

An Introduction to Teaching Approaches and Methods – Part 1

Your teaching goal: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

And how do we accomplish that? Deuteronomy 6:6-9
Teach ALL the time! In any method that works!

Narrowing your choices:

1st choice – traditional or non-traditional

2nd choice – how much teacher prep?

3rd choice – teaching styles vs. learning styles

Traditional – Textbooks and Workbooks

Advantages:

- usually includes excellent teacher guides with tips (not just the answers)
- easy to teach
- “everything” provided
- usually colorful and durable
- paced for an average school year

Disadvantages:

- expensive
- dry reading -- summaries
- can be time consuming
- Subjects and skills are separated (spelling, grammar, handwriting, composition)
- more difficult to integrate several grade levels

Common publishers – Abeka, Bob Jones Univ. Press, Rod & Staff, Alpha Omega, Saxon, Apologia

Unschooling - Child-led learning: parents act as facilitators and provide a wide variety of resources

Variations – Montessori, Better Late than Early (Dr. Raymond Moore), Charlotte Mason, Waldorf

Unit study - Integrated or thematic unit of unit, Incorporates multiple subject areas

Advantages:

- gives suggestions to the teacher while allowing much flexibility
- can be hands-on and life-related, discovery learning
- can encourage creativity
- permits multi-level learning

Disadvantages:

- usually doesn't include math and language arts
- highly teacher dependent
- can require a lot of prep time and resources

Common publishers – Konos, Weaver, Prairie-Based Primer, Mystery of History, Five in a Row

Group classes

Advantages:

- Passionate teacher
- Discussion – exposure to other ideas and viewpoints
- Saves you prepping for material you're not good at

Disadvantages:

- Have to follow someone else's pace
- Can't stop for vacation, illness, confusion
- Comparison to others
- Disruptive to family schedule – transportation is required
- Teacher chooses curriculum and emphasis
- You're not the prime influencer of your children

Take a quiz to help you discover which teaching methods most appeal to your personality at www.toolsforthehomeeducator.com/handouts/

Come to part 2 of this workshop: 2:00, Ballroom C – Literature-based Learning, Classical education, Principle Approach, Multi-media, Eclectic, multi-level teaching

Additional resources:

Text homeschool to 33733 to receive THE Toolbox, Penny's teaching tools, tips, and events

"Five Different Approaches to Homeschooling" by Heather Sanders

<http://thepioneerwoman.com/homeschooling/2010/08/five-different-approaches-to-homeschooling/>

"My Biggest Homeschooling Mistake: Overthinking Methods and Philosophies" by Sarah Mackenzie

<http://amongstlovelythings.com/my-biggest-homeschooling-mistake-over/>

Everything You Need to Know About Homeschool Unit Studies by Steward, ISBN # 978-0977044405

Homeschooling Methods by Paul and Gena Suarez, ISBN # 978-0805440171