

# Homeschooling Road Map

You've decided to pull your kids out of public school. Now what? Private school or homeschooling? Both choices come with a variety of options, especially homeschooling. If homeschooling interests you, you've come to the right place.

Hi, I'm Lorinda Newton, your homeschool helper at WAPIE. I've homeschooled my children since 2004 and have been active in the homeschool community in the Puget Sound region.

Below you will find the first of a three-part road map for homeschooling with a focus on conservative Christian and Washington State resources.

## Part 1: Research Homeschooling

### *Discuss the Idea of Homeschooling*

Discuss homeschooling with your spouse. Agreement is key. Husbands and wives need to support one another in this endeavor. If you're single, discuss this plan with someone close to you who can also offer you emotional support. If you have older children, bring them into the discussion as well.

- *Are you prepared to change how your family does life?*  
Homeschooling isn't just an educational method. It is a family lifestyle of learning.
- *Why are you considering homeschooling?*  
List your reasons on paper. They will guide you as you set goals for your children and in your research on teaching methods and curricula. Think about the [pros and cons](#) of this choice for your family. If you do choose to homeschool, this list will come in handy on frustrating days when you will want to put your kids on the yellow bus (You *will* have days like that.). This written record will remind you why you made the choice to homeschool and hopefully help you to stay on the road you have chosen. Memorizing a short version of your reasons will come in handy when people ask you why you decided to homeschool as well.
- *Is this a short-term or long-term decision?*  
Whether you just want to try homeschooling for a year, or you plan to educate your children through high school will shape your decision and goals.
- *Are you not quite ready to homeschool but want to supplement your child's public education? Or does your child need a break for health or another reason?*
  - [10 Ways to Use Homeschool Curriculum Even If You're Not Homeschooling Long Term](#)
  - [5 Tips for Learning at Home When Coronavirus Closes Schools](#)

### *Learn How to Homeschool*

There are as many ways to homeschool as there are families. Use the references below to get you heading down your research path.

#### Websites

- [Homeschooling 101: Your Homeschool FAQs Answered](#)
- Homeschool Legal Defense Association's [Planning Checklist](#).

- Numerous homeschool websites and blogs exist. Search for ones that appeal to you. You can find my homeschool blog posts at [Academy Northwest](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the posts.

## Books

- *Things We Wished We'd Known*, compiled and edited by Bill and Diana Waring, is a collection of essays by veteran homeschoolers.
- [Cathy Duffy's booklist](#). She has reviewed homeschool curricula and resources since 1984.
- [Home School Legal Defense Association](#) booklist—extensive
- [Exodus Mandate](#) booklist

## Magazines

- [Homeschooling Today](#)
- [Homeschool Digest](#)
- [Homeschool Magazine](#)
- [The Old Schoolhouse Magazine](#)

## Network

- *Talk to experienced homeschoolers.*  
Do you have friends, family, or fellow church members who homeschool?
- *Connect with homeschool support organizations.*
  - **[Christian Heritage Home Educators of Washington:](#)**  
a conservative, state-wide organization that sponsors a large annual conference each spring and smaller events throughout the year.
  - **[Washington Homeschool Organization \(WHO\):](#)**  
a state-wide organization that caters to the complete spectrum of homeschoolers. So, while the website offers a wealth of information, some will not appeal to conservatives or Christians.
    - Their [Intro to Homeschooling Packet](#) provides a helpful starting point.
    - See their [regional support group list](#) to find a group near you. For those who live on the Eastside (of Lake Washington), I recommend Home Oriented Meaningful Education ([H.O.M.E.](#)) and [Reach East](#).
  - **[Christian Homeschool Network of Washington \(CHN\):](#)**  
a lobbyist group for Washington State homeschoolers. They monitor legislation, testify at hearings on bills related to homeschooling, and alert the homeschool community to contact their legislators when needed.
  - **[Home School Legal Defense Association \(HSLDA\):](#)**  
a national legal organization founded to preserve parents' constitutional rights to direct their children's education. Part of the website is open to the public, but you need a membership to see all of the resources. I highly recommend joining. Many local support groups offer an HSLDA membership discount.

## ***Can I Homeschool My Special Needs Child?***

Yes, many parents homeschool their special needs children. My own son has mild learning disabilities. You can read about his high school experience [here](#).

### **Websites**

- [10 Reasons to Homeschool Your Child with Special Needs](#)
- [Special Needs Child Thrives by Homeschooling. School District Doesn't Understand How](#)
- [HSLDA](#) has several special-needs consultants that members can call to ask questions or get suggestions for their child.
- Memoria Press [special needs](#) classical curriculum.

### **Books**

- *Homeschooling Your Struggling Learner* by Kathy Kuhl
- *Teenagers with ADD: A Parents' Guide* by Chris A. Zeigler Dendy, M.S.
- *The Loving Push: How parents and professionals can help spectrum kids become successful adults* by Temple Grandin, Ph. D. and Debra Moore, Ph. D. Though not a book about education, I found it helpful for teaching life skills.

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**For personal help, please [contact me](#).**