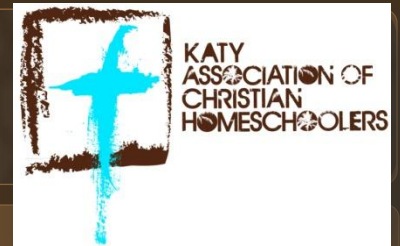


A GUIDE TO HOMESCHOOLING IN KATY, TEXAS



What is KACH?

- Katy Association of Christian Homeschoolers <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kach/>
- Christian organization that provides support and fellowship for homeschooling families
- We are a 501(c)(3) public charity. Your membership fees are tax deductible!
- Yahoo group for questions and fellowship
- We are currently at approximately 300 member families and growing.
- We have members from all around the Katy, Texas area including Houston, Sealy, Richmond, Rosenberg, Cypress...
- Monthly e-newsletter which keeps members informed of activities
- Field trips and group activities for every age group -- from Preschool through High School, park days, parties, field trips, small groups by age groups or interests, newbie group, reading groups, Scouts, End of Year Celebration, Open House with vendors that support your home education journey with supplemental classes like language, music, dance, sports and art.

About Homeschooling in Texas

What is homeschooling? Parents teach their children an academic curriculum at home instead of sending them out to a public or private school. While this may seem like a new or radical idea, in reality it is not. The home education process has been going on since creation!

Is homeschooling legal in Texas? Absolutely! In fact, Texas is considered a "homeschool friendly" state. Texas homeschooling rights were determined in the court case "Leeper vs. Arlington ISD". The only requirements for home schooling to be legal are that (1) the instruction be bona fide (not a facade); (2) the curriculum be in visual form (books, workbooks, video monitor); and (3) the curriculum include the basic subjects of reading, spelling, grammar, mathematics, and good citizenship. Parents may obtain curriculum materials from outside sources or are free to develop their own. They may also send their children into the home of another parent for instruction or have a tutor come into the home for all or part of the instruction. 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>

Do I have to be a certified teacher to teach in a home school? No. Home schools are considered by the state of Texas as a private school. The state does not regulate those institutions and as such makes no qualifications for teachers.

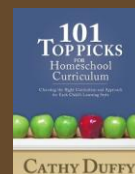
Is it expensive to homeschool? It can vary. It can be a hundred dollars or less per year (even free), to several thousand per year. There are many determining factors: number of students, grade levels, types of curriculum purchased, outside classes, lessons, etc.

Who do I have to report to?

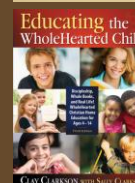
Since homeschools are recognized as private schools in Texas, there are no boards or committees to which you report. Grades and achievement levels are set and maintained by each home school. The parent, as school administrator, is the responsible party.

Recommended Reading

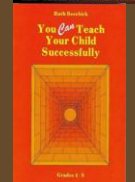
Here are some titles we recommend you check out. Some of the books listed here can be found at your local bookstore or Christian bookstore, the County Library, Katy Budget Books or Christian Book Distributors



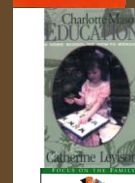
101 Top Picks for Homeschooling Curriculum, Cathy Duffy
<http://cathyduffyreviews.com/>



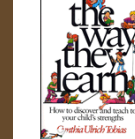
Educating the Whole Hearted Child, Sally Clarkson



Teach Your Child Successfully, Ruth Beechick



A Charlotte Mason Education, Catherine Levison



The Way They Learn, Cynthia Tobias

THIS GUIDE IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL ADVICE. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING LEGAL ISSUES, PLEASE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY.

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. Many require the student to take placement tests. Please speak with the school administration at the school before you withdraw your student.

Where do I find books or curriculum? You are responsible to choose and find the curriculum that fits your child's needs. Finding what works for your child is your challenge. We explore the types and sources of curriculum further in this document.

How does my child graduate from home school? 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.

What about college? Homeschooled students not only go to college, a recent study shows they outperform their peers! Colleges have admissions guidelines for all students. Colleges look not only for a High School diploma, but transcripts and SAT/ACT test scores. Most schools post their entrance requirements on their website.

What about socialization? The most important people children interact with is their family. Support groups (like KACH), churches, and other community organizations provide socialization for students.

How do I start? The first step is to pray. Know that God will give you the wisdom to carry out what he has called you to do. Second, start determining what curriculum will work best for your child. Third, withdraw your student from his existing school (see the guidelines above). Fourth, get into a regular daily routine for schooling.

We recommend you spend some time on the Texas Home School Coalition website reading their materials. www.thsc.org

KACH SMALL GROUPS

Small groups in operation can vary from year to year. Please plan come to our Open House to browse the available groups and sign up. Here is an example of our small groups:

Preschool Group, 5-8 Boys and Girls, BeTween Friends (girls age 8-10), Tween Boys, JrHiGrlz: (11-13 year old girls), Boys 9-13 Book Club, Girls 12-15 Book Club, Teens, Chess Club, Cub Scouts, Newbie Group

National and State Homeschool Organizations

The Texas Home School Coalition is a state organization that lobbies the state government and provides homeschool advice and legal aid to its members. www.thsc.org
806-744-4441

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

Local Resources for Area Home Educators

-PREP - Stands for "Providing Resources in Education with Parents" is a branch of the West Houston Home Educators homeschool group in Katy, TX <http://prepclasses.org/newsite/>
Our mission is to bring parents and teachers together by offering excellence-driven, Christ-centered classes for home schooling families. Offers classes from Art, Science, Math to Languages, some elementary classes through high school.

-The Homeschool Store (713)683-8894
12315 Ann Ln. Houston, TX 77064
www.thehomeschoolstore.com

Huge bookstore that carries new and used curriculum and books. Staffed by a homeschool family and experienced homeschool moms who can help you find what you're looking for.

-Local Libraries - Katy has 3 libraries.

Harris County Library, Katy, Texas
<http://www.hcpl.net/>

1. Maud Smith Marks Branch Library

1815 Westgreen Boulevard
Katy Texas 77450
281-492-8592
Mon: 1-9 Tue: 10-9 Wed: 10-6 Thu: 10-6 Fri: 1-6 Sat: 10-5 Sun: Closed

2. Katy Branch Library

5414 Franz Road
Katy Texas 77493
281-391-3509
Mon: 10-7 Tue: 10-7 Wed: 1-8 Thu: 10-6 Fri: 1-6 Sat: 10-5 Sun: Closed

Fort Bend Library, Katy, Texas
<http://www.fortbend.lib.tx.us/>

3. Cinco Ranch Branch Library

2620 Commercial Center Blvd.
Katy, Texas 77494-6407
281-395-1311
Mon: 12-9 Tues: 10-9 Wed: 10-6 Thur: 10-9 Fri: 12-5 Sat: 10-5 Sun: Closed

“Methods” of Home Education

Here are 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 “Recommended Reading”.

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

The Classical Approach: Children 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.

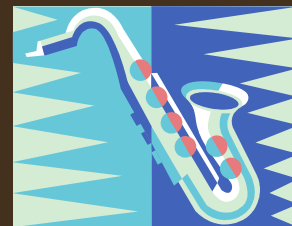
The Unit Study Approach: Takes a theme or topic and delves into it deeply over a period of time, integrating all subjects. All subjects are blended together and relate around a common time period, theme or project.

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 “living” books (not textbooks) with “living ideas.”

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

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 “Eclectic” Approach: This is the heading most home educators fall under - - some textbooks, some outside classes or lessons, a unit study every once in awhile, hands-on projects -- a mix of whatever works!



Local Sports Teams and Extra Curricular Activities, Etc.

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

-F01 Football - Christian Youth Football for Homeschools <http://www.katytexasfootball.org/>

-Instruments of Praise - Houston 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
<http://www.etasigmaalpha.com/chapters/texas/>

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

CLEP Exams are inexpensive and 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 for FREE

There are many internet sources that will help you homeschool for FREE. It may take a little planning and time, but it is possible! Here are a few websites:

Old Fashioned Education <http://oldfashionededucation.com/>

Ambleside Online <http://www.amblesideonline.org>

Basic Cozy Spelling Course
www.splashesfromtheriver.com

HomeschoolShare <http://www.homeschoolshare.com/donnayoung.org> (free homeschool resources)

abcteach.com (worksheets for all ages some free or yearly membership)

Sylvan Dell Publishing <http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com>

Check the websites of various curriculum publishers for FREE samples!

Homeschool Magazines

The Old Schoolhouse Magazine

<http://thehomeschoolmagazine.com/>

The Home Educating Family Magazine

<http://www.homeschoolconvention.com/magazine/>

Christian Homeschool Curriculum Suppliers
Traditional Textbooks / Correspondence/ DVD / Online

A Beka Book <http://www.abeka.com/HomeSchool/>
877-223-5226

Rod & Staff Publishers
www.rodandstaffbooks.com 800-761-0234

Christian Liberty Press www.homeschools.org
847-259-4444

Bob Jones University www.bjup.com 800-845
5731

Alpha Omega www.aop.com 800-682-7391

Unit Study

KONOS www.konos.com 972-924-2712

Unit Study Adventures www.unitstudy.com

Heart of Wisdom
www.heartofwisdom.com/homeschoollinks/

Amanda Bennett unitstudy.com

Stewardship www.unitstudies.com

Hands of a Child www.handsofachild.com

Literature-based/Charlotte Mason/Living Books

Tapestry of Grace - www.tapestryofgrace.com

Ambleside Online - www.amblesideonline.org

Simply Charlotte Mason -

www.simplycharlottemason.com

Cornerstone Curriculum.com - 972-235-5149

Sonlight - www.sonlight-curriculum.com 303-730-
6292

Five in a Row - www.fiveinarow.com 816-331-5769

Homeschool the Easy Way -

www.cindyrushton.com

Queen Homeschool Supply -

www.queenhomeschool.com

Living Books Curriculum -

www.livingbookscurriculum.com/

Veritas Press (Classical Education) -

www.veritaspress.com/

Computer-based Curriculum

Switched-on Schoolhouse 800-622-3070

[www.aophomeschooling.com/switched-on-
schoolhouse](http://www.aophomeschooling.com/switched-on-schoolhouse)

ACE School of Tomorrow

www.schooloftomorrow.com 972-315-1776

Math

Math-U-See www.mathusee.com 888-854-6284

Teaching Textbooks

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

Saxon Math www.saxonpublishers.hmhco.com

800-284-7019

Singapore Math

www.singaporemath.com/Homeschool_s/60.htm

"Living Math" www.livingmath.net/

Curriculum continued...

Math (continued)

Video Text Interactive

www.videotext.com/homeschool.htm

History

Mystery of History

<http://www.themysteryofhistory.info>

Greenleaf www.greenleafpress.com 615-449-1617

Beautiful Feet Books www.bfbooks.com 800-889-1978

Mantle Ministries www.mantlemin.com 877-548-2327

TruthQuest History www.truthquesthistory.com

History Alive! www.dianawaring.com/index.html

Notgrass History

www.notgrass.com/notgrass/home.php

Science

Apologia Science - www.apologia.com

Tops Science - <http://www.topscience.org/>

Real Science 4 Kids - www.gravitaspublications.com

God's Design for Science www.answersingenesis.org

Tobin's Lab Science Supplies - www.tobinslab.com

Christian Kids Explore. Science Series -

www.brightideaspress.com

Phonics

Explode the Code <http://www.explodethecode.com/>

Alpha Phonics - howtotutor.com 208-322-4440

Saxon Phonics www.saxonpublishers.hmhco.com

Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons (book)

Phonics Museum <http://www.veritaspress.com>

Language Arts (includes some phonics)

Institute for Excellence in Writing -

www.excellenceinwriting.com

Learning Language Arts Through Literature -

www.cspress.com

Progeny Press-Literature Study Guides -

www.mgprogeny.com

Total Language Plus - [www.integrityol.com/tlp360-754-
3660](http://www.integrityol.com/tlp360-754-3660)

Simply Grammar (book)

Queen Homeschool Supply -

<http://www.queenhomeschool.com>

Homeschool Suppliers / Various Subjects

www.homeschoolreviews.com (helpful site that give
reviews by other homeschool moms)

Greenleaf Press www.greenleafpress.com

Christian Book Distributors www.christianbook.com

Rainbow Resources <http://www.rainbowresource.com>

VegSource <http://www.vegsource.com/homeschool>

The Old Schoolhouse Store

www.theoldschoolhousestore.com

Timberdoodle <http://www.timberdoodle.com>

Second Harvest - www.usedhomeschoolbooks.com