

# Educational Philosophies

## Traditional

This method uses textbooks that are often accompanied by a teacher's guide. Parent involvement depends on the subject and curriculum. Many come in digital/online format now.

## Classical

This education method, developed during the European Medieval Era, is based on the trivium: grammar, logic, and rhetoric stages. These stages roughly coincide with a child's development. The grammar stage focuses on memorization and the foundational skills of reading, writing, Latin, mathematics, science, and chronological history and covers the elementary years. The logic stage, middle school, focuses on how to think logically about these subjects. In high school, students develop their communication skills about their subjects during the rhetoric stage. To learn more about this style, read [The Well-Trained Mind](#), written by Jesse Wise and Susan Wise Bauer.

## Charlotte Mason

"The [Charlotte Mason](#) method is based on [Charlotte](#)'s firm belief that the child is a person and we must educate that whole person, not just his mind. So a Charlotte Mason education is three-pronged: in her words, 'Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life.' " This method incorporates the classical approach with an emphasis on short lessons, living books, and nature study.

## Literature-Based Education

"The literature-based method of homeschooling teaches core subjects using high-quality literature and interesting books written by experts. Learning through biographies, autobiographies, ancient texts, original documents, and historical fiction is central. Science may be explored through children's books, online magazines, journal articles, or chapter books. The idea is to include books that are characterized by literary excellence and whose authors are respected, with knowledge in and passion for their subject matter." ([HomeschoolCompass](#))

## Unit Studies

Unit Studies cover all of the academic subjects through the study of one topic. For instance, in a *Little House on the Prairie* study, students would learn language arts skills by reading the book and related materials, writing responses, and learning vocabulary and spelling from their readings. They will also learn American history, geography, and scientific discoveries connected to Laura Ingalls Wilder and her time period.

## The Principle Approach

“The [Biblical Principle Approach](#) is a philosophy and method of education based upon Biblical reasoning and a Biblical, Christian worldview which requires considering and pondering the purpose of everything in God’s universe.” See the [Foundation for American Christian Education](#) for more information.

## Thomas Jefferson Education aka “Leadership Education”

This [teaching philosophy](#) mixes classical, living books, and some of the Principle Approach. It is based on *Thomas Jefferson Education: Teaching a Generation of Leaders for the Twenty-first Century*.

## Unschooling, Relaxed Schooling, Delight-Directed, or Child-Directed Studies

“Generally implies that the parents have consciously adopted a lifestyle with few textbooks or workbooks, and no grades, tests or labels. The child is encouraged to learn at her own pace through hobbies and interests that she wants to pursue” ([HSLDA](#)). For more information, see the following:

- [Moore Foundation](#)
- *How Children Learn* by John Holt
- *The Unschooling Handbook* by Mary Griffith
- *Weapons of Mass Destruction* by John Taylor Gatto

## Eclectic

This method combines philosophies. Many homeschoolers end up in this category.

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