



MACHE 2008  
Annual Conference  
Friday Workshops

Workshop: Which Way Do I Go?  
Speaker: Mary James  
Session: Special Time: 9:00 a.m.

## Teaching Methodologies

### I. Traditional Textbook Approach

#### A. Characteristics

1. instructor-driven
2. text-based
3. reading material followed by questions

#### B. Advantages

1. less planning on teacher's part
2. easy to chart scores
3. contains built-in tests

#### C. Considerations

1. less freedom
2. less depth
3. student often becomes bored
4. student who does not fit the curriculum will feel inferior
5. student simply masters tests rather than material

### II. Unit Studies Approach

#### A. Characteristics

1. most subjects are covered by studying one topic
2. study material usually comes from reading books

3. usually includes hands-on activities

## B. Advantages

1. allows depth of study and greater understanding of topic
2. children retain what they have learned
3. useful for teaching multiple grade levels

## C. Considerations

1. more planning required of teacher
2. harder to track accomplishments
3. more uncertainty about covering all subjects

# III. Living Books Approach

## A. Characteristics

1. study material comes from “real” books, rather than textbooks
2. various subjects are integrated into reading, but not necessarily as purposefully as in unit studies

## B. Advantages

1. students are reading books by someone who is passionate about a subject
2. learning is low-key because it comes as a natural process of simply reading a good book
3. allows exploration of a subject

## C. Considerations

1. not all subjects are covered at all times
2. very difficult to track work because very little is written
3. hard to follow a traditional scope and sequence

#### IV. Classical Approach

##### A. Characteristics

1. teaches the trivium
  - a) grammar stage
  - b) dialectic stage
  - c) rhetoric stage
2. rigorous academics
3. strong reading program

##### B. Advantages

1. follows stages of mental development
2. develops independent learners
3. teaches thinking skills

##### C. Considerations

1. very little prepared curriculum available
2. overemphasis on ancient disciplines and classics

#### V. Unschooling Approach

##### A. Characteristics

1. assumes children have an innate desire to learn
2. follows child's natural curiosity
3. less structured approach

##### B. Advantages

1. requires little planning
2. children are less likely to suffer from burnout
3. creates self-learners

## C. Considerations

1. hard to assess level of learning
2. neglects some subjects or areas of learning
3. children may not accomplish as much as parent anticipates

## VI. Resources

### A. Textbook Approach

1. A Beka Book, (877) 223-5226, [www.abeka.com](http://www.abeka.com)
2. Bob Jones University Press, (800) 845-5731, [www.bjup.com](http://www.bjup.com)
3. Alpha Omega, (800) 622-3070, [www.home-schooling.com](http://www.home-schooling.com)
4. Calvert, (888) 487-4652, [www.calvertschool.org](http://www.calvertschool.org)
5. Christian Liberty Academy School System (CLASS), (800) 348-0899, [www.class-homeschools.org](http://www.class-homeschools.org)
6. Christian Light Publications, (540) 434-0768, [www.anabaptists.org/clp](http://www.anabaptists.org/clp)
7. Rod and Staff Publishers, (606) 522-4348, [www.anabaptists.org/ras](http://www.anabaptists.org/ras)
8. School of Tomorrow, (800) 925-7777, [www.schooloftomorrow.com](http://www.schooloftomorrow.com)

### B. Unit Study Resources

1. *How to Create Your Own Unit Study*, Valerie Bendt
2. *Success with Unit Studies*, Valerie Bendt
3. *Unit Study Idea Book*, Valerie Bendt
4. *Unit Study Journal*, Amanda Bennett
5. Amanda Bennett Unit Studies

### C. Unit Studies

1. *Five in a Row* (PK-3rd)
2. *Weaver* (K-12)
3. KONUS and KONUS in a Box (K-9)
4. Life in America
5. Prairie Primer (based on *Little House* books) (grades 3-6)
6. *Where Brook and River Meet* (*Anne of Green Gables*) (gr. 7-12)
7. *One Week Off* Unit Studies (grades 3-12)
8. Teacher Created Materials – Thematic Units

- D. Living Books
  - 1. Sonlight Curriculum
  - 2. Beautiful Feet Guides
  - 3. Charlotte Mason Resources
    - a) *Original Homeschooling Series*, Charlotte Mason; 6 vol. original work by educator in Victorian England
    - b) *Charlotte Mason Study Guide*, Penny Gardner; topically studies and condenses Mason's own 6 volume set. A good book to start with.
    - c) *A Charlotte Mason Education and More Charlotte Mason Education*, Catherine Levinson; reveals how the method is applied subject by subject
    - d) *A Charlotte Mason Companion*, Karen Andreola; putting together the principles and practicals of Mason
    - e) *A Charlotte Mason Primer*, Cindy Rushton; from someone who has used and benefitted from the teaching and techniques of Mason. Another good starting place.
  - 4. *Educating the Whole Hearted Child*, Sally Clarkson
- E. Classical
  - 1. *The Well-Trained Mind*, Jessie Wise and Susan Wise Bauer
  - 2. *Teaching the Trivium*, Harvey and Laurie Bluedorn
  - 3. *Classical Education and Home School*, Douglas Wilson
- F. Unschooling
  - 1. *The Relaxed Home School*, Mary Hood
  - 2. *Joyful Home Schooler*, Mary Hood
  - 3. *Unschooling Handbook*, Mary Griffin
- G. *Christian Home Educators' Curriculum Manual*, Cathy Duffy
- H. *100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum*, Cathy Duffy
- I. *The Big Book of Home Learning*, Mary Pride
- J. *The Always Incomplete Resource Guide*, Lifetime Books catalog
- K. Rainbow Resources catalog

# Convention Help for the New Homeschooler



Please take questionnaire to the Smoothing the Way booth. An experienced homeschooler will consult with you briefly to help you make the most of your convention experience. You will receive recommendations on workshops to attend, as well as vendors targeting your specific needs. We are happy to answer any of your questions about homeschooling.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

What are the ages of your children? (include infants & toddlers) \_\_\_\_\_

Have you considered any of the following homeschooling approaches? (Mark all that apply.)

Textbook     Unit Studies     Living Book     Classical     Unschooling

Have you been considering a particular curriculum? If so, which one(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Have you purchased any curriculum? If so, which one(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your main reason for homeschooling? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any particular problems that have caused you to choose homeschooling, or that will impact your home schooling? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your main goal for being at the book fair today? \_\_\_\_\_

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List any specific questions or concerns you would like us to address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you currently a member of any homeschooling support group? If so, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

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