



DYSLEXIA-FRIENDLY

BUYING HOMESCHOOL CURRICULUM

A COMPLETE GUIDE

©2019 Marianne Sunderland Homeschooling With Dyslexia

www.homeschoolingwithdyslexia.com

How to Use This Guide

This guide was created to give you tips and ideas for choosing the best homeschool curriculum for your students with dyslexia.

There are quite a few links to websites, articles, and other resources in the guide. These will be easiest to access using the digital version (the one you read on your computer, phone, or tablet). If you're like me and prefer to have a paper copy, go ahead and print it, but use your printed guide alongside a digital copy so you can click through to products and websites.

What's Inside the Guide

Choosing homeschool curriculum is a huge task made even more complicated by the unique learning needs of kids with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD.

This guide will help you know:

- What is important to focus on at each grade
- How to choose the best homeschool curriculum for your family's unique needs
- Recommendations of the best homeschool curriculum for kids with learning differences

ALL homeschool parents struggle to 'get it all done' but especially parents of kids who are not YET able to learn independently because of a delay in reading and writing.

This guide will help you know which areas to prioritize at each grade level. This will help you can use your limited time in the most efficient way possible.

IMPORTANT: No one can tell you exactly what to prioritize in your unique homeschool. There are too many variables to consider - ages, personalities, specific learning needs, parent's teaching style and energy level, time, finances, etc.

Two Kinds of Teaching: Remediation & Accommodation

Before we get started, you'll need to understand these two kinds of teaching because you will be focusing on each of them to different degrees during different stages of homeschooling.

Remediation

Remediation is building a strong foundation of learning - remedying the areas of need. This means that you may be teaching reading at what is technically below grade level if that is where your child needs to be taught.

Examples of remediation:

- Working on an Orton-Gillingham based reading program 4-5 week
- Reviewing sight words and phonograms daily
- Practicing letter formation and penmanship
- Practicing math facts daily (even in the higher grades)
- Practicing and mastering organizational strategies
- Practicing and mastering emotional regulation strategies

Being able to teach at the remedial level when necessary is one of the huge freedoms of homeschooling and is what sets homeschooled kids at a huge advantage over their public school peers who are being pushed ahead through the curriculum despite a lack of mastery.

Kids with dyslexia take a longer time to build a strong foundation so you will likely be doing this type of teaching with your dyslexic kids for longer than with your traditional learners.

Accommodations

Accommodations are tools and modifications to curriculum that help a student learn at their intellectual ability despite remaining weaknesses in their foundation.

Examples of accommodations:

- Allowing a child to listen to their science text book or literature assignment instead of reading it because, while they are completely capable of understanding the content of the assignment, their difficulty in decoding (reading) it would take much longer and comprehension would be compromised.
- Allowing extended time on tests because students with dyslexia often take longer to read and comprehend material.
- Allowing the use of tablets or computers with speech-to-text or spell checking software for written assignments.

Priorities & Curriculum Choices Through The Grade Levels

Meeting the varied educational needs of a houseful of kids is challenging. This guide will walk you through what to prioritize at each grade level by taking a broad view of cognitive development at each stage.

Narrowing our focus to what is the most important at each age will help us to eliminate unnecessary activities and get the most important things done as well as help you decide which curriculum to buy.

Next the guide will make recommendations for curriculum that work well at each grade level. This guide is broken up into the following sections:

- Elementary School: Pre K - 5th Grades
- Middle School: 6-8th Grades
- High School: 9-12th Grades

Priorities: Preschool and Elementary School

1. Building a foundation for learning
2. Reading aloud
3. Free time and outside play

During the elementary years, your primary focus will be on remediation. You are building the foundation of your child's learning.

This includes things like:

- structured reading, spelling, and writing instruction, and
- grade level math instruction

Priorities during this age range should be on building a foundation of reading and math skills.

Kids with dyslexia - even with early intervention - can have a slower growth rate than their peers. This is normal and to be expected.

Many families come to me overwhelmed with the time it takes to teach their young dyslexic learners. How do we fit it all in? The simple answer is that at this age - we don't!

The learning of history, science and the arts can be approached with the primary goal of gaining exposure, not mastery.

While there are many wonderful history and science curricula available, they are, as Charlotte Mason famously said, your tools - not your master. So yes, if you want to study Anatomy with your elementary aged kids, do it!

However, you do not need to follow every chapter of an anatomy textbook, or administer tests, quizzes and other assessments. Your focus can be on exposing your elementary aged kids to new concepts, talking about them, observing them in the books you read, places you go, learning the vocabulary, perhaps drawing them, or making some kind of presentation on them, or some other interesting hands-on project if time permits.

Look for supplements to enhance their learning of history and science that aren't teacher intensive such as relevant field trips, documentaries, or short unit studies that can be done with all of your kids.

The Read Aloud

Reading aloud to kids has a variety of amazing benefits:

1. Increases vocabulary and understanding of sophisticated language patterns.
2. Instills moral lessons and heroic values.
3. Inspires imagination.
4. Instills a lifelong love of reading.

This quote from Jim Trelease, author of *The Read Aloud Handbook*, sums up the importance of reading out loud to kids.

“People would stand in line for days and pay hundreds of dollars if there were a pill that could do everything for a child that reading aloud does. It expands their interest in books, vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, and attention span. Simply put, it’s a free ‘oral vaccine’ for literacy.”

Reading aloud (or listening to audio books) is especially important for kids who learn to read later.

Free Play and Outside Time

Most studies agree that kids who play outside are smarter, happier, more attentive, and less anxious than kids who spend more time indoors. While it's unclear why exactly this is, there are a few things we do know about why nature is good for kids' minds.

1. It builds confidence. The way that kids play in nature has a lot less structure than most types of indoor play. From the backyard, to the park, to the local hiking trail, kids are free to choose how they interact with the outdoors. Building forts, planting gardens, raising animals - following their interests - builds confidence.
2. It promotes creativity and imagination. This unstructured style of play also allows kids to interact meaningfully with their surroundings. They can think more freely, design their own activities, and approach the world in inventive ways.
3. It teaches responsibility. Living things die if mistreated or not taken care of properly, and entrusting a child to take care of the living parts of their environment means they'll learn what happens when they forget to water a plant, or pull a flower out by its roots.
4. It provides different stimulation. Nature may seem less stimulating than highly animated video games, but in reality, it activates more senses—you can see, hear, smell, and touch outdoor environments.
5. It gets kids moving. Most ways of interacting with nature involve more exercise than when indoors. Even a simple walk gets kids' blood pumping. Exercise isn't just good for kids' bodies, it can also make them more focused, which is especially beneficial for kids with ADHD.

6. It makes them think. Nature creates a unique sense of wonder for kids that no other environment can provide. Observing the outdoors naturally in backyards and parks everyday make kids ask questions about the earth and the life that it supports.
7. It reduces stress and fatigue. According to the Attention Restoration Theory, urban environments require what's called directed attention, which forces us to ignore distractions and exhausts our brains. In natural environments, we practice an effortless type of attention known as soft fascination that creates feelings of pleasure, not fatigue.

Getting outside everyday should be a major focus for our kids in the elementary years.



From Marianne:

*“During these early years when our kids are slowly mastering the basics, it is important not to compare your homeschool to others. When we compare ourselves to what traditional learners in public, private, or homeschool are doing it can be easy to get anxious and think that that can’t possibly **be enough.**”*

Remember, your kids are keeping their confidence in tact and pursuing meaningful, relevant learning. Simple, meaningful, even play-based, learning is very good. Don’t compare yourself!”

Introducing Accommodations With Basic Assistive Technology

Simple forms of assistive technology can be introduced during the elementary years when needed. This includes things like audio books, multiplication cheat sheets, and simple speech to text apps that convert the spoken word into the written word.

[See this post on the best forms of assistive technology for kids with dyslexia.](#) Summary: K - 5 the primary focus is on:

Summary: K - 5 the primary focus is on:

- Building the foundation of reading with an Orton-Gillingham reading program or experienced dyslexia tutor
- Building the foundation of math - relationships of numbers, hands on learning, learning facts with strategies or song and lots of repetition
- Exposure to ideas of history and science with a focus on field trips, literature, and hands-on projects
- Reading aloud or listening to lots of good books
- Lots of time for creative unstructured play - outside is a plus

[Related: Best Sources for Audio Books](#)

Homeschool Curriculum Recommendations for Preschool - 5th Grade

Homeschool Preschool & Kindergarten

Simple Ways to Homeschool Preschool & Kindergarten at Home

Homeschooling kids this age can and should be simple.

The following are some of the everyday things you as a parent can do to nurture your child at this age:

- Lots and lots of reading aloud. Encourage your kids' love for books by taking time to read each day.
- Encourage your child to help with simple chores like folding dish clothes, putting away silverware, sweeping with a small broom and putting away their toys.
- Playing with siblings is a fantastic way to teach and encourage appropriate behavior while playing. Help them to learn the value of sharing and friendship.
- Help develop good language skills by speaking in complete sentences and using "grown up" words. Talk about everything – what you're doing, seeing, cooking and reading. Fill their minds with lots of interesting conversations.
- As your kids become more, how shall we say...assertive (ahem), try allowing them to make simple choices (for example, deciding what to wear, when to play, and what to eat for snack).
- Utilize multi-sensory learning. Multi-sensory learning, simply put, is teaching that is done using as many of the five senses as possible. By seeing, touching, hearing, smelling, and yes, tasting while you learn, information is learned much more efficiently.

Remember when you counted the days until your first-born learned to walk? Then with your second and third children, you relaxed more, knowing that they would eventually walk. Relax, have fun, enjoy your kids!

Because our younger kids looked up to their older siblings, and wanted to sit at the school table with them, I gathered a variety of free downloadable worksheets slipped into sheet protectors so they could 'do school' with their big brothers and sisters.

Curriculum Recommendations for Preschool & Kindergarten

One of the most practical guides to teaching preschool and kindergarten is [Ruth Beechick's The 3 Rs](#). These 3 small books contain tons of practical ways to teach using everyday experiences and materials.

Teaching Math

Think hands on math for any math resources you are considering.

Young kids have a hard time with the abstract concept of number symbols but when they build math, they understand it. There are oodles of hands-on math resources available to help you make math meaningful for your young children. Use your imagination and turn play time into learning time by counting, adding and subtracting as you play cars, Play-Doh or blocks. Your kids will love you for it!

Everyday experiences can be some of the most meaningful ways of learning. Have kids count any and everything. Point out colors and play "I Spy" with colors while in the car or just hanging out at the breakfast table.

[Some of our favorite Hands On Math Resources](#)

Teaching math in the early years is best done using a multi-sensory curriculum such as [Math-U-See](#). This simple, yet effective curriculum uses base-ten manipulatives that your child will use to build most of the concepts taught,

followed by saying the concept, followed by writing and coloring the concept or number. It includes a teacher's DVD that explains how to teach each concept.

Other hands-on, multi-sensory math curricula are:

[Right Start Math](#)

[Touch Math](#)

Teaching Pre-Reading Skills

If you've been around the [Homeschooling With Dyslexia](#) website for long, you will know that 7 of my 8 children are dyslexic. [Learn more about the early signs of dyslexia here.](#) When our first born was diagnosed with dyslexia some 17 years ago, we were encouraged to wait it out – that he was just a late bloomer.

Research has proven that waiting for your delayed reader is NOT the best thing. In fact, [early intervention for struggling readers is super important.](#)

Teaching Phonemic Awareness

The best place to start preparing your young learners to read is to teach Phonemic Awareness. Phonemic Awareness is possibly one of the most critical skills that a preschool child can acquire. It is the ability to hear the individual sounds in words. Most children can hear, understand and repeat the word 'cat'. However, not all of them can understand that the word 'cat' is made up of three distinct sounds /c/ /a/ /t/.

Research has shown that kids who lack phonemic awareness when they enter the school years are more likely to struggle learning to read.

Resources for Teaching Phonemic Awareness

[All About Reading Pre-Level 1](#) full of games and hands-on activities for teaching phonemic awareness easily and affordably.

[Phonemic Awareness in Young Children](#) is a classic phonemic awareness text that is full of a wide range of exercises for practicing phonemic awareness skills.

[Logic of English: Foundations or Essentials](#)

Both Logic of English [Foundations levels \(for kids 4-7\)](#) and [Essentials level \(for kids 8+\)](#) incorporate a wide variety of techniques for improving both phonemic awareness as well as auditory discrimination. Note, these are complete reading programs that include phonemic awareness exercises into their daily lessons.

[Barton Reading and Spelling: Level 1](#)

Level 1 of the Barton Reading & Spelling program is an excellent phonemic awareness program. It is perfect for older kids who still need practice with phonemic awareness because there are no illustrations. Unlike other programs, Barton Reading and Spelling level 1 includes advanced phonemic awareness practice. This is a pricey program. If the cost is prohibitive, try to find used copies on eBay, etc.

[The Phonological Awareness Bundle](#) from The Literacy Nest (via Teachers Pay Teachers) is an excellent phonemic awareness program with tons of creative, hands-on activities for teaching. It includes phoneme manipulation as well as early and basic phonemic awareness activities. For \$36 you get a LOT of games and activities to practice.

[Phonemic Awareness by Literacy Resources](#) An excellent open and go curriculum.

[Or try one of these Phonemic Awareness Apps](#)

Teaching Reading

Using the [Orton-Gillingham Approach](#) is the best method for teaching reading to a dyslexic child and, in fact, will help any child enjoy learning to read. Choose a solid, well-regarded multi-sensory curriculum will help you know what to teach and when.

The Top 4 Homeschool Reading Curriculum for Students With Dyslexia

[All About Reading](#) All About Reading and their spelling program All About Spelling are hands on, simultaneously multisensory introduction into the written word. Lessons are completely scripted so there is little prep time for mom. Specifically designed for the homeschooled student that struggles with reading, this program has all of the elements of an Orton-Gillingham research-based reading program.

[Read my complete review of All About Reading here.](#)

[Barton Reading](#) Another one-on-one reading tutoring system, completely scripted for easy parent use and Orton-Gillingham based.

[Logic of English](#) A comprehensive, completely scripted reading, spelling, handwriting and grammar program based on the Orton-Gillingham approach. The Foundations levels are geared for ages 4-7 and include a daily variety of phonemic awareness and truly kinesthetic review activities.

[Reading Horizons at Home](#) Reading Horizons is an excellent online Orton-Gillingham reading program. There are two levels:

- [Discovery \(for ages 4-9\)](#)
- [Elevate \(for ages 10+\)](#)

Confused about which reading curriculum is right for your family?

[See this comprehensive comparison guide to the top four homeschool reading programs for kids with dyslexia.](#)

Teaching Handwriting

Lots of kids with dyslexia will struggle big time with the physical act of writing – also known as dysgraphia. Some of my dyslexic kids loved to write and draw while others hated it because it was so hard. Keeping a relaxed attitude and introducing writing in a fun and non-threatening way is the best attitude to take during the early years. Things we have used to ease our kids into handwriting:

- Dry erase pens, boards and age-appropriate worksheets slipped into plastic page protectors
- Simple workbooks that allow for tracing of letters
- [Handwriting Without Tears](#)
- [Rhythm of Writing](#)

[Related article: Should you Teach Cursive First?](#)

Teaching History

The main way that I like to teach my younger kids about History is through historical fiction. Kids love to read about Nathaniel Bowditch on the high seas or Thomas Edison's many attempts at inventing the lightbulb.

For a more systematic approach to teaching history, we love the Story of the World series from Susan Wise Bauer. I buy the audio CDs and the Activity books that include tons of fun, hands on activities that relate to the history stories.

Other literature-based History programs are:

[Story of the World](#)

[Mystery of History](#)

[Beautiful Feet Literature Guides](#)

[Five in a Row](#) The four volumes of Five in a Row contain 70 literature based unit studies covering Social Studies, Geography, Language Arts, Applied Math, Science and Art in a way that causes children to fall in love with learning. Read each book once a week (5 days in a row) and choose an activity to teach along with the story.

Teaching Science

I highly encourage you to stay away from most kinds of textbook learning during the elementary ages. Kids can learn so much about Science through hands on learning. Plant a garden, get a kitten (or an ant farm for the non-animal lovers out there!). Let your kids help in the kitchen (both the cooking and the cleaning).

If you do choose a textbook or curriculum, remember that you do not need to be bound to complete every lesson or do tests and quizzes unless that is something that you and your kids would enjoy.

[Apologia](#)

[Science Shepherd](#)

[Science Fusion Homeschool](#): From Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and includes interactive features, embedded video, clickable write-in responses, and more. A full online science curriculum, including digital lessons, virtual labs, Video-based Projects, animations, simulations, and access to science eTextbooks.

Everything Else

Pretty much everything else your younger child needs to learn can be taught with a combination of reading aloud and real life.

Science concepts:

- Plant a garden – nature walks, create a nature table
- Get a pet
- Or for the less adventurous, get an ant farm, a polliwog or caterpillar/butterfly kits
- Simple cooking – consider buying child-sized implements

Physical coordination and life skills:

- Wash dishes
- Help fold laundry – towels are a good place to start
- Sweep and dust
- Dress up and make believe play

Games

There is so much to be learned through game playing!

Classic physical games such as jump rope not only help develop a child's body and brain, but through reciting rhythmic jump rope rhymes, a child is also developing memory and language skills.

Music

- listen and singing
- finger plays
- rhythm instruments
- play silks for dance

Art

- Painting
- Drawing
- Handwork
- Crafts help develop a child's fine motor skills.

More Posts on Homeschooling in the Early Years:

- [The Importance of Early Intervention in Overcoming Dyslexia](#)
- [Homeschool Preschool: Curriculum and Methods](#)
- [Hands On Activities for Teaching The Alphabet](#)
- [Teaching Phonemic Awareness](#)
- [How to Teach Blending to Early Readers](#)



What About Socialization?

I really believe that the fear of a lack of socialization in our homeschooled kids stems from a misunderstanding of what a day in the life of a homeschooled child entails. Just because they are not in a classroom does not mean that they are not around people!

Dr. Raymond Moore, author of over 60 books and articles on human development, has done extensive research on homeschooling and socialization.

“The idea that children need to be around many other youngsters in order to be ‘socialized is perhaps the most dangerous and extravagant myth in education and child rearing today.” Dr. Raymond Moore

Children often do not respond well to large groups. They become nervous and over-excited by noise and too many people. Learning can become difficult. Behavioral problems can develop. After analyzing over 8,000 early childhood studies, Dr. Moore concluded that, contrary to popular belief, *children are best socialized by parents — not other children.*

When 20 or 30 kids of the same age are in a classroom together day after day the peer pressure is enormous. Kids feel like they need to look and sound and be like everyone else, at the risk of forgetting or never discovering who they really are. This results in rivalry, ridicule, and competition – hardly the environment for healthy socialization.

A homeschooler who interacts with parents and siblings more than with peers displays self-confidence, self-respect, and self-worth. She knows she's a part of a family unit that needs, wants, and depends on her. The result is an independent thinker who isn't influenced by peers and is self-directed in her actions and thoughts.

Never underestimate the power of a loving home and a motivated parent to provide the best educational experience for your child!

Homeschool Curriculum Recommendations Grades 1-5

First Things First

We are homeschooling our kids because the ‘one-size-fits-all’ teaching of the public and most private schools doesn’t work for our kids who learn differently.

It is not my intention to create another set of unrealistic expectations for you as homeschool parents, but rather to offer some insights on what you may be experiencing and some ways that we have been able to encourage enjoyable and individualized learning in our home full of dyslexic learners.

Daily Dos

Before we get to curriculum choices and learning styles, here are a few things that are priorities in our homeschool. These are non-academic areas that I have observed make for well-rounded, happier kids.

Reading Aloud

Because many dyslexic kids at this age are not able to read independently, it is vitally important to make reading aloud good literature a daily habit. Reading aloud (or allowing the use of good quality audio books) fosters a love and appreciation for books and reading as well as exposing young learners to vocabulary and increasingly complicated sentence structures. Consider practicing the gentle art of narration (telling back what you’ve heard) with your kids during and after read aloud time.

Limit Screen Time

This is more of a daily don't. It can be tempting for busy homeschool moms to get a little quiet by allowing kids to play on computer games or tablets but [research has shown](#) that screen time can have negative effects on young learners, especially those with attention issues like ADD or ADHD.

Provide Plenty of Time to Play

With the recent adoption of Common Core teaching in many American states, we are seeing less and less down time or play time being provided to kids even in these early grades. Honestly, the negative impact of this change is enough reason to homeschool any child in my humble opinion! Play time, especially outdoor play, [has been linked to many lifelong benefits](#).

Encourage Independent Learning

Kids with dyslexia can have a harder time with independent learning than kids who are confident readers. All kids are different. Some will naturally be more independent, however, I encourage you to find tasks, math fact practice, handwriting or copy work practice or something that your kids ages 6 – 9 can do independently and start having them do a little independent work each day. Highly praise and encourage this behavior!

Hands on Learning

This is what can really set your homeschool apart from the public and even private schools. Most people, and especially kids of this age range, love to learn by doing. This kind of multi-sensory learning taps in to physical, visual and auditory pathways which activates more areas of the brain and results in a better, more long lasting memory of learning.

Foster Friendships

Kids at this age are becoming more social. Homeschooling families need to be intentional about providing sources of friendship for their kids. Most homeschool families never have a problem with this but it bears mentioning. Joining a small Cub Scout pack has been a huge source of social and emotional growth for my 8-year old son who was lacking in these areas. Other sources for friends are churches, homeschool groups or co-ops, sports teams, robotic or programming clubs etc.

Learning to Take Responsibility

Kids at this age should be given simple and increasingly elaborate chores and household responsibilities. Make lists and have them begin to take responsibility for their bedrooms, toys, clothing and pets. We assign each child a small patch of garden every springtime. This helps them to practice daily care and they love harvesting the fruit of their labor!

Learning Self Control

I have often said that character training is a subject just like reading, writing and math. I mean, we spend plenty of time every day teaching these things anyway, right? Looking at character training as less of an inconvenience and more of a daily-do will help you to have the right attitude when those training opportunities arise.

Homeschool Curriculum Recommendations for Grades 1-5

Character Training

Parents, especially homeschooling parents, will spend an enormous amount of time correcting behavior. Even the most easy-going of kids will need to be taught to think of others before themselves, and to be patient and kind. One powerful way to teach this most important of subjects is through the reading of good literature. Don't let your kids' reading lags stop this from happening.

Resources for Quality Read Aloud Materials

[The Read Aloud Revival at Amongst Lovely Things](#)

[Sonlight](#)

[Veritas Press](#)

[Ambleside Online](#)

Teaching Reading

The most important thing for homeschooling parents of kids with dyslexia to remember is to teach your kids at their ability level, which will likely not be their grade level. In my posts on homeschooling [Preschool](#) and [Kindergarten](#), I talked about the importance of laying a strong foundation in [phonemic awareness](#) in young children.

Not to worry, if you are just beginning to understand that your child is dyslexic, all of the programs that I recommend will teach phonemic awareness in their early levels if that is a skill your child needs help with.

All kids with dyslexia can learn to read with the right methods. The method with the strongest track record for teaching kids with dyslexia to read is Orton-Gillingham. [To learn more fully about the Orton-Gillingham \(or OG\) Approach to teaching reading, read this post.](#)

The [Homeschooling With Dyslexia website](#) is full of articles on teaching reading. If you're still wondering how to teach your child with dyslexia to read, read these:

[Is it Dyslexia? Signs and Symptoms of Dyslexia](#)

[How Dyslexics Learn: Teaching to the Dyslexic Strengths](#)

[Reading Methods That Work With Dyslexia](#)

[How to Teach Sight Words to Kids With Dyslexia](#)

[Building Fluency in Dyslexic Readers](#)

Best Reading Programs for Homeschooling Kids With Dyslexia

There are several affordable, effective, research-based programs that can be used at home without becoming a certified dyslexia tutor. Here are our top picks:

[All About Reading](#) All About Reading and their spelling program All About Spelling are hands on, simultaneously multisensory introduction into the written word. Lessons are completely scripted so there is little prep time for mom. Specifically designed for the homeschooled student that struggles with reading, this program has all of the elements of an Orton-Gillingham research-based reading program. [Read my complete review of All About Reading here.](#)

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Confused about which reading curriculum is right for your family? [See this comprehensive comparison guide to the top four homeschool reading programs for kids with dyslexia.](#)

Reading and Spelling Supplements

These are not stand alone curricula but they are great for extra practice or review:

[Nessy Reading and Spelling](#) Developed by a team of specialist teachers and psychologists to help children with dyslexia and reading disabilities.

[Raz-kids.com](#) The leveled books have listening, reading, and comprehension questions. “My son loves listening to books even far above his independent reading level.”

[Mindplay](#) A comprehensive, online reading program that covers virtually all aspects of reading, including phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, grammar & meaning, fluency, and comprehension.

[See to Spell](#) Highly visual method for learning to spell sight words

Writing Curriculum for Elementary Students

[Institute for Excellence in Writing](#) (IEW) Try All Things Fun and Fascinating for your beginning writers.

[Write Shop Junior](#) A wonderful, fun but comprehensive writing program for elementary kids. [See my review here.](#)

[Just Write](#) – from Educators Publishing Service. These books provide a nice easy introduction and implementation of the writing process that is then gently practiced again and again throughout the workbooks.

[Essentials in Writing](#) Video-based and gentle approach to writing and grammar.

Literature Resources

[Moving Beyond the Page](#) Moving Beyond the Page has 12 literature packages for the year. It's all in one spelling, grammar, vocabulary and reading comprehension.

[Total Language Plus](#) Using quality literature and integrates the separate parts of language arts: spelling, vocabulary, grammar, and writing, as well as critical thinking and communication.

Best Math Programs for Homeschooling Kids With Dyslexia

[Math-U-See](#) An uncomplicated, hands-on, time-tested program for teaching math. Children learn each mathematical concept by building it, writing it and saying it. Used with base 10 math manipulatives, many dyslexic children find success with Math U See.

[Teaching Textbooks](#) (beginning in 3rd grade) Like having the 'good' math teacher year after year. Teaching Textbooks is computer based (no Internet required). Each lesson is taught and followed by 5 practice problems. Kids then work each lesson right on the computer. Immediate feedback allows students to watch the solution to any incorrect answers – after 2 tries. [Read my complete review of Teaching Textbooks here.](#)

[Right Start Math](#) Another hands-on program that de-emphasizes counting, uses visualization of quantities, and provides strategies and visual pictures for learning the facts. Understanding and problem solving are emphasized throughout the curriculum. The primary learning tool is the Abacus, a specially designed two-sided abacus that is both kinesthetic and visual.

[Touch Math](#) A highly visual, hands on program designed for kids who struggle with math.

Fun and (mostly) free math resources:

- cook a recipe
- play a math game
- play a board game
- download a math app or game
- play store with a toy cash register

Math Supplements

These resources are not stand alone curricula but are useful for use as a supplement or review:

[Times Tales](#) is amazing for dealing with memorization of times tables. Taps into the visual learning strengths of many dyslexics.

[Mathantics.com](#) for great explanations of mathematical processes.

[Life of Fred](#) Funny, math-based stories that teach and entertain!

[ProdigyGame.com](#) Free math skills games.

[ST Math](#) Created by a dyslexic. Great for enhancing math sense.

[Hands on Equations](#) Lesson plans are laid out and there is a DVD that explains each lesson using a tactile/kinesthetic approach to learning which can be very helpful to a child with learning challenges.

[KahnAcademy.org](#) for help understanding concepts or problems.

Best History Programs for Homeschooling Kids With Dyslexia

Since most kids with dyslexia won't be reading independently at this age, it will be important to find an enjoyable history program that can be read aloud or listened to on CD.

[Story of the World](#) by Susan Weiss Bauer This program is available in paperback book with an optional CD version and a comprehensive curriculum guide and activity book that contains map activities, coloring pages, games, projects, review questions, cross-references to illustrated encyclopedias, and extensive book lists. Children and parents love the activities, ranging from cooking projects to crafts, board games to science experiments, and puzzles to projects.

[Beautiful Feet](#) Learn history through literature with Beautiful Feet History Guides.

[Five in a Row](#) The four volumes of Five in a Row contain 70 literature based unit studies covering Social Studies, Geography, Language Arts, Applied Math, Science and Art in a way that causes children to fall in love with learning. Read each book once a week (5 days in a row) and choose an activity to teach along with the story.

Fun and (mostly) free history resources:

No need to bore your kids to tears with history. Teach your kids with real learning. Especially in the early grades, history should be more about exposure to ideas than learning names and dates. Captivate your kids imaginations with:

- read quality historical fiction
- take field trips to historical sites or museums
- play a history or geography game
- create a timeline and add events and people as you learn throughout the years
- watch historical movies or documentaries

Best Science Programs for Elementary School

If you want to use a curriculum for Science, here are some of our favorites:

[Apologia Exploring Creation Young Explorers Series](#) For grades K-6. This is a Christian curriculum that teaches about science from a creationist point of view. Program comes with ideas for hands on projects. Optional Science Journals available.

[Five in a Row](#) The four volumes of Five in a Row contain 70 literature based unit studies covering Social Studies, Geography, Language Arts, Applied Math, Science and Art in a way that causes children to fall in love with learning. Read each book once a week (5 days in a row) and choose an activity to teach along with the story.

[Science Shepherd](#) Online and video-based with simple experiments and workbooks. This is a good introduction to more formal science for the older elementary aged child.

[Mystery Science](#) Video-based, open and go science curriculum for kids K-5.

Fun and (mostly) free science resources:

- read living science books
- get outside and study nature
- get a book of simple science experiments to do at home
- visit a science museum or zoo
- watch a science documentary or educational show
- read biographies of scientists

Best Handwriting Programs for Homeschooling Kids With Dyslexia

Many kids with dyslexia will also struggle with the physical act of writing – also known as dysgraphia. Taking a relaxed approach to writing is not only doable as a homeschooler but is advisable. Start handwriting by having your child trace letters in a shallow tray of salt or sand or trace sandpaper letters. Move to dry erase pens on a whiteboard after that.

[Handwriting Without Tears](#) (check out their iPad app!) Designed for kids who are struggling with learning to write.

[Italic Series](#) A simple font that is easy to read and easy to write.

[Logic of English](#) Foundations reading program for ages 4-7 includes handwriting instruction.



A Few Thoughts on Grade Levels and Falling Behind in the Homeschool

If you talk to a burned out homeschool parent of a dyslexic child, it is pretty common that their educational goals for their kids – goals to be *at or above 'grade level'* – are making them crazy.

It isn't until parents begin to move from an achievement mentality to a progress/mastery mentality they begin to find the freedom and enjoyment of homeschooling.

What do I mean by a progress/mastery mentality?

Most homeschoolers need to shed the 'school-at-home' mentality in order to create a home learning environment in which their kids can thrive. This is never more true than for the homeschool family teaching kids with dyslexia.

It doesn't really matter how much you, or any well-meaning family member, wants your child to be reading at his or her 'grade level'. If they aren't able to do it – you have to teach them, *faithfully*, at their current level until they get there. Is your child making progress? Are they mastering their subjects – regardless of what grade level they're working on?

Read these posts for more information on:

[Setting Goals for Your Dyslexic Homeschooler](#), and
[How to Know if You're Doing Enough](#)

Priorities: Middle School: 6 - 8 Grades

The middle school years are transitional in many ways. There are significant physical and emotional changes that are taking place during these years that were part of the reason that middle schools were started in the first place. Middle school students from 6th through 8th grade don't quite have an elementary school mindset and are not quite ready for high school.

Middle school is a time to help our kids understand their growing minds and bodies and also to begin to prepare our kids for higher level learning that will be required of them as high school students. This understanding has been helpful for me as I plan for how to homeschool my dyslexic middle schoolers.

We focus a lot on experiential, hands-on learning in the younger years. We learn History by reading good literature. We learn Science by planting a garden, studying nature, raising animals and doing simple experiments. We learn to organize our thoughts for writing by practicing writing's precursor, narration.

Homeschooling middle school is a time of transition to a future of more independent learning. Since I am homeschooling with the end in mind, I am looking in the middle school years to what skills my kids will need as they enter in to their high school years.



TIP: Find a Healthy Peer Group

*"I realize that this doesn't have a whole lot to do with curriculum but **it is so important**, it bears stating. Many middle school kids are increasingly social. They like to bounce ideas of kids their age. Loneliness can be one of the big pitfalls of homeschooling. If our kids are entering the middle school years, I prioritize learning opportunities whether it be joining a homeschool group or co-op or class that will help my kids foster healthy, like-minded friendships."*

~ Marianne, HomeschoolingWithDyslexia.com

Middle School Magic

These are the years when kids are beginning to gain mastery in reading and math. UNLIKE their peers that learn traditionally who learned this much earlier. I call this 'middle school magic'.

Although they may not be reading independently at grade level in the early years - most kids with dyslexia will get there during this stage. You may be surprised at how quickly they are able to 'catch up' with their peers during the middle school years.

They have the vocabulary and awareness of complex sentence structures from years of listening to audio books or being reading to, they have a basic knowledge of science and history, they are becoming increasingly fluent readers, and now they are equipped to put it all together.

Academic Changes in Middle School

The middle school years are marked by an increased academic load. Organized writing becomes important. Higher levels of math reasoning are taught. Middle school kids are also continuing to develop a sense of world history and general science concepts.

The Role of Remediation in Middle School

This will vary depending on your unique child. Some kids still aren't reading with great accuracy. Some are reading with accuracy but lack fluency. Many will be able to read but still not enjoy it.

If reading accuracy and fluency is not strong, you will need to keep remediating. I often recommend hiring an experienced dyslexia tutor or educational therapist for kids this age who are still not reading fluently.

In our home, middle school remediations have been:

- Continuing with an Orton-Gillingham reading program
- Finding a certified dyslexia tutor
- Modifying curriculum to the child's ability
- Working one-on-one in other trouble spots like math and spelling

Middle school is also the time when I begin to introduce more in the way of accommodations. Accommodations will help kids become more independent learners.

[Read more about helping the older struggling reader here.](#)

Accommodations for the Dyslexic Middle School Child

Accommodations are tools that we give our kids so that they can express themselves at their intellectual ability despite their slow or inaccurate reading, writing and spelling skills.

I love how Brock and Fernette Eides of The Dyslexic Advantage look at accommodations. As a wheel chair requires a ramp to enter a building, so a dyslexic learner needs accommodations to show what they really know.

Remember, if the goal of our instruction is that our kids gain knowledge – what difference does it make how they attain that knowledge?

[Read this post for more information on accommodations that are helpful for students with dyslexia.](#)

It is in the middle school years that I ramp up on the accommodations, introducing helpful technologies so that my kids can continue to learn at an increasingly complex level as independently as possible.

Accommodations we have used in middle school:

- audio books
- curricula with audio and video components
- text-to-speech apps
- speech-to-text apps
- spell checking apps
- allowing narration of papers (in the absence of speech-to-text apps)

Increasing Accommodations With Assistive Technology

The middle school years are an excellent time to include the use of assistive technology. This allows students to work more independently.

One example of assistive technology is the use of text-to-speech. As the level of writing increases in middle school, the writing style of kids who struggle to spell will be vastly different than those that don't. What do you do when you can't spell a word? Choose a different word that is easier to spell!

By allowing kids access to speech-to-text apps and programs, you give them the ability to compose at their creative and intellectual ability without the help of mom, dad, or siblings as spell checker and scribe!

Other forms of AT that are helpful:

- phonetic spell checkers
- word prediction software
- speech-to-text
- math mod - for dysgraphia
- Livescribe pens for note taking

[See this post for a list of the best assistive technology for students with dyslexia and how to introduce them to your kids.](#)

Setting Goals for the Dyslexic Middle School Child

The beauty of homeschooling kids with dyslexia is the freedom to create individualized lessons for our kids. In that vein, it would be somewhat pointless for me to list a set of 'goals for middle school students'.

However, by looking forward to the skills we want our kids to have before they leave home, we can set some long term goals and then work backwards to set individualized goals for our kids today.

These are some of the long terms goals for our homeschool family:

- Be able to take notes during a lecture or talk of some kind
- Be able to write a 5 paragraph essay (I said long term – stop freaking out!)
- Be able to learn from a textbook
- Be able to take a test confidently
- Be able to discuss ideas articulately
- Be able to manage time effectively
- Be able to perform higher level math
- Be able to understand their learning strengths and weaknesses
- Be able to fluently use assistive technology where needed
- Understand the flow of History
- Understand the vocabulary and workings of basic physical and life sciences

Summary: Middle School: Grades 6-8: The Primary Focus is on:

- Continued remediation in reading and math, if necessary
- Building writing skills - involves how to organize ideas - use their natural bent for argumentation for choosing topics - choose topics of interest to them to motivate
- More focused study of history and science - consider creating a timeline of history and using Quizlet to study science vocabulary
- Developing areas of strength to boost confidence
- Find a healthy peer group



Pursuing Interests in Middle School

"I cannot emphasize enough how important it is at this age to help your kids find something they are good at. Kids who may not be excelling in academic pursuits should have something that they are gaining mastery in at this age.

It could be raising animals, any form of music or the arts, sports, science, scouting, speech and debate, etc. Middle school kids are becoming more and more self-aware. These years are marked by kids comparing themselves to others. Having something that they are good at will help tremendously during this time."

~ Marianne, HomeschoolingWithDyslexia.com

Middle School Curriculum Recommendations

These are curricula that our family has used and enjoyed. That being said, some kids liked them more than others depending on their preferred style of learning. These are suggestions not absolutes. You will need to experiment with your kids to find a good fit.

Language Arts Curriculum

Reading:

[All About Reading](#): An Orton-Gillingham based curriculum that teaches the way kids with dyslexia learn.

[Reading Horizons](#): The Reading Horizons Elevate online program is an excellent Orton-Gillingham based curriculum for older struggling readers age 10 and up. Our young teens have used this successfully as a form of remediation. [Read this post for my complete review of Reading Horizons Elevate program.](#)

Spelling:

[All About Spelling](#): An Orton-Gillingham based spelling program from the makers of All About Reading.

[Sequential Spelling](#): Not O-G but uses a systematic way to find the patterns in words. Many dyslexics love this program.

Grammar:

[Easy Grammar](#): An easy to use program that teaches parts of speech by first recognizing prepositions and prepositional phrases.

[Daily Grams](#): Short daily practice in punctuation, capitalization and other basic sentence writing rules.

[Winston Grammar](#): A hands on approach to learning parts of speech.

Writing:

[Write Shop Junior](#): Recommended for up to 6th grade but can be useful in delayed 7th or 8th graders. This is an excellent introduction to the writing method. Systematic instruction that is fun!

[Jump In: A Workbook for Reluctant and Eager Writers](#): Recommended for grades 6-8.

Literature:

[Progeny Press](#): Literature guides by grade level. Choose several to go through per year.

[Sonlight](#): A literature-based curriculum full of wonderful living books. Many people use their reading lists to create their own curriculum or read aloud schedules.

Math:

[Math U See](#): A hands-on approach to math.

[Teaching Textbooks](#): No reading required. Lessons presented in video format. Enter the answers to each problem write in to the computer. Learn the correct way to do missed problems immediately.

History:

[Switched on Schoolhouse](#): A computerized program that is purchased by subject. Pick a subject or two that your middle schooler might be interested in to teach them how to learn from a traditional textbook format.

[Story of the World](#): History taught through story. Get the activity book to round out this curriculum with hands on activities and living books that correspond to the period of History that you are studying.

[My Father's World](#): A Christian curriculum that combines the study of all subjects (except Math and Reading Instruction) based around the study of History. A great, interconnected way to study that is also designed to be used easily with more than one student at a time. Your whole family will study the same things, at different levels.

[Veritas Press](#): Online, video-based curriculum with built in quizzes and tests.

Science:

[Switched on Schoolhouse](#): I've mentioned this program several times now in this post. This program serves the purpose of helping kids to become more independent learners by use of accommodations.

[TOP Science](#): Tons of hands on science activities for all ages.

[Real Science 4 Kids](#): Offers grade-level kits as well as unit study materials for a wide range of subjects geared for the middle school crowd.

Priorities High School: Grades 9 -12

The high school years are the years when many parents of kids with dyslexia begin to stress out. It feels like the clock is ticking. Even if we have successfully created a unique learning environment for our kids as elementary and middle schoolers, we struggle to find a balance between graduation requirements and our kids' unique learning needs in the high school years.

Some kids at this age will naturally take to whatever studies we put before them. Others, however, will buck the traditional academics of the high school years. It can be difficult to know when to push our kids and when to let them choose their own path.

Homeschool High School Requirements

These will vary depending on where you live. You can find your state's homeschool laws on the HSLDA website [here](#) or at your state's Department of Education website. Requirements are also affected by college requirements.

Most high school students will take:

- English: 3-4 years
- Math: 2-4 years including Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2 and Trigonometry or Calculus. Consumer Math is also accepted in some states.
- History or Social Sciences: 3-4 years
- Science: 2-4 years including Physical Science, Biology, Physics and Chemistry
- Foreign Language: 1-4 years depending on whether student is 4-year college bound
- Electives: The number of electives will depend on the total number of credits your state requires.

For more information on [preparing your dyslexic student for college – read this series](#).

Helping Your High Schoolers Plan for Their Future

It is very important to have conversations with your teens about where their interests and abilities intersect.

- What are they interested in?
- What do they talk about all the time?
- What do they spend their money on?
- What do they skip math to do instead?
- What are their strengths?
- What skills come naturally to them?
- Are they naturally inquisitive? mechanical? artistic? good with animals? athletic?

Where these interests and abilities intersect will likely point you and them to what their calling or future work may be.

A fun way to help your high schooler to hone in on potential career options is to have them take a Myers-Briggs personality test such as the one found at www.16personalities.com.

Take the results and enter them into a Google search with the word ‘careers’. For example, I am an ISFJ. I would enter “ISFJ careers”. You will be amazed at what a good fit many of the careers actually are!

High School Plans Depend on Goals

Deciding on a high school plan will depend on your child's plans for after high school.

- Will they go straight to a 4-year university?
- Community or junior college?
- Trade school?

[Read this series on Preparing Your High School Child With Dyslexia for College Success](#) to understand your options and how best to prepare your high school aged child for life after high school.

Accommodations and Remediation in High School

In high school, the balance between accommodations and remediation shifts to more accommodation than remediation. Older students should be focusing more and more on becoming independent learners.

What that looks like will be unique for each family. Some of our more profoundly dyslexic kids were still seeing tutors in high school, but most of them were learning to master assistive technology to help them with spelling, grammar, and reading school materials.

Curriculum choices included courses with audio components or online classes that had video lecture-based instruction.

What to Focus On: High School: 9 -12 Grades

- Becoming fluent in assistive technology
- Becoming increasingly independent learners
- Setting a course of study - junior college, university, or trade school
- Providing opportunity to expand interests with meaningful work experience
- Finding mentors
- Hire tutors for subjects that they need to improve

Curriculum Recommendations for High School

Homeschool High School English Curriculum

High school English or Language Arts is really 3 subjects in one:

- Writing
- Grammar or Vocabulary
- Literature study

You can buy an all-in-one program or piece together your own program. Some programs combine history with writing or literature with writing which is a nice, time-saving way to teach writing in context.

Writing: A typical high school writing course of study includes everything from learning the basics of writing, creating a thesis statement, and writing various types of essays and research papers.

Our family has first hand experience with these first three programs:

[Write Shop I & II:](#) A systematic approach to teaching high school level writing.

[Fortuigence: Essay Rock Star:](#) If you're like me and struggled with teaching higher level writing, you'll love Essay Rock Star. Students are taught how to write four different types of essay – Personal, Persuasive, Expository and a Textual Analysis (or literary review). Instruction is video based (no reading required) and assignments, which are broken into small, manageable chunks, are emailed to the teacher for review. Read my full review of [Fortuigence: Essay Rock Star here.](#)

[IEW:](#) The Institute for Excellence in Writing offers high school level courses in Communication, Essay Writing and a variety of online writing courses.

Other homeschoolers also recommend:

[Write at Home](#): Offers a variety of online, video based writing courses with teacher grading to make writing instruction easier on homeschool parents.

[Bravewriter](#): Bravewriter offers a variety of online writing courses for all ages including high school.

[Guide to Grammar and Writing](#): A free grammar guide and teaching website.

[Purdue's Online Writing Lab](#): A free writing resource.

Grammar/ Vocabulary: It is assumed that high school students already have a grasp of grammar concepts and many programs move on to vocabulary development in the high school years.

Our family has used and enjoyed:

[Easy Grammar Plus](#): EG Plus will give any student beyond Grade 6 a solid, basic understanding of grammar. It's especially popular because the text is written at a fourth-grade reading level. Therefore, students can focus on concepts.

[Daily Grams](#): Simple daily practice and review of grammar concepts.

[Winston Grammar](#): A more hands-on, multi-sensory grammar curriculum.

[Wordly Wise](#): Build vocabulary while strengthening reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.

Other homeschool families recommend:

[Growing With Grammar](#): Technically only goes to 8th grade but concepts are advanced enough to be high school level if your child needs (and you want) this type of review.

Literature:

[Beautiful Feet Books](#): Combines excellent literature with history

[EIW](#): Excellence in Literature or Windows to the World: An Introduction to Literary Analysis

[Movies as Literature](#): This complete, one-year high school English course uses classic movies on video to introduce and study the elements of literary analysis. Includes questions and essay assignments for each classic book/movie.

[Shmoop.com](#). This site provides study guides, analysis, ideas, questions on hundreds of novels, poetry, short stories, and plays. It is truly a wealth of fantastic information for teaching, and it also has an area to help kids learn to structure an excellent essay. (Shmoop is also fantastic for math, ACT or SAT prep, and more.)

[Glencoe literature guides](#). Glencoe provides fantastic secular literature guides that are easy to use.

[Signet Classic Teachers' Guides](#). Another extensive collection of secular literature guides for dozens of classics.

[Excellence in Literature](#) by Janice Campbell: This is a literature rich reading and writing program; students read classics and write papers and essays for each work. There are nine units per guide, each lasting four weeks. The assignments all include reading historical context materials, such as the author's major influences and historical background of the novel. Does not include Poetry.

[Teaching the Classics](#) by Center for Lit: An amazing training on how to apply the thought provoking Socratic Method to the study of classic literature.

Book List Sources:

[Sonlight](#)

[Veritas Press](#)

[Ambleside Online](#)

Literature Guides

[Progeny Press](#): Easy-to-use lessons include vocabulary exercises, comprehension and analysis, critical thinking, activities, plus a complete answer key.

[Total Language Plus](#): Students learn writing, spelling, and vocabulary through the reading of classic literature. Sold in individual units for each book and also has a separate Poetry Unit. (While literature selections are not specifically Christian, TLP guides are written with a Christian worldview)

Homeschool High School Math Curriculum

Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry, and Calculus are the usual high school level math courses. We've had kids soar with high school level math and others took Algebra twice and were 'done'.

[Teaching Textbooks](#): Done on the computer, with video instruction and immediate feedback on student's answers as well as a powerful record keeping section – Teaching Textbooks is like having the 'good' math teacher every year!

[Read my full review here.](#)

Others recommend:

[CTC Math](#)

Homeschool High School History/Social Studies Curriculum

A typical 3-year course of study for high school History, also called Social Studies, includes:

- US History & Geography
- World History & Geography
- Government & Economics

[Beautiful Feet:](#) A literature based approach to teaching History. Our family likes Beautiful Feet because we can combine Literature study, History, and Writing all together.

[My Father's World:](#) The MFW high school History combines Bible, History and English into one program. Can be reading intensive unless used with audio books.

[Notgrass History:](#) Combines History, Bible and Literature in one program. In addition to reading the history narrative about events, issues, and people from around the world and across the centuries, students read original documents, speeches, poems, and stories. They also read classic literature that helps bring to life the time periods they are studying. A variety of writing assignments and hands-on project ideas help students engage in what they are learning. This program is very reading intensive, therefore very mom intensive. I mention it here because it is such a very thorough program.

[Switched On Schoolhouse:](#) A computer-based course that follows a traditional textbook approach. Students read, or have the text-to-speech function read, the content and answer comprehension questions on the computer. A bit dry for our kids but it did get the job done during the years when I was busy with many younger kids!

[Great Courses Plus:](#) This a 'new to me' resource that includes online video lectures on subjects like History, Science, Literature, Language, Health, Travel and more. Video courses can be streamed on your iPad or iPhone, Android phones

and tablets, Kindle, or Windows devices. Also available on Roku, Amazon Fire TV, and desktop or laptop computers via the Great Courses website. Consider the monthly streaming option for access to all of the courses online.

Homeschool High School Science Curriculum

A traditional course of study for high school Science includes 2-4 of the following courses:

- Physical Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Labs must be included in order to fulfill college entrance requirements.

[Apologia:](#) This college prep level science curriculum is taught from a Christian worldview and includes an mp3 recording of the text for free to students with documented learning disabilities like dyslexia. Includes labs.

[Time 4 Learning:](#) A high school membership to T4L includes up to 4 courses for \$30/month. Our high school aged kids liked this program because it was a nice mix of video instruction without a ton of independent reading required. Includes a nice set up of record keeping for parents. No labs.

[Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt:](#) Our family has never used this resource but other families homeschooling kids with dyslexia have recommended it. Online secular science courses by the publishers of Saxon programs.

Homeschool High School Foreign Language Curriculum

Studying a foreign language can be extremely difficult for a student with dyslexia. Our kids have found that stretching their curriculum out over more than one year helped a lot with the information overload.

[Rosetta Stone](#): Taught with an immersion approach with lots of video instruction, this is hands down the best foreign language program my kids have ever used. Be sure to buy the homeschool edition!

Sign Language: Several of our kids took Sign Language in lieu of traditional foreign language.

- [Sign Language for Everyone](#) by Cathy Rice
- [Landry Academy](#) (online sign language course)
- [Learning American Sign Language \(ASL\) Levels I & II—Beginning and Intermediate](#)
- [Colleges that accept sign language as a foreign language](#)

Physical Education

Our family has never used a PE curriculum. With community sports, dance, swim and family hikes and biking, we have never had a problem meeting this requirement.

Homeschool High School Electives

High school electives go beyond the core classes of English, Math, Science, and History. Electives supplement the educational years with classes that interest your teenager and prepare them for their adult lives.

High school is a time where your child should be exploring their interests in an effort to find a career path that is right for them. It is also a time where your teenager needs to learn to be ready for adult life. Therefore teaching life skills as high school electives is a good idea as we all need to be able to take care of ourselves.

For an extensive list of possible courses for elective credit in high school, see this [downloadable pdf from HSLDA](#).

More Homeschool High School Resources

[Preparing Your Student With Dyslexia for College Success](#)

This series takes you through the many facets of preparing a child with dyslexia for college success. Much of the information from this series was taken from a seminar I went to put on by the International Dyslexia Association.

- [College Readiness: What Successful Students Do](#)
- [Technology Helps for the Dyslexic College Student](#)
- [Understanding the Differences Between High School & College](#)
- [Types of College Support Programs](#)
- [How to Find the Right College](#)
- [Educational Options for After High School](#)
- [College Entrance Exams: SAT & ACT Accommodations](#)
- [Understanding the Application Process](#)
- [Financial Aid and Scholarships for Dyslexics](#)
- [Alternatives to a Traditional College Degree](#)

[An Authoritative Guide to Out-of-the-box Credits for Special Needs Homeschool High Schoolers](#)

This is an amazing guide providing tons of creative ideas for assigning high school credits.

[The Ultimate Guide to Homeschooling High School](#)

This post is full of ideas for how to approach homeschooling your high school student from planning to transcripts and diplomas.



Marianne Sunderland is a veteran homeschool mom of eight (seven with dyslexia) with over 20 years of experience teaching outside the box learners. She created the [Homeschooling With Dyslexia website](#) to provide reliable resources for the unique needs of families who choose to homeschool.

Find more support in her online communities:

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Pinterest](#)

