



THE HOMESCHOOL HUB PRESENTS

THE CALM START CHECKLIST

15 Things to Do

Before You Buy Curriculum

If you do these first, you'll save time, money, and stress —
and avoid buying what you won't use.

Save Time

Save Money

Reduce Stress

Clarify your why
Assess your capacity
Core vs. supplement
Find curriculum you can resell
Start with the minimum

Know your child's style
Research before buying
Plan for flexibility
Check prep requirements
Give yourself grace

Set a real budget
Identify non-negotiables
Build in rest + rhythm
Talk to real users
Remember: you're not behind

A calm, confident start matters more than the perfect program.

01 **Clarify Why You're Homeschooling**

- Write down your top 1–3 reasons (faith, flexibility, family, learning style, etc.).

Curriculum should serve your why, not fight it.

02 **Identify Your Non-Negotiables**

- Faith-based or secular
- Screen-light or tech-friendly
- Parent-led or more independent

This immediately narrows your options.

03 **Research Your State's Regulations & Requirements**

- Every state has different homeschool laws — know yours before you begin
- Topics to check: notice of intent, assessment requirements, record-keeping
- We recommend HSLDA.org for state-by-state guidance and legal support

Knowing the rules upfront protects your family and gives you peace of mind.

04 **Know Your Student's Learning Style**

- Hands-on
- Visual
- Auditory
- Movement-based

Curriculum that matches the learner = less resistance.

05 **Assess Your Capacity (Not Your Ideal Self)**

- Your available time
- Energy level
- Other responsibilities

Choose curriculum for real life, not Pinterest life.

06 **Decide How Much You Want to Teach vs. Outsource**

- List subjects you're happy to teach
- Note ones you may outsource now or later

You don't have to do everything yourself.

07 Set a Realistic Budget

- Core subjects
- Supplements
- Consider potential resale value

Budget clarity prevents impulse buys.

08 Learn the Difference Between Core and Supplement

- Core = daily backbone
- Supplement = enrichment

Many families overspend by confusing the two.

09 Research Before You Shop

- Watch flip-through videos
- Read honest reviews
- Look for 'what we stopped using' content

Avoid sales pages until you understand the product.

10 Look for Curriculum You Can Resell

- Choose programs with strong resale value — especially for core subjects

11 Start With the Minimum Effective Set

- Start with what's necessary, not everything that looks helpful

You can always add later.

12 Check How Much Prep Is Required

- Does this need daily prep?
- Weekly setup?
- Printing?

Low-prep options reduce burnout early on.

13 Consider How This Fits Your Weekly Rhythm

- Appointments and community days
- Rest days and flex time

Curriculum should flex with your life, not dominate it.

14 Talk to Someone Who's Actually Used It

- Reach out in homeschool groups or local communities

Real users > influencers.



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Give Yourself Permission to Adjust

- No curriculum is forever
- Choosing something now doesn't mean you're locked in



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Remember: You Are Not Behind

- You don't need everything figured out before you begin

A calm, confident start matters more than the 'perfect' program.

Final Reminder

Homeschooling success isn't about owning the right curriculum — it's about choosing tools that support your family, your season, and your calling.

Want help choosing curriculum without the overwhelm?

Book a personalized homeschool consultation or join our free community for continued support and encouragement.

thehomeschoolhub.net — [Getting Started Guide & Free Community](#)