fill a bin with small objects like acorns or pompoms, and every lesson or chore completed earns one toward a goal. When the jar is full, they pick the reward. A hike, a park day, whatever they want. It works surprisingly well.

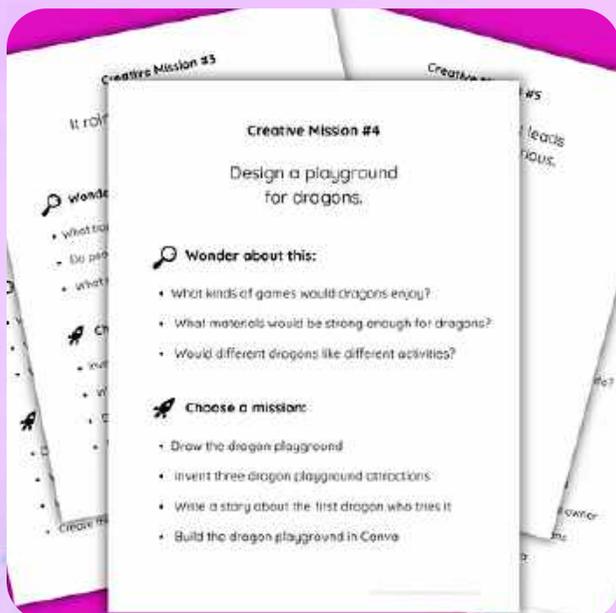
ADRIENNE BROWN BORLAND
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



Creative Prompts for Kids!



Spark your child's creativity with imaginative "what if" prompts that inspire storytelling, drawing, and creative thinking. Creative Missions for Curious Kids is a free printable designed to help kids explore their ideas and imagination. Perfect for writing time, creative breaks, or choosing a fun idea to explore.

Free Printable!

Homeschoolers' Mental Health Toolkit

MENTAL
Health
MATTERS

Struggling to balance homeschooling and well-being? This practical workbook by counselor and homeschool mom Kimberly Bennett offers self-care strategies, stress management tips, and emotional resilience tools to help parents and kids thrive. No fluff, just real support for a healthier, happier learning journey.

Download for Free!

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Implement independence
before you're tapped
out, so you'll never be
tapped out. Chores and
personal hygiene count
as class.

JARI MAI
HOMESCHOOL MOM



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



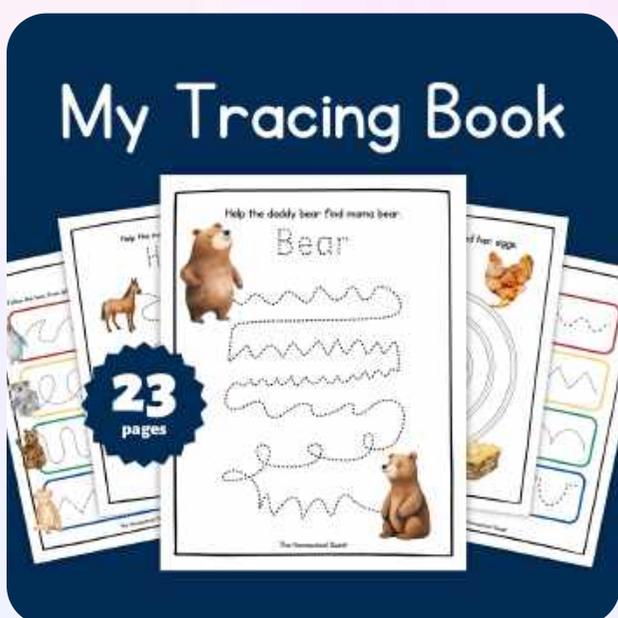
Teach the Letter Sounds



Get the wiggles out with purposeful play! Kids swat bugs while learning sounds, making reading and spelling easier. This 32-flashcard set includes a-z plus 6 bonus sound pairs.

Buy now for \$2

Pre-Writing for Preschoolers



My Tracing Book offers a variety of carefully crafted activities that guide young children through tracing lines, curves, and mazes. Designed to develop pre-writing skills and strengthen fine motor muscles.

Buy now for \$1

HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Celebrate small wins and incorporate learning into small moments. Your kids are learning manners, critical thinking, and problem solving on top of math and science. That's ahead, not behind.



TERESA HEALEY
HOMESCHOOL MOM

THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



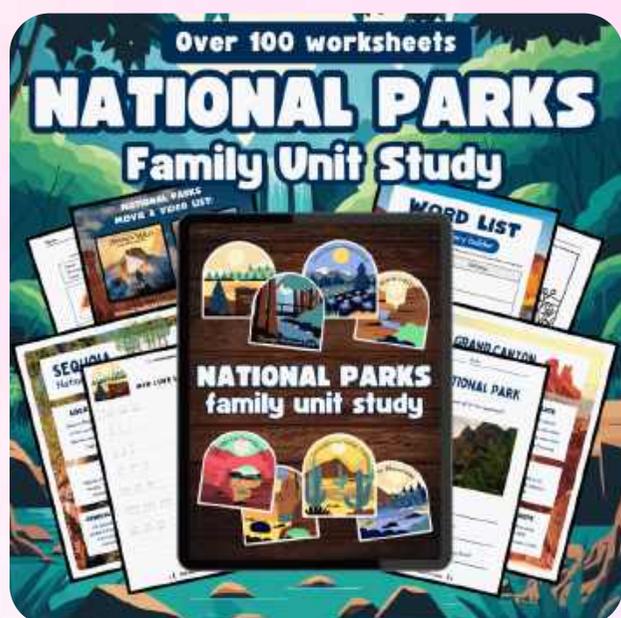
MEGA Bug Investigators Family Learning Quest



Ditch the textbooks and dive into MEGA Bug Investigators, 210+ pages of backyard adventures. Hunt insects, solve challenges, and laugh together with guides for all ages, explorer journals, and a 150-page unit study packed with science, art, and games. No prep, just pure family fun. Turn curiosity into a quest today!

Buy it now for \$15

National Parks Family Unit Study



Explore America's treasures with our National Parks Family Unit Study! Over 100 pages of fun printables, games, and worksheets spark learning through language arts, facts, and handwriting activities!

Buy it now for \$5



HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



Don't compare your kids to anyone else. Focus on what they need right now and watch them grow in their own way. That's where the real progress happens.



CHRISTEN TRUNKEY
HOMESCHOOL MOM

THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



MEGA Garden Growers Family Learning Quest



Forget screens, grab a shovel! MEGA Garden Growers turns your backyard into a living lab with 190 pages of seed-to-table adventures. Little sprouts plant their first seeds while big kids design gardens and track growth. Harvest fun and knowledge together!

Buy it now for \$15

Ocean & Sea Animals Family Unit Study



Dive into fun with our Ocean & Sea Animals Family Unit Study! Over 120 pages of crafts, reading, math, and games teach kids about marine life while sparking a love for nature!

Buy it now for \$5



HERE'S A LITTLE GEM TO BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY!



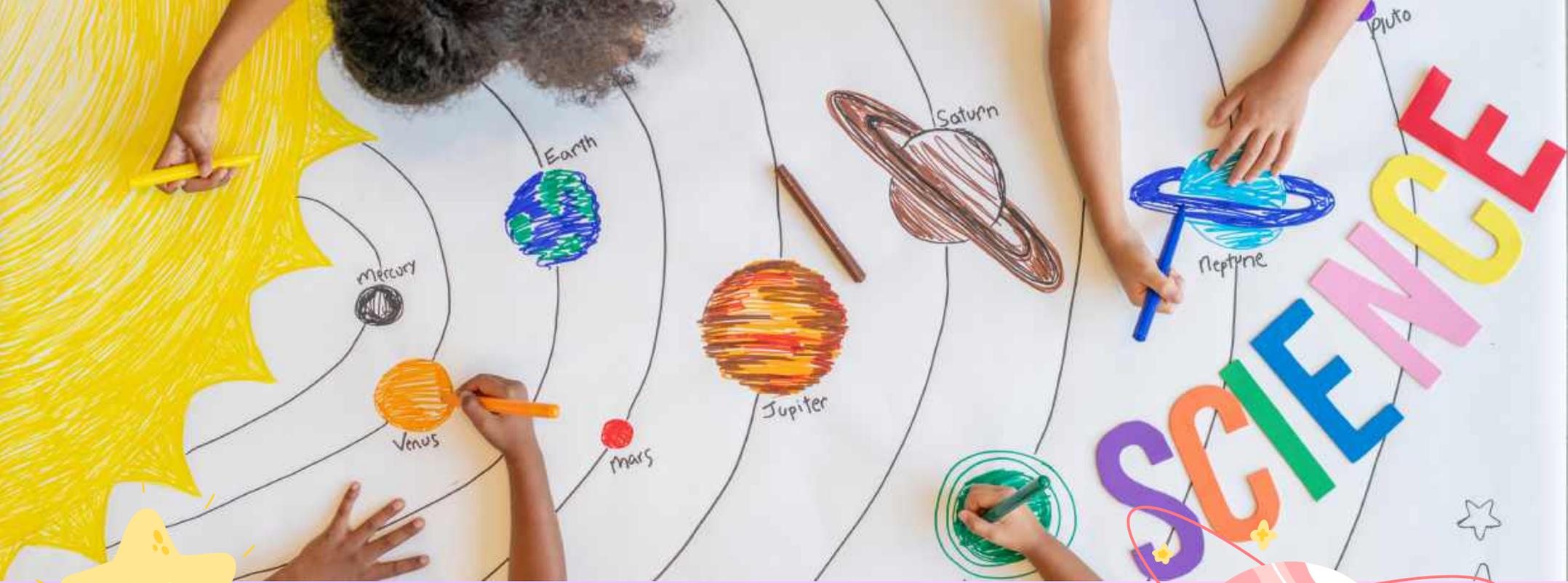
Use prizes and friendly competition to build independence. Writing contests, piano challenges, and reading goals with real consequences.

Kids rise to it.

DIANE ROBERTSON
ROBERTSON ACADEMY BOOKS



THE HOMESCHOOL QUEST



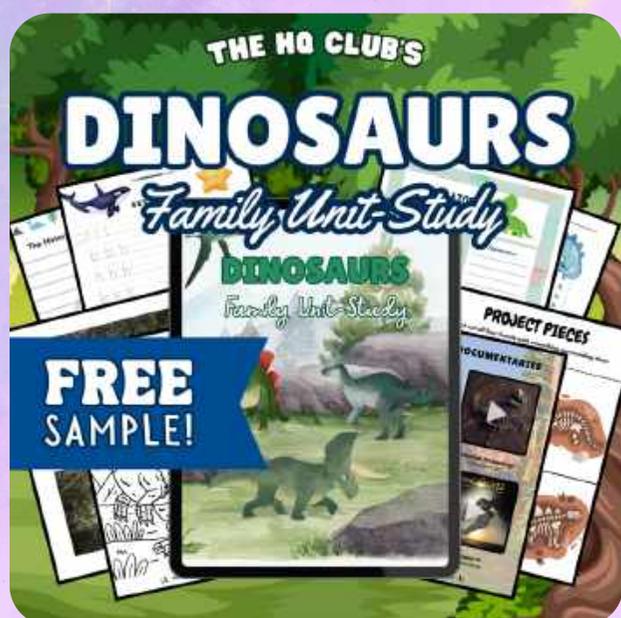
Space Family Learning Quest



Blast off with our Space Family Unit Study! Over 120 pages of fun worksheets, plus our new Family Funday guide! Explore planets and stars with engaging activities for homeschoolers!

Buy it now for \$10

Dinosaur Family Unit Study



Roar into learning with our Dinosaurs Family Unit Study! Over 100 fun worksheets for homeschoolers. Explore prehistoric giants through engaging activities. Perfect for curious kids!

Buy it now for \$5



JOIN OUR
Facebook Groups!

The Homeschool Quest Group

Prek-1st Grade Group

2nd-5th Grade Group

Middle & High School Group

Neurodivergent & Gifted Group

**Gameschooling &
Purposeful Play Group**

tap each one!





Reptiles & Amphibians Unit Study



Slither into learning with our Reptiles & Amphibians Family Unit Study! Over 100 exciting worksheets for homeschoolers. Discover scaly and slimy creatures through fun, educational activities.

Buy it now for \$5



Plants & Fungi Family Unit Study



Discover nature with our Plants & Fungi Family Unit Study! Packed with 100+ fun worksheets, it's perfect for homeschoolers exploring the wonders of plants and fungi. Learn together!

Buy it now for \$5



5 EASY WAYS

to discover even more
homeschool resources

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tap each one!



many thanks to our

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ASHLEY WRIGHT
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Meet The Mods

They moderate all the posts!



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GYPSY GAMESCHOOLER



COSTA
HOMESCHOOLING JOURNEYS



HEATHER
LOVE OF LEARNING



JAMIE
THE COFFEE FILLED MOM



MELISSA
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THE WELL PREPARED MOM



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THE HOMESCHOOL SCIENTIST



LARA

HEART SPARK HOMESCHOOL



JINNIE

FARMING MOM



Meet The Team



JANET
the planner



AMELIA
the writer



ISABELLE
the blogger



JASMINE
the artist



LANDY
the talker



NATHAN
the media guy



About Us

Our family has spent the last twenty years running a marketing agency and homeschooling from pre-K to high school and beyond. Now we have all teamed up as a family to help homeschooling families around the world find free and affordable resources, curriculum, and more. We are passionate about encouraging homeschool parents that homeschooling on a budget IS possible.