

USA HOMESCHOOL EXPO ELEMENTARY CURRICULUM WORKSHOP RESOURCES, LINKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**HEED Homeschool Website (K-12 classes live local and also
6th -12th classes live online) www.heedhomeschool.com**

Angie's Blog: <https://www.alltherandomness.com/>

**Follow along on Facebook and Instagram
@alltherandomnessblogger**

You can go to this website to take a simple Learning Style Quiz

× <https://cf.ltkcdn.net/kids/files/3923-Kids-Learning-Style-Survey.pdf>

This is a good article that can help you figure out what your teaching style is <https://hslda.org/post/whats-my-teaching-style>

CURRICULUM RECOMMENDATIONS:

ALL SUBJECTS TOGETHER (USUALLY DOESN'T INCLUDE MATH):

My Father's World: My Father's World Cathy Duffy's review: MFW embodies methodologies from unit study, Charlotte Mason, and classical approaches with a strong biblical base (Protestant) and missionary emphasis throughout all levels. Each program centers around a single guide and uses a mixture of real books and hands-on activities along with a

few textbooks. <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/unit-studies-all-in-one-programs/all-in-one-programs/my-fathers-world-grades-k8>

Sonlight: Sonlight Cathy Duffy's Review: Sonlight has designed comprehensive grade/age level programs with carefully selected resources. "Open and teach" instructor's guides outline lessons for each day using specific pages within the materials provided. All guides, whether for Core Packages or individual subject areas, include week-by-week lesson plans with record-keeping calendars, thorough instructions, student activity sheets, answer keys, and much more.

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/unit-studies-all-in-one-programs/all-in-one-programs/sonlight-curriculum>

SUBJECT: LANGUAGE ARTS

Language arts encompasses things like reading, writing, spelling, and vocabulary

Please know that there is not a perfect home school curriculum for Language Arts. Every family is different and every child in that family often learns differently. After taking a survey of many veteran home school moms, we have put together this list

Cathy Duffy Reviews <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/#> offers excellent reviews of each of these choices and many more. We would encourage you to use her reviews in examining each of the programs below.

We hope our recommendations along with Cathy Duffy's information will help you in your selection.

Symbols Key:

- ***Sue's Choice**
- **+Angie has used**
- **# Giovana has used**

Handwriting (K-4)-

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/handwriting>

***, # Handwriting Without Tears-** (Grades K-3 or 4) teaches handwriting for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. Some distinctives of this program are: uppercase letters are taught before lowercase, groups of letters that have similar strokes or the same starting points are taught together, letters are not slanted for either printing or cursive, multi-sensory learning methods are used for instruction

A Reason For Writing- *A Reason for Handwriting* uses ball-and-stick printing and a traditional style cursive, with scripture as the writing subject. Scripture verses are modified to be understandable for children—more at younger levels than older. One of the most popular features is the set of decorated border sheets in the back of the books for children to color and write their Verse of the Week.

Phonics and Reading (Grades K- 3 or 4) :

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/phonics-reading>

“This list is in no way exhaustive. The many homeschoolers that I talk with each seem to all have strong opinions on the reading curriculum that they used to teach their children. Some children read young 3 and 4 and some children read later 8 or 9, but interestingly enough this does not determine how they finish only defines how they started. I believe what helps determine how they finish is, “Did they develop a love for learning?” Work at your child’s pace, take a deep

breath and trust that God has chosen the best teacher in the whole world for your child- YOU. For students with learning or processing issues there are other specific programs to address those differences” Sue

***, # Explode the Code:** *Explode the Code*® is a series of 14 phonics workbooks that can either be used as your primary teaching tool or a supplement to another basic phonics programs. ”Our Favorite, these workbooks are fun and not intimidating. Our kids loved doing their “code” everyday. We used this program with the

***, # Rod and Staff readers and sometimes the workbooks** so they had practice. These precious stories of life on the farm are still my favorite. Can’t wait to start the next generation on them.” ~Sue

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons- This phonics-based reading program is based on the Direct Instruction method developed from a great deal of research. This volume has adapted the method for use in the home with young children who have not yet had any reading instruction. Everything necessary for instruction is contained in this single volume, including words, sentences, and stories for reading practice.

First Language Lessons: First Language Lessons for the Well-Trained Mind (1st-4th) followed by Grammar for the Well-Trained Mind (5th & 6th) by Susan Wise Bauer.

Phonics Pathways: *Phonics Pathways* is a complete phonics program, self-contained within one large book so you do not need a separate teacher’s manual. Each new concept taught is followed by words, phrases, or sentences for practice, so no extra reading material is necessary.

Abeka / Bob Jones: Both of these curricula offer a complete phonics reading program. They are thorough and have stood their test of time. Remember they were written for classroom use and we encourage you to use them with some flexibility and fun.

Sing Spell Read and Write- “Sing spell read and write was great for

teaching phonics and reading. It has fun songs that made learning easier. Very colorful too, which was great for my visual and my auditory learners.”
”Great program to use if English isn’t your first language” - Giovana

Spelling (Grades 3-6)— [https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/spelling- vocabulary](https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/spelling-vocabulary)

All About Spelling

*Spelling Power

Spelling You See

Spellwell

ACE Word Building Paces- - <https://bit.ly/2M183KI>

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/grade-level-packages-and-courses/preschool-through-grade-8/ace-curriculum>

Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum has Scripture as its foundation, fully integrating biblical principles, wisdom, and character-building concepts. Students move at their own speed through the self-instructional "PACE" workbooks. Following the mastery approach, PACEs are formatted for students to complete the exercises found throughout the workbook, take a practice "self test," and conclude with a "final test" (torn out from the center), to measure understanding.”

To see 3rd grade book <https://www.christianbook.com/word-building-pace-1025-grade-3/pd/401425?event=Homeschool|1004549>

I used this with my son who had an eye tracking disorder and learning disabilities. It worked great! - Giovana

Vocabulary (Grades 4,5,6):

[https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/spelling- vocabulary](https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/spelling-vocabulary)

*Wordly Wise

Abeka / Bob Jones have Vocabulary in their program

Grammar (Grades 4,5,6): **[https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/composition- and-grammar](https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/composition-and-grammar)**

*, # Easy Grammar

Shurley Grammar

Abeka / Bob Jones have Grammar in their program

Analytical Grammar- This program is used at HEED in both grades 7 and 8.

Writing: (Grades 4,5,6).

[https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/composition- and-grammar](https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/composition-and-grammar)

Language Lessons

IEW Writing

Abeka/Bob Jones have writing in their program.

Meaningful Composition

All Language Arts Subjects in One:

+Simply Charlotte Mason

Learning Language Arts Through Literature- follows a Charlotte Mason Approach and covers all major areas of Language Arts using great Literature as a spring board

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/composition-and-grammar/graded-language-arts-curricula/learning-language-arts-through-literature>

The Good and the Beautiful- In addition to teaching reading, spelling, composition, grammar, vocabulary, and literature, they also teach art and geography.

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/grade-level-packages-and-courses/preschool-through-grade-8/the-good-and-the-beautiful-language-arts-literature-courses-levels-one-through-seven>

Literature (older elementary):

Progeny Press Study Guides for Literature

Total Language Plus (5th grade and up) *Total Language Plus (TLP)* novel study guides cover reading, comprehension, spelling, grammar, vocabulary, writing, listening, and analytical and critical thinking from a Christian perspective.

<https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/phonics->

[reading/readers-literature/readers-literature-grades-1-8/total-language-plus-study-guides-for-novels](#)

* “In grades 5-6 for our writing and language arts, I used the *Abeka workbooks along with an added vocabulary (Worldly Wise) and grammar program (Easy Grammar). After that in grades 7-8 I switched to IEW for writing and continued with vocabulary and grammar. Finally in High School, seeing that I am a math/science mom, I hired an awesome writing teacher and started HEED Classes.” - **Sue**

SUBJECT: MATH

Please know that there is not a perfect home school curriculum for math. Every family is different and every child in that family often learns differently.

After taking a survey of many veteran home school moms, we have put together this list of recommendations.

Cathy Duffy Reviews <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/#> offers excellent reviews of each of these choices and many more. We would encourage you to use her reviews in examining each of the programs below.

We hope our recommendations along with Cathy Duffy’s information will help you in your selection.

This list is not meant to discredit any of the other effective math programs not listed below, but to highlight the most popular in our Home School community.

Symbols Key:

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1. *Horizons Math: This was my favorite math for early grades. The workbooks are colorful. The information moves along a little quick, but bright students do not get bored with repetition. Comes with two student workbooks and a teacher book, which I did not use, in the early grades. I supplemented this math with

“I loved Horizons. A math head can soar through quickly or an average math or struggling math kid can go at their own pace. The layout of the pages did not make you want to rip your eyeballs out.”

See Review: <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/math/grades-k-6/horizons-math>

2. # Singapore Math (aka Primary Mathematics): This program teaches children to think mathematically rather than just having them memorize the mechanics of problem solving. *Primary Mathematics* lays a solid foundation for conceptual understanding using a three-step process, taking children from concrete, to pictorial, then abstract approaches to learning. Concepts are addressed from a number of directions that challenge students to think and understand. ***Singapore Math** because Singapore brought in more word problems and helped us see math in practical application while developing critical thinking skills.

See Review: <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/math/grades-k-6/singapore-math- primary-mathematics>

3. Bob Jones (BJU) / Abeka Math- These are two of the more traditional classroom math curriculum. They are both excellent and offer a lot of explanation to both parents teaching and students learning. There is plenty of review and practice involved. “BJU it’s colorful, fun, academically challenging and because it has the very best teacher guide to take you seamlessly through each lesson.” “BJU explains the why behind the math, very structured. Challenging, yet fun. It was highly recommended to me.” “Abeka works for us. I work the front page with them. I like the constant review on the back of the page, but I don’t make them do all problems. it’s

a constant review and my son needs that.”

See Review: <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/math/grades-k-6/a-beka-arithmetic-series>

4. # Math-U-See combines hands-on methodology with incremental instruction and continual review in this manipulative-based program. It excels in its hands-on presentation of math concepts that enables students to understand how math works. “It presented math in a way that this math-challenged mom truly understood better. It was so much simpler to grasp in the way it built upon each concept. The way it was structured made sure that my boys I understood each concept before moving on.”

See Review: <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/homeschool-reviews-core-curricula/math/grades-k-6/math-u-see>

5. # Saxon We use Saxon in the HEED program starting with the Saxon 7/6 book which is used for our 6th graders. “My favorite was Saxon. It gives a good foundation but my more visual learner preferred BJU!” “We liked Saxon and using all their accessories making shapes with bands, bears, building blocks and more.” “I second Saxon. Great foundation! Their manipulative are fun and engaging.” “Saxon is a High School fixture for many homeschoolers. We have use the curriculum at HEED (with the exception of Geometry) for over 15 years with tremendous success.” “Students are well prepared for SAT/ACT testing after using Saxon.”

6. + Right Start Math

SUBJECT: SCIENCE:

+ Dr. Wiles’ Science

Apologia Elementary Science

Backyard Scientist

Answers in Genesis

SUBJECT SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

Mystery of History (good for all ages together)

Sonlight

+Beautiful Feet