



NBHE
NATIONAL BLACK HOME EDUCATORS

GETTING STARTED



**NATIONAL
BLACK
HOME
EDUCATORS**



an introduction to homeschooling for
black families

We are so excited to have this opportunity to invite you to take a journey with us, a journey that is all about investing in the life of your children.

We believe that every parent has what it takes to make a difference in a child's education. It is our vision to encourage every parent to become personally involved in their child's education. We are so thankful for your interest in education and parental involvement with children.

The National Black Home Educator's (NBHE) motto is to Empower Parents to Educate Children for Excellence. This booklet is a tool to help you get involved in your child's education. If you have already been home educating for some time, we hope it will simply inform you about NBHE and how we can assist you. If you are new homeschooling, we hope that this will help you to get started.

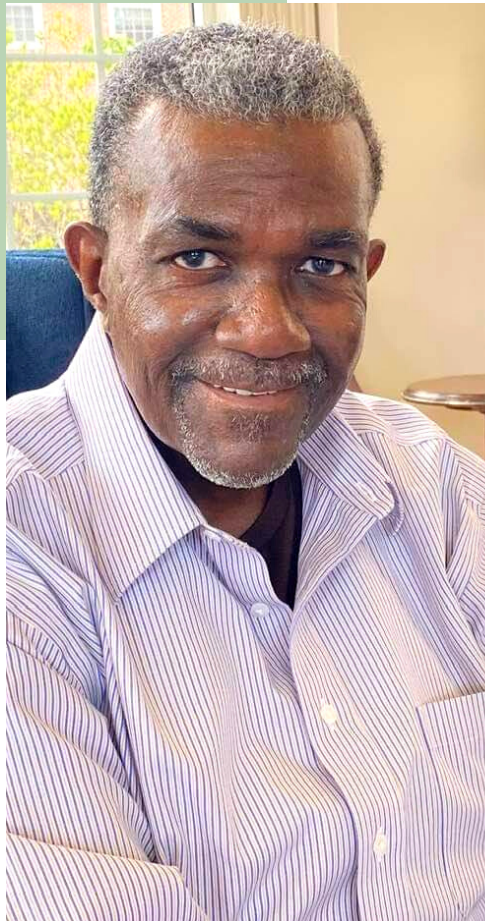
We would love to invite you to attend our Annual NBHE Family Summer Conference. Please see our website: www.nbhe.net for more details and registration.

If we can be of service to you in the future, please feel free to contact us through e-mail—contact@nbhe.net.

For more help visit our website at: www.nbhe.net. We look forward to keeping in touch with you.

Graciously serving,
Eric and Joyce Burges
Founders of NBHE

INTRODUCTION



ERIC BURGES
Co-Founder and President



JOYCE BURGES
Co-Founder and Program
Director

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TAKING EDUCATION HOME

Q: What is home education?

A: Home education is a movement to take the heart of education back into the home. To encourage children to learn at home. To read books, to be hungry for knowledge, to make scientific discoveries, all within the boundaries of their natural sphere.

You don't have to read far in history to discover that most of the great men and women of our past were home educated. Many had little to no formal education. They learned by devouring books from their parent's bookshelves, by getting outside and trying things for themselves. For starters look at the lives of: Benjamin Banneker, Booker T. Washington, and Benjamin Carson.

Q: Why get involved in your child's education?

A: It is our conviction that education is not simply the job of teachers and schools, but of parents. Children have a natural interest in learning. But when the —learning experience is compartmentalized from the rest of life, a child can begin to see learning and life as two separate things and to find school boring. Our desire is to see the fun returned to learning.

Learning is a lifestyle. It is something you do every day. When you show your child that you are interested in their education, you add value to that and show them just how important it is.

Q: Can I make a difference even when I don't have much time or many resources?

A: Definitely! You can get involved on so many levels. Even just taking the time once or twice a week to ask your child about what they are learning will make a difference. If you make a goal of reading one book with them a week you will have read 52 books together by the end of the year—that's 52 new sources of information stored in their brain. Books are wonderful teachers!

Q: Who can home educate?

A: Any parent is qualified to teach their children. You don't need any official qualifications. The very fact that you are their parent makes a child ready and willing to learn from and with you. They look up to you as they do no one else. Therefore, you have a unique opportunity to shape the way they think about learning. Can learning be fun? Is learning something that can be enjoyed? Is education important, or is it a throw away part of your life?

Your children are watching you.

TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Q: Getting involved is one thing...but can I homeschool?

A: Any parent is qualified to teach their children. You do not need a college degree. Statistics were taken to determine if parents needed a college degree, but it was discovered that they did not. Also data was collected to see if single parents, as well as parents that did not graduate from high school were capable. This data only proved that children could still succeed. Homeschool children go on to pursue college degrees. If a parent feels that they are not smart enough – there are several options: specialized tutors, DVD, video courses, distance learning, computer courses, local coops, teaming with other parents, friends as experts, etc. Learn with your children (even sign up for the same community college class) as you instruct them. You will find that there is no limit to successful homeschooling.

Q: What are some of the advantages of homeschooling?

A: Homeschooling builds strong family relationships. It also provides more opportunities for a well-rounded education. This one-to-one teaching creates a chance for parents to develop values and character in their children. Tailored studies better prepare the individual. There is freedom to travel as part of education (bringing the world to your child.) There are more options for community involvement. Homeschooling provides a great opportunity to more fully develop your child as a unique and gifted person.

Q: What are some of the challenges of homeschooling?

A: Just like any venture, the homeschooling journey definitely involves challenges and pitfalls. Get outside of yourself and focus on service, giving your children plenty of opportunities to interact with others who are different from themselves. Homeschooling demands a lot of time. You must work to maintain your priorities. Homeschooling requires dedication and patience.

And finally the most asked question...

Q: What about socialization, do homeschoolers suffer from some sort of social paralysis?

A: Over the years, studies have clearly proven that homeschool children do not lack the skills to communicate and build relationships with strangers. In fact, homeschooled children may gain a broader range of skills as they learn to relate to adults, older children, peers, and younger children. Under the right guidance homeschool children can develop into self-confident, sociable adults.

6 BASIC STEPS TO HELP YOU HOMESCHOOL

1. Find out about the homeschooling laws of your state

The first thing to do it to find out the rules regarding homeschooling in your state. To find this out visit HSLDA's website. We advise every family to become a member of Home School Legal Defense Association. NBHE has a group number, and if you are a part of our organization you are eligible to receive the group discount.

2. Choose a curriculum

Choosing a curriculum can be a daunting task. The most important step is to NOT become overwhelmed. You do not have to review every curriculum out there. Choose one, try it out, and if it doesn't work for you, change next year.

3. Make a Schedule

Having a schedule is essential part of running a homeschool. A schedule is not a fixed rule that cannot be broken, but rather a tool to help you accomplish what you need to in your day. A balanced schedule should include family together time, as well as time outside the home for your children.

4. Find a support group

As a homeschool parents, you need the support and encouragement of other parents. It is our goal to connect every family with a local group. Please look at our list of local NBHE representatives to find someone in your area to connect with and inquire about local co-ops. If you do not have a representative in your area, please contact us.

5. Attend a Conference

It is a good idea to attend a Homeschool Conference. Find out about your state homeschool convention, or we welcome you to attend the Annual NBHE Family Summer Conference held in Baton Rouge, LA.

6. Have Fun

Amidst the challenge of starting something new, don't forget to enjoy the journey. Make times for a family get away. Take a day off to go the park or zoo with your kids. Homeschooling gives you the freedom to learn in creative and fun ways...make the most of it!

TIPS ON SCHEDULING

Don't let the schedule rule your day...remember the schedule is there to serve you, not you the schedule. The schedule is FLEXIBLE!

- Do not schedule too many outside activities – in order to home school you must be home!
- Have school Monday through Thursday, plan outside activities for the early part of the day on Friday.
- Know the traffic hours and try to avoid rush hour traffic. Save time by doing your errands a low traffic times.
- Give your older children more opportunities to be involved in activities outside of the home. Younger children should focus more on their lessons rather than out outside activities.
- Involve your children in helping you around the house. You can train children at an early age to participate in chores. Start with simple chores like picking up toys and making beds. Train your older children to clean their rooms, dust, do dishes, vacuum etc.
- Give your older children more time for their studies. When my children turned 15 their chore time was cut in half, this gave the older children the opportunity to pay more attention to their school work.
- Focus on having your child master a subject rather than trying to make your child move on to keep pace with the curriculum schedule.
- If you are having particular difficulty with a child in one subject, try focusing on that subject every day. You may have to focus on division for example for two months. Do it repetitiously until the child really gets the concept cemented in their mind.
- Meal times make great opportunities for reading aloud. Read to your children while they clean the kitchen. Before you know it they will be searching for more work to do just so that you can keep reading the story!
- If you have several children, work out a schedule for each child that allows you to spend some one on one time. Arrange it so that you can teach one child while the other ones are working on subject that they can do on their own.
- Try to coordinate times with your older and younger children working together: allow the younger children to listen in on older children's lessons while playing quietly or coloring.
- Don't schedule school work too late into the afternoon. Morning time is the best. Make sure to give your children time for free play and yourself time for a little recuperation!

DAILY SCHEDULE EXAMPLE

For children between the ages of three and five, I recommend one hour a day for disciplined study time (this is even suggested for children who are in public school), unless you decide to bring them home altogether, and then I recommend no more than four hours daily/four days weekly of instruction (depending on the age of the child).

Here is a very basic outline of a schedule:

8:00 am – 12:30 pm – Core learning

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm – 3:00pm – Quiet Time (listening to music, reading a quiet book, sleeping, enjoying a quiet craft... alone)

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm – Dinner Preparation/Chore time

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm – Dinner time/clean-up

6:30 pm – Evening family time, early bed time, reading



GOOD LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Learn the state capitals...especially the state in which you live.
2. Complete a state/country profile (check out NBHE's state/country worksheet at nbhe.net)
3. Learn the 7 continents and complete a map of each one.
4. Learn the names of the Science Classifications and their meanings, i.e. biology the study of life.
5. Learn the names of all of the Presidents of the United States...write interesting facts about each one
6. Learn the names of artists and their famous works, i.e. Claude Monet, a French Impressionist, make sure to include African American Artists like Jacob Lawrence
7. Learn the names of the trees around your home
8. Watch the birds that fly near your home, learn their names, suggestion: build a birdhouse
9. Learn the names of the Master Composers: Mozart, Bach, Chopin, William Dawson, Scott Joplin, Beethoven, Duke Ellington, etc. Listen to classical music
10. Learn to complete crossword puzzles and hidden word puzzles (excellent road trip lessons...find specific grade levels for child)
11. Learn to play board games as a family: Monopoly, Candy Land, Scrabble
12. Learn the names of at least 10 American poets: Phyllis Wheatley, Emily Dickinson
13. Learn the names of at least 10 authors and their works, Walter Dean Myers, Sharon Foster, Mildred Taylor, Jane Austen, Mark Twain, Edgar Allen Poe, etc.
14. Read at least two Shakespeare works each year and select a saying from each one for example – ex: “He wears the rose of youth upon him.” Antony & Cleopatra, Act 3...Scene XI
15. Learn the Preamble to the Constitution (Have younger children learn this as well. Memorization sharpens the mind of a child.)
16. Learn the Bill of Rights
17. Learn parts of the Constitution especially the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments
18. Learn to recite famous sayings and phrases (See books about Booker T. Washington, Maya Angelou, George Washington Carver)
19. Learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and memorize parts of his famous “I Have A Dream” speech
20. Memorize the Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln’s Speech
21. Learn about mathematical concepts such as the names of the numbers in an addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems (ex. addend plus addend equals sum)
22. Learn how to count by 2s, 5s, 10s, and 100s, etc.
13. Learn the names of at least 10 authors and their works, Walter Dean Myers, Sharon Foster, Mildred Taylor, Jane Austen, Mark Twain, Edgar Allen Poe, etc.
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A PERSONAL STORY

HOW THE BURGES STARTED HOMESCHOOLING

Nearly 30 years ago, our children were in school —getting a good education||. The telephone rang...it was from my oldest son's school. The voice was professional and cold. Almost as cold as it was outside.

I was informed that my husband and I needed to come to school the next day for a parent/teacher session. Unpleasant thoughts flooded my mind. But I was comforted by the fact that we were active in our children's school-life. You see, I was PTO President and Chairman of the Advisory Board. So all is well...right!

Nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to hear. Being involved assured us, once again, of an excellent education. I was deceived. When we met with the school's official, we were informed that our son was failing. When Eric Jr. entered high school, his grade point average was 3.0, which was required to attend this facility. We were told that his grade-point average had dropped to a 2.8. This was a blight for this school's reputation. The school gave us two choices: place our son in a school way across town (another failing school), or he would have to repeat this grade next year if he remained at their school; assuring me that there was no hope for our son. This was during the first semester of school. I pleaded and told them that we would work harder with him to raise his GPA. This would not do. Their disposition was firm and unmovable.

As we were escorted, coldly, out of the warm office, tears formed in my eyes. I could not look at my husband. I was embarrassed to think that maybe he was tearing as well.

When we got home that evening, we went into our bedroom to discuss this problem. At first there were no words to describe our pain. After I cried on my husband's shoulders...sobbing and sniffing... something began to stir in my heart.

A vision of me having my children at home with me. You see I was exhausted with the ripping and running anyway. I was exhausted with raising money for more equipment when overburdened teachers were making copies of books for children in overstuffed classrooms. I was exhausted with rising early in the morning to whisk my children away from me for more than eight hours a day. I was tired of seeing my children come home late in the evening. There was more to this crying on my husband's shoulders. I was crying for the death of what society wanted me to believe. I was crying because I was in a web of confusion, one that I thought had no solution. What I did not know was that I was very deceived like so many other Black parents.

I was crying because this death would sprout life...life of a vision.

You see Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave us all a dream. But, what I have come to know is that as great as Dr. King's dream was and continues to be, it was his dream for Black Americans. Having shared that dream for years, I know that God was giving us a dream... one that would encompass Dr. King's dream, but more than anything, a dream that would rise and carry our family to a greater level. A dream that our children could own and realize. A dream that would reach into the generations of our family for eternity.

That was how it all got started. We have now been homeschooling for nearly two decades. We have homeschooled all five of our children who now range in

The beginning of this organization was in the hearts and minds of the 15 or more families who gathered at a park in Bethesda, Maryland 10 years ago. It was a sunny day as these families came together to share how they wanted to move homeschooling forward in the black community. The enthusiasm and excitement shown at this gathering was contagious, and it sparked the idea to host conferences that would represent the abilities, talents, and gifts that were in the existing homeschooling families. This group of innovative families knew that they wanted to preserve the legacy of their fore fathers, their faith and courage to stand for what was right. This belief led to the first meeting of nearly 30 families at what was then the Radisson Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana in July 2001. The founders recommended the name National Black Home Educators Resource Association, a mission statement, and the Board of Directors of the organization. (We have since shorted our name to the National Black Home Educators - NBHE). NBHE is affiliated with HSLDA - The Home School Legal Defense Association.

Since its beginning, NBHE has grown to become the premiere national organization for Black homeschooling families in this country. NBHE has prompted the start of several support groups around the country with National Representatives in nearly 26 cities. NBHE's presence in America has now spread internationally. NBHE has been showcased on several national media outlets and in numerous publications. Its annual conference is a oneof- a- kind event because it features the extraordinary creative talents of ordinary Black homeschool families. NBHE continues to grow and advance its vision. We hope that you will be a part of the future growth of NBHE.



NBHE'S SERVICES



NBHE Family Summer Conferences – NBHE's annual Family Summer Conferences is a fun, exciting and safe convention for families. Keep visiting our website for the most current information on the Family Summer Conferences as we are currently organizing a convention that is safe and health-conscious.

Resource Treasury – NBHE highlights assets from the Black American experience such as books, music, videos, booklists, etc. We want parents to be aware of the many wonderful treasures available in our rich heritage so that they can share these with their children. Our book reviews, published in every newsletter, are especially helpful.

The Nurturing Series – NBHE hosts online classes for children and parents through our Nurturing Series. These interactive and hands-on events inspire parents and children alike in the context of homeschooling, parental engagement and engaged learning. See our website, nbhe.net for all the new events and campaigns!

NBHE'S SERVICES

Newsletters – NBHE offers monthly e-newsletters free of charge to any who are interested. They are filled with inspirational messages, practical how to articles, and updates about all the upcoming NBHE events. Please sign up on our website to receive our e-newsletters.

National and Local News – NBHE is in partnership with homeschool leaders and organizations across the country for the most current news available regarding trends in homeschooling and crucial news.

Home Education

Consultations – Email us at contact@nbhe.net to schedule a personal home education consultation to get you started on your homeschooling journey.

College Preparation

Partners -- please see our Partners page on our website for links to our partners' websites to get started in college prep for your teenager!

Google Workspace for

Education -- We are proud to be a platform that hosts Google Workspace for Education, a service that can help you and other parents kick-start a co-op or online school together. With Google Workspace for Education, you can host classes and meetings with each other and form your own NBHE homeschool community!

Co-ops - NBHE offers educational support groups in locations around the country around the country in which parents participate to help teach classes to their children. Co-ops also provide an opportunity for families to connect. By becoming an active member of NBHE, you can get all the co-op materials you need to get started!

Social Media Pages -- Check us out on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to get updates on our events and to engage with the NBHE community worldwide!

Curriculum Assistance –

NBHE's aim is to assist families with the right curriculum. We evaluate curriculum in the light of character, virtue, and moral values that reflect our Christian standards. NBHE researches and recommends curriculum that is interesting and appropriate for parents and children. See our list of recommended curriculum when you become a member of NBHE today!

THE NBHE NURTURING SERIES

We are so excited to announce the NBHE Nurturing Series! Designed to empower you to educate your children for excellence, the Nurturing Series has something for everyone! To join this series's videos, online classes and its amazing community, please visit our website at www.nbhe.net and become a subscribing member of NBHE today!



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nurturing series



iShineBright for Moms is an ongoing video series and group discussion initiative partnered with ADVScholars. This initiative is to encourage, empower and equip black homeschooling mothers, whether they are beginners or longtime homeschoolers.



Coding with Friends is an online community and class for kids, grades 8-10, to introduce them to the digital frontier! Partnering with ADVScholars, Coding with Friends teaches kids collaboration, teamwork and coding skills in a fun and interactive way.



Parents as Teachers At Home (PATH) is a weekly video series hosted by Joyce to encourage parents to engage in their children's education, to grapple with current issues in our culture and how they can be actively involved in their children's lives.



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**BECOME A
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TODAY AND HELP US
BRING THE BLACK
EXPERIENCE TO
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Harness the power of Google Workspace for Education and start your own online homeschool co-op

**The Maestro Lifetime
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Get access to all downloads, series, Google Workspace for Education and your name printed in NBHE's Hall of Fame.



All purchases, memberships and donations are non-refundable. National Black Home Educators is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and all funds go directly to supporting our volunteer staff and expanding our mission to bring homeschooling to black families nationwide. We are so grateful for your support.

