



CACHE

Conroe Area Christian Home Educators

INFOPACK

Who is CACHE?

- ❑ The Conroe Area Christian Home Educators.
- ❑ Christian organization that provides support and fellowship for homeschooling families.
- ❑ Began in 1988 with 20 conservative Christian families.
- ❑ Approximately 150 member families.
- ❑ Members range from Spring to Coldspring, Magnolia to Cleveland, and of course, the Conroe & The Woodlands areas.
- ❑ Website and e-group for quick information and cyber fellowship
- ❑ Field trips and group activities for every age group -- from the Kindergartners to the High School graduation ceremony, Park Days, educational field trips, etc.

This packet is for information only!

It has been compiled to give brief, general information about home education. It is not legal advice. If you have questions concerning legal issues, please consult an attorney.

Frequently Asked Questions About Homeschooling

What is homeschooling and how do I get started? The basis of home schooling or home education is founded in the fact that a family determines to educate their own children in the setting of their home. While this may seem like a new or radical idea, in reality it is not. The home education process is as old as mankind. The advent of compulsory attendance and the state-operated public school system caused the home education process to begin to decline. With the failure of our state-operated schools and the rediscovery of the home education process, we have seen this choice in education flourish.

Is homeschooling legal in Texas? Yes, homeschooling your children is completely legal! In 1994, the court case "Leeper vs. Arlington ISD" went all the way to the Texas Supreme Court. At each level, the court found in favor of the original decision. A home school must operate in a "bona-fide" manner, which means you must have a curriculum, whether of your own composition, computer/video source, or from a curriculum publisher, that at least covers the subjects of reading, writing, grammar, spelling, math and good citizenship. For more information on the legality and requirements of Texas homeschoolers, please contact the Texas Home School Coalition at 806-744-4441, or <http://www.thsc.org>

What are the qualifications to teach in a home school? The state of Texas places home schools in the same category as any non-state-accredited school. This could include any non-accredited private or church school. The state does not regulate those institutions and as such makes no qualifications for teachers.

To whom do I report, and how do I get grades for my students? Since homeschools are recognized as private schools in Texas, there are no boards or committees to which you report. The home school operates just like a private school. Grades and achievement levels are set and maintained by each home school. The parent, as school administrator, is the responsible party. If a parent does not fully understand this responsibility and undertake his duty in a very serious manner, his homeschool will not be successful.

How much does home schooling cost? The cost to home school a student can vary from a hundred dollars or less per year, to several

thousand per year. There are many determining factors: number of students, grade levels, types of curriculum purchased, outside classes, lessons, etc.

Where do I find books or curriculum? Each parent is responsible to choose and find the curriculum that fits your needs. Home education is "big business" and there are many types of curriculum from which to choose. Later in this packet you will find more information on types of curriculum and where it may be purchased.

Do I have to withdraw my child from his/her school? Yes. If your child is attending a public school now, you must go through the withdrawal procedure, just as you would if you were moving to another district. Remember, it is legal to homeschool your child, so you can tell the public school district why you are withdrawing your child. Some parents tell the office that their child will be going to a private or church school. You can visit the Texas Home School Coalition website for a 'sample letter of withdrawal. www.thsc.org If your child has never been enrolled in a school, as in a child just now old enough to attend school, you do not need to notify anyone.

Will the public school take my child back if we decide to quit homeschooling? Public schools will vary from district to district in how they handle re-admitting home educated students. Some may require the student to take placement tests. Please inquire at the school before you withdraw your student.

How does my child graduate from home school? Where does he get his diploma? Parents, as administrators of their home school, decide when their children will graduate from high school. So parents award their child their high school diplomas. And you can get yours from the same place public or private schools do -- a printing business or your home computer! Most state, regional, and local support groups have graduation ceremonies, complete with cap and gown. Support groups, however, do not provide any type of "accreditation."

What about college? Colleges have admissions guidelines for all students. It isn't just the high school diploma they look at -- it's transcripts and SAT/ACT test scores. Home schooled students are attending colleges and universities all across the nation. Make inquiries at the school of your choice to determine their entry requirements.

What about socialization? The most important people your children need to interact with is your family. Support groups, churches, and other community organizations provide socialization for students. Many support groups offer programs for sports, arts, music, and more.

How do I start? The first step is to understand the responsibility you are about to assume. The second step is to acquire your curriculum. Then, set up your administrative procedures. The fourth step is to withdraw your student from his existing school, then start a daily routine and pattern for schooling. These steps may not always fall into this pattern, but each must be addressed to have a successful home school.

Recommended Reading

- There are hundreds of books about homeschooling. Some of the books listed here can be found at your local bookstore or Christian bookstore, the Montgomery County Library, or Christian Book Distributors (www.christianbook.com).
- Homeschooling for Excellence, David Colfax

- Schoolproof, All the Way Home, and The Big Book of Home Learning, Mary Pride
- Homegrown Kids and The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook, Raymond & Dorothy Moore
- You Can Teach Your Child Successfully, Ruth Beechick
- How to Tutor, Samuel Blumenfeld
- The Right Choice, Christopher Klicka
- Educating the Whole Hearted Child, Sally Clarkson
- The Charlotte Mason Companion by Karen Andreola
- A Charlotte Mason Primer by Cindy Rushton
- Homeschooling at the Speed of Life by Marilyn Rockett

"Methods" of Home Education Here are very, very brief descriptions of some of the different methods of teaching. More details on each method can be found on the internet, or some of the books mentioned in the previous section.

Traditional Approach: Uses graded textbooks or workbooks which follow a scope and sequence that covers each subject in 180 daily increments over a span of 12 years. Textbook curricula assume you will run your home school like an institutional school.

The Classical Approach: Children under 18 are taught tools of learning collectively known as The Trivium --the Grammar Stage, the Dialectic Stage, and the Rhetoric Stage. This method has been recently revived through the writings of Dorothy Sayers.

The Unit Study Approach: Takes a theme or topic and delves into it deeply over a period of time, integrating language arts, science, social studies, math and fine arts as they apply. All subjects are blended together and relate around a common theme or project.

The Living Books Approach: also known as the Charlotte Mason method. This method teaches basic reading, writing, and math skills, then exposes children to the best sources of knowledge for all other subjects. This includes nature walks, observing wildlife, visiting museums and reading real books (not textbooks) with "living ideas."

The Principle Approach: is an effort to restore to American Christians 3 vital concepts: the knowledge of our Christian history; an understanding of our role in the spread of Christianity; and the ability to live according to the Biblical principles on which our country was founded.

The Unschooling Approach: refers to a less structured approach that allows children to pursue their own interests with parental support and guidance.

The "Eclectic" Approach: This is really what most home educators do at home -- some textbooks, some outside classes or lessons, a unit study every once in awhile, hands-on projects -- whatever works best for your particular family!

Local Resources for Area Home Educators

There are many local resources for home schoolers in this area -- from classes at the museums in Houston, a homeschool orchestra, sports leagues, and, yes, basic school subjects!! This list below is not a complete one by any means! (You should be able to hit "Ctrl" key + click with your mouse to go directly to these links.)

The Training Center (936) 525-8504
1402 FM 2854 Conroe, TX 77304
<http://www.trainingcenterclasses.com>

It is our desire to assist other parents who have chosen to homeschool their children by providing a Christian environment and an atmosphere of learning. The Training Center Center offers classes from Math to Languages, some elementary classes through high school.

Extraordinary Education Family Learning Center
9522 Carraway Lane, Magnolia, TX 77354
281-652-5918 <http://extraed.net/>

Our center provides a supportive, cooperative learning community for students and their families. We offer a variety of educational opportunities including classes, clubs, teams, field trips, special events and social activities for students as well as support for parents. Our program is designed to be a cost-effective option to augment home-based learning in a safe, positive, family-friendly, environment.

Homeschool Instructional Support (H.I.S.) Classes in Tomball & Magnolia <http://www.hisclasses.org/>

HIS Classes is an association of teachers who have coordinated their schedules to better serve the home educating community. Parents have a God-given responsibility to teach their children. Our desire is to assist parents in home educating their children by offering high quality, college preparatory classes taught by believers, enabling parents to continue home education through the high school years.

The Homeschool Store *This is their NEW Location*
12315 Ann Lane Houston, TX 77064 (281) 890-4295
www.thehomeschoolstore.com

One of the first homeschool stores in Houston! They carry new and used curriculum and books. Staffed by a homeschool family and experienced homeschool moms who can answer your questions & help you find what you're looking for.

Local Sports Teams and ExtraCurricular Activities, Etc.

Conroe Diving Club -- www.conroedivingclub.com
936-494-3830 At the Rec Center in Conroe

HCYA - Houston-area homeschool sports www.hcya.org

Northside Falcons Baseball
936-756-2292 www.northsidefalcons.com

Northside Lions Football
<http://northsidelionsfootball.com/main.html>

Montgomery County Mustangs -- Junior high and high school level baseball in Conroe www.mocomustangs.org

SATCH - Sports Association of Texas for Christian Homeschoolers -- Conroe/Woodlands/Magnolia area sports for homeschoolers.

Basketball, Volleyball, (832) 347-7159 <http://www.eteamz.com/satch/>

Homeschool PE/Conroe YMCA 936-441-9622
10245 Owen Dr, Conroe <http://www.conroeymca.org>

Instruments of Praise - Houston/Conroe/Woodlands area homeschool orchestra (281) 259-3011
<http://www.instrumentsofpraise.org/>

Christian Youth Theater <http://www.cythouston.org/>

National Christian Forensics and Communications Association -- Debate society affiliated with HSLDA
www.ncfa.org

National Home School Honor Society--Phi Iota Chapter
<http://www.etasigmaalpha.com/>

<http://www.etasigmaalpha.com/chapters/texas/>
Montgomery County 4H <http://agrillife.org/montgomery4h/>

Lone Star College System -- Dual Credit Classes
<http://www.lonestar.edu/> Dual Credit Coordinator 281-312-1509

CLEP Exams are very inexpensive! They test mastery of college-level material acquired in a variety of ways—through general academic instructions, significant independent study or extracurricular work. Great way for high schoolers to get college credit!

<http://clep.collegeboard.org/>

Homeschool Curriculum Suppliers

Below is a list of only a few of the suppliers of Christian homeschool curriculum. The internet abounds with websites offering homeschool advice, products, etc.

Traditional Textbooks / Correspondence/ DVD / Online

A Beka Book <http://www.abeka.com/HomeSchool/> 877-223-5226
Bob Jones University bjup.com 800-845-5731
Christian Liberty Press homeschools.org 847-259-4444
Alpha Omega aop.com 800-682-7391
Rod & Staff Publishers rodandstaffbooks.com 800-761-0234

Computer-based Curriculum

Switched-on Schoolhouse 800-622-3070
aophomeschooling.com/switched-on-schoolhouse
ACE School of Tomorrow schooloftomorrow.com 972-315-1776

Unit Study

KONOS konos.com 972-924-2712
Unit Study Adventures unitstudy.com
Tapestry of Grace www.tapestryofgrace.com/explore/
Heart of Wisdom www.heartofwisdom.com/homeschoollinks/

Literature-based/Charlotte Mason/Living Books

Cornerstone Curriculum.com 972-235-5149
Sonlight www.sonlight-curriculum.com 303-730-6292
Five in a Row fiveinarow.com 816-331-5769
Homeschool the Easy Way www.cindyrushton.com
Ambleside Online www.amblesideonline.org
Simply Charlotte Mason <http://simplycharlottemason.com/>
Queen Homeschool Supply <http://www.queenhomeschool.com/>
Living Books Curriculum www.livingbookscurriculum.com/
Veritas Press (Classical Education) www.veritaspres.com/

Math

Saxon Math <http://saxonpublishers.hmhco.com> 800-284-7019
Singapore Math http://www.singaporemath.com/Homeschool_s/60.htm
"Living Math" (not a curriculum--a method) <http://www.livingmath.net/>
Math-U-See mathusee.com 888-854-6284
Teaching Textbooks <http://www.teachingtextbooks.com/>
Video Text Interactive www.videotext.com/homeschool.htm

Phonics

Alpha Phonics howtotutor.com 208-322-4440
Saxon Phonics *see Saxon Math website above
Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*
Phonics Museum <http://www.veritaspres.com>

Language Arts (includes some phonics)

Learning Language Arts Through Literature www.cspress.com
Progeny Press-Literature Study Guides www.mgprogeny.com
Total Language Plus www2.integrityol.com/tlp 360-754-3660
Simply Grammar*
Institute for Excellence in Writing <http://www.excellenceinwriting.com/>
Queen Homeschool Supply <http://www.queenhomeschool.com>

History

Greenleaf Press.com 615-449-1617
Beautiful Feet Books www.bfbooks.com 800-889-1978
Mantle Ministries www.mantlemin.com 877-548-2327
TruthQuest History <http://truthquesthistory.com/>
History Alive! <http://www.dianawaring.com/index.html>
Mystery of History <http://www.themysteryofhistory.info/>
Notgrass History <http://www.notgrass.com/notgrass/home.php>

Science

Apologia Science <http://www.apologia.com/>
God's Design for Science www.answersingenesis.org
Real Science 4 Kids <http://www.gravitaspublications.com/>
Tobin's Lab Science Supplies <http://www.tobinslab.com/>
Christian Kids Explore... Science Series
<https://www.brightideaspress.com>
***Homeschool Suppliers / Various Subjects**
Greenleaf Press www.greenleafpress.com
Christian Book Distributors www.christianbook.com
The Old Schoolhouse Store theoldschoolhousetore.com
Timberdoodle <http://www.timberdoodle.com/>

Homeschool for FREE

Because of the internet, there are now many ways to homeschool for FREE. It may take a little planning and time on the parents' part, but it can be done! Here are only a few websites:

Easy Peasy All in One Homeschool <http://allinonehomeschool.com/>
Old Fashioned Education <http://oldfashionededucation.com/>
Ambleside Online <http://www.amblesideonline.org>
Basic Cozy Spelling Course www.splashesfromtheriv.com
Sylvan Dell Publishing <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/Parents.htm>
Khan Academy -- Math & Science <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Homeschool Magazines

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine <http://thehomeschoolmagazine.com/>
The Home Educating Family Magazine
<http://www.homeschoolconvention.comagazine/>

The one curriculum supplier that CACHE does NOT recommend is the K-12 Program <http://www.k12.com/>. This is just public school at home. Many support groups and other homeschool organizations do not grant membership to families using this program. Also, after speaking to families who have used this program, they say it is very time consuming and not at all what they had hoped homeschooling to be.

National and State Homeschool Organizations

Homeschool Legal Defense Association: National organization to defend and advance the constitutional rights of parents to direct the education of their children. www.hslda.org 540-338-5600
The Texas Home School Coalition is a state organization that lobbies the state government and provides homeschool advice and legal aid, if necessary, to its members. www.thsc.org 806-744-4441
Southeast Texas Home School Association is the regional support group for our area. They have an excellent information packet, and monthly newsletter, *The Teaching Pioneer* www.sethsa.org 281-370-8787

CACHE also recommends that you attend the THSC Convention in the summer in The Woodlands
<http://www.thsc.org/HomeTHSC.aspx?Id=HOME>

Check the CACHE website and join us for our next Group Meeting Activity! We'd love to talk with you about homeschooling!