

NEW HOMESCHOOLER RESOURCE LIST

(links good as of 07-17-2011)

LEGAL/ORGANIZATIONAL:

- HSLDA (Home School Legal Defense Association) www.hsllda.org
legal services, Tennessee laws, "getting started", and other articles
- THEA (Tennessee Home Educators Association) www.homeschooling-tennessee.org
info on current/proposed legislation in Tennessee
- CSTHEA (Chattanooga-Southeast Tennessee Home Educators Association) www.csthea.org
info on local events, support groups, Esprit newsletter, umbrella/church-related schools

UMBRELLA SCHOOLS:

- Gateway Christian Schools www.gatewaychristianschools.com
- Family Christian Academy www.familychristianacademy.com
- Home Life Academy www.homelifeacademy.com
- Aaron Academy www.aaronacademy.com
- Family Christian Academy www.familychristianacademy.com
- Family Christian Academy of East Tennessee fcaeast.com

CATALOGS:

Many of these catalogs/sites have helpful articles.

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| Beautiful Feet Books | www.bfbooks.com | 1-800-889-1978 |
| CBD Home School | www.christianbook.com | 1-800-247-4784 |
| Greenleaf Press | www.greenleafpress.com | 1-615-449-1617 |
| Rainbow Resources | www.rainbowresource.com | 1-888-841-3456 |
| Veritas Press | www.veritaspress.com | 1-800-922-5082 |

PUBLICATIONS:

- Esprit (CSTHEAs monthly newsletter - see LEGAL/ORG above)
- Homeschooling Today www.homeschoolingtoday.com 1-281-579-0033
- Practical Homeschooling www.home-school.com 1-800-346-6322
- Classical Homeschooling www.classicalhomeschooling.com (online magazine)

OTHER GOOD HOMESCHOOLING WEB SITES:

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| www.homeschooldiner.com | www.design-your-homeschool.com |
| www.homeschool.com | www.welltrainedmind.com |
| www.classical-homeschooling.org | www.visionforum.com |
| www.triviumpursuit.com | www.tapestryofgrace.com |
| www.sonlight.com | www.homeschoolmarketplace.com |
| www.calvertschool.org | amblesideonline.org |
| www.midnightbeach.com/hs | www.homeedmag.com |

GROUP ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION:

- Hilger Higher Learning www.hhlearning.com
- Foundations Collegium foundationscollegium.org
- Classical Conversations www.classicalconversations.com
- Creative Discovery Museum
- Tennessee Aquarium

MUSIC INSTRUCTION AND FUN:

- Homeschool Band (watch Esprit)
- UTC Strings Project
- Cadek
- homeschool play/musical (watch Esprit)

CONTESTS/FAIRS:

Mock Trial
Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators contest – sponsored by WTCL television
Young Southern Writers contest
Chattanooga Science and Engineering Fair
Signal Mountain Homeschool Science Fair
Tennessee History Day
Signal Mountain Homeschool History Fair
Spelling Bee
Geography Bee
Science Olympiad

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Signal Mountain Clothes House
Homeschool yearbook staff
various support group service projects
Signal Mountain Library volunteers

TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED:

- After you decide to teach your children at home, be sure that you can articulate your reasons, and then write them down. When you've had a hard day – and you will have at least a few – get out your list, read it, and thank God for the time you have with your children!
- Determine your family goals for the education of your children.
- Be sure that you understand the Tennessee homeschooling laws. See the HSLDA and CSTHEA web sites.
- Check the requirements of your church-related school or local school district, depending on how you've decided to homeschool. If you are beginning to homeschool a high schooler, be sure that your plans will meet graduation requirements.
- Read about homeschooling. Find out about learning styles of children and different methods of teaching. Read about different approaches to homeschooling. You can find lots of information online!
- Choose your curriculum. The options range from "school-in-a-box" – everything you need to teach your child for a year – to the eclectic mix of a completely parent-designed curriculum, and everything in-between. Read product reviews. Get advice from people who have been homeschooling. Used curricula are available. And remember that if one thing doesn't work well, something else will.
- Decide how you will keep records. Read about options.
- Plan to follow some sort of routine or schedule. Most children crave routine, and your life will be easier if you have a schedule. Remember to be flexible, though. One of the best things about homeschooling is the flexibility: if your child is particularly interested in the history book you're reading together or a science project he's working on, read a few extra chapters or let him keep working on the experiment, even if it throws the schedule off for the rest of the day or the week!
- Find and join a local support group. This will be a source of encouragement as well as accountability.