



**NBHE**  
NATIONAL BLACK HOME EDUCATORS



# CREATING FUN & EXCITING LEARNING

*Learning is about discovering and exploring*

Learning is about discovering and exploring , and your children will thank you for it in the years to come for considering their specific needs in designing a learning plan with them in mind.

To jump-start the planning process, the following are given for your consideration

- ***What do you want your child to learn - There is so much information and knowledge available so deciding what to teach (content & skills) can be challenging.***
- ***Deciding how to teach or what method to use (traditional textbooks, unit studies, technology, living books and life experiences, hire tutors, use family and friends, etc. ) can be difficult***
- ***How to determine if the method chosen will be successfully transmitted to your child, or if they are learning what you want them to learn***



Exploring resources or strategies to assist you in your planning can also be a stretch. Talk to veteran homeschoolers who have taught before... ask questions about which resources or products have been effective. Many homeschool parents will be delighted to share their experiences. Review textbooks and other materials about learning. Comparing resources can help you to see themes, concepts and provide ideas about the topics, and present the materials in different ways.

Think about this; Developing a specified learning plan plays a major role in your homeschool experience. The saying, “You are what you read about,” is very true. Books inspire children and light a fire in their imaginations. A specified learning plan brings out the individuality of a child and focuses on what best suits their learning style.



*Choosing Your Style:*

# DESIGNING A CURRICULUM JUST FOR YOUR CHILD

***“Education must be rewritten in our minds and hearts to once again see it as fine and classic”  
-Joyce Burges***

**When choosing a curriculum consider the difference between a good teacher and great teacher.**

**A good teacher follows the guidelines exactly and checks the child’s lessons to be sure of accuracy according to the teacher answer key.**

**A great teacher is guided by their heart and the connection to the child; developing a course of study suitable for that particular child and tailoring the education to their specific needs.**

## DESIGN AND SET A SOLID SCHEDULE FOR YOUR CHILD

*Everyone needs a schedule. Without a framework from which to operate, home education cannot be productive.*

*Of course, the schedule must be held loosely - flexibility is a very important part of homeschooling. But flexibility with no set goals will end in chaos!*

*As a note: for children between the ages of 3-5, I recommend one hour a day for disciplined study.*



Morning Schedule -- Monday – Thursday – 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

– (Thurs or Fri) –Test and Review Day

8:00 – 9:00 - Saxon Math

9:00 – 9:30 – Spelling

9:30 – 10:00 – Reading/Literature/Inspirational Reading

(see resource section)

10:00 - 10:30 – Language

10:30 –11:00 – Science

11:00 – 11:30 – History

11:30 – 12:00 - Music – Review Time, etc



## Mathematics:

Textbooks are selected at the student's level so that the child can progress quickly independently. This method incrementally builds mathematical concepts so that the child can be at the proper level

while he builds a strong foundation. Supplemental materials offer practical life application to promote math competency in real life situations.

Math games reinforce specific skills adding a hands-on

component. Students compete with themselves to improve their own performance





### Reading:

Variety of reading selections and textbooks for this program is designed to stimulate the child's mind to perform through suggested reading course/textbook used for comprehension with timed sessions

**Music – ( Basic Instrumental, Voice):**

A study of masters and artists include Ludwig Beethoven, Wolfgang Mozart, Michael D'Angelo, Leonardo Di Vinci, Claude Monet, Renoir, Van Gogh, Franz Schubert, Joseph Haydn, Handel, Chopin, Bach, Strauss, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Chevalier deSaint Georges, Strauss, and Listz -  
Suggested Source: [www.africlassical.com](http://www.africlassical.com) .



*AfriClassical.com*

African Heritage in  
Classical Music



### Language:

Grammar Composition, Writing/Penmanship/Cursive, English  
Skills learned include studying the 8 parts of speech using games and textbooks geared to the child's level.

Students learn sentence structure, pronunciation, and rules for capitalization, and punctuation. There is strong emphasis on writing skills that include research papers, outline structure, biographies, composition, essays, narration, journaling, and storytelling.



### History – World History, Government/Civics, Geography:

Selected texts are presented with a focus on the lessons they teach with application for our today. Sources include biographies, accounts written by historians, historic documents, and textbooks. The History of US by Joy Hakim is a primary source



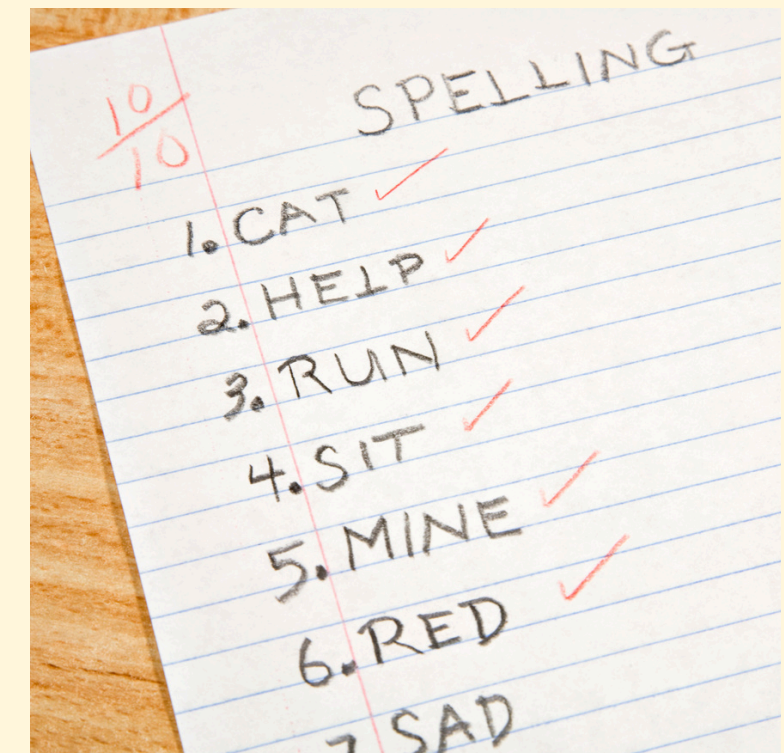
## Spelling

Spelling words are culled from various reading assignments. Word lists formed in this way are more easily

retained by the student because they are learned in the context of relevant studies. The rules of phonics are applied to spelling. The dictionary is treated like a textbook and studied for its many educational benefits. Yes, I still believe the use of a hard copy dictionary is necessary.

Weekly Spelling Test - The four keys to accurate spelling are;

- Look at the word
- Say the word
- Spell the word
- Say the word again





## Science – Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Science studies can cover a wide array of topics such as Nutrition, Biology, Astronomy, Physiology, and

Anatomy, and are suggested according to age of student. Students are encouraged to select subjects that

they find interesting. Biographies of great scientists augment science studies with an emphasis on positive role models and character qualities



## Speaking and Memorization:

A weekly exercise is given to encourage diction/articulation, voice expression, poise, and memorization with select writings such as the Preamble to the Constitution, Gettysburg Address, George W. Carver's, Duty for Children, plays, poetry, etc. that encourage character training. Small groups provide opportunities to evaluate style, read plays together, and practice for larger group competition. Student learns to prepare for and conduct radio interviews, and act as news broadcasters. Book reports can be either written or given in verbal presentations.



### **Community - Volunteer Service:**

It is suggested that students (over 13) complete volunteer service in local libraries, churches, senior centers, non-profit organizations, political campaigns, or businesses that offer intern programs (compensation-optional) are suggested. They can also seek mentoring opportunities where they can assist younger students in trustworthy situations. Service projects focus on meeting the needs of others in the community. This is a direct parental involvement.



### **Critical Thinking:**

Books that differ from our beliefs may be presented to illustrate the different philosophies in an effort to encourage discernment in the student. Evolution or different religions are used to illustrate differing opinions and world views. Students are encouraged to know what they believe and to be able to defend those beliefs. All such books have been read in advance. Written parental notification is required, and/are pre-offered to parents for review.



### Testing -diagnostic evaluation:

Pre testing as well as weekly testing is offered. Programs being used are periodically evaluated for effectiveness. Teaching materials may vary based on a given child's learning style – California Achievement Test (CAT) is mostly used.



### Addendum:

I recommend that young children are not given a rigorous academic program until they reach 8 years of age. Readiness is a major factor in evaluating curriculum for these children. There is an emphasis on phonics, number recognition, etc . Hands-on materials for mathematics like Dominos and Math Wraps, and Math Mouse games are used to present math in concrete terms (subject to individual needs of the child). Read aloud time is a part of the daily routine.



## College Prep:

You should be seriously thinking about college by the time your child gets to be twelve years old. You should be investigating the ACT, SAT, and PSAT. Take the time to look at the requirements for a High School diploma in your state.

Talk with your children about what they would like to study so that you can gear your students high school studies towards a focus for what they will study in college. Take the time to tour different options for college. You may also want to look into having your child test out of certain subjects - they can take CLEP and AP test.

However, you must check the college your child will be attending to see what tests are accepted.





## CHORES:

After their main schoolwork is completed, your children should be responsible for some chores around the house. Here are some suggestions:

- Sweep floor
- Clean Bathrooms
- Helping prepare lunch and dinner
- Kitchen cleanup
- Cleaning windows
- Emptying Wastebaskets
- Cleaning his or her room





# RESOURCES

[www.nbhe.net](http://www.nbhe.net)

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[www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)

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[advscholars.org](http://advscholars.org)

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# Any Additional Questions?

Please feel free to reach out to The National Black Home Educators at

[Contact@nbhe.org](mailto:Contact@nbhe.org)

