



# CURRICULUM

## HOW TO MAKE THE CHOICE

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INCLUDED IN THIS PRINTABLE

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**CURRICULUM FRUSTRATION  
SOLVED**

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**REFLECT & OBSERVE  
WORKSHEET**

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**CHECK-IN & SAMPLE REVIEW  
QUESTIONNAIRE**

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**CURRICULUM SAMPLES  
WORKSHEET**

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**JUST FOR KIDS- CURRICULUM  
SAMPLE REVIEW**

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**LEARNING STYLES**

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## **CURRICULUM FRUSTRATION SOLVED**

It Happens! You fell in love with that curriculum at some point, then IT happens! You get that “niggle” that something’s just not right. **Curriculum Frustration.** The kids aren’t inspired, you’re frustrated and the day drags on and on and on. Then there are the tears. Can you tell I’ve been there? More than once, unfortunately! What worked for one kid will likely not be so smooth for another (at least not at our house!). **So, how do you get past curriculum frustration and find a good fit? Keep reading. You've got this!**

## Reflect & Observe

First, just take a step back. Observe and reflect a little. Recognize your kid's progress (academically, developmentally, socially and emotionally). Then begin exploring new avenues. We had to do this with Math. We stumbled and fumbled through several math curriculums. Each brought more curriculum frustration than the last.

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## Check-In & Review

Coming head-to-head with curriculum frustration means **it's time for some academic soul-searching**. It's time to check-in and search for the reason behind the challenges in a particular subject.

**Ask yourself questions like:**

**Am I spending the needed time to prep so that I'm an effective teacher or am I just winging it?**

**Is the curriculum suited to my child's learning style?**

Let's face it, maybe it's just a boring subject and a supplement is needed to breathe some life into it.

After all that introspection, it's time to look at different curriculum. Base your selections that cater to your teaching style, your child's learning-style and your academic goals. These three elements are key! There are so many philosophies, teaching styles and curricula! Find a good fit. Sometimes this is quite a process, isn't it!

## Research & Try Samples

Narrow your curriculum samples down to 1 or 2 (ok, maybe 3). Now, roll up your sleeves and try something new! When you finish, sit-down and discuss likes and dislikes about the particular subject at hand with everyone involved in the decision.

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## Talk With Your Kids

I encourage you to start a dialogue with your children. Use the provided worksheets to record your information. Find out:

**What did they like about the different subjects you've encountered?**

**Which subjects did they feel confident in and really enjoy?**

**What subjects they find difficult, or uninspiring?**

Listen to their insights and then start looking for answers. Ask other homeschool families what they have used or if they have encountered similar challenges.

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## Switch Things Up

Switching things up is sometimes all that's needed to breathe life back into subjects like Latin or Biology. The samples will usually encourage everyone in some way. You will either find you really do like what you started with originally, or that everyone is ready to move on and try something new. Let the adventure begin!

## Reflect & Observe Worksheets

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

**Reflect:** with the curriculum that is causing your frustration, consider these questions.

Do I agree with the approach/philosophy and content on which this curriculum is based? Why?

Am I spending the proper amount of time preparing to teach or assist him/her in this subject?

How would you describe the primary & secondary learning style of this curriculum? (see "The 7 Major Learning Styles - Which one are you?")

Thoughts:

## Reflect & Observe Worksheet

## Page 2

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

**Observe:** Observe your child for a few days and answer these questions based on your observations whilst using the curriculum that is causing the frustration:

Did s/he seem overtired, hungry or easily distracted whilst doing this subject?

Is this curriculum engaging and inspiring my child? How?

How does s/he respond when it's time to start this subject?

When the subject is completed?

Is s/he emotionally ready for this subject's topics, issues and content?

Does s/he demonstrate the necessary developmental skills to accomplish the work for this subject? (i.e. How much writing, reading and discussion is required? Does s/he have weaknesses in any of these areas that may cause frustration?)

Does the curriculum style lend itself to his/her learning style(s)? If not, can you easily adapt it? How?

## Sample Curriculum Worksheet

For each curriculum you choose to sample, use this worksheet to gather your thoughts and make decisions.

Sample Curriculum's Name:

Website:

Recommended by:

Lesson Plan, Lesson and Resources ready to use?      Date to try sample:

Initial Thoughts/Goals:

### Outcomes/Observations

Do I agree with the approach/philosophy and content this curriculum is based on? Why?

Do I have time to dedicate to the preparation & planning required for this curriculum?

What is the primary & secondary learning style of this curriculum?

Is this curriculum engaging and inspiring my child? How?

How does s/he respond when it's time to do this subject? When the subject is completed?

## Sample Curriculum Worksheet

## Page 2

Is s/he emotionally ready for this subject's topics, issues and content?

Does s/he demonstrate the necessary developmental skills to accomplish the work for this subject? (i.e. How much writing, reading and discussion is required? Does s/he have weaknesses in any of these areas that may cause frustration?)

Does the curriculum style lend itself to his/her learning style(s)?

If not, can you easily adapt it? How?

Notes:

Final Thoughts:

If you are still feeling stuck, who can you discuss this with that will offer wise counsel, sound advice, or is just a good listener for you?



## Curriculum Sample Review - Just for the Kids

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Sample \_\_\_\_\_

What did you like about this subject?

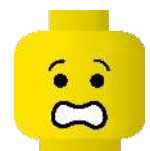
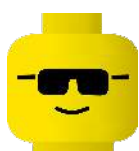
What was fun?

Was anything confusing? What?

What was easy for you?

What was challenging?

When you completed this sample lesson/subject how did it make you feel?  
(Draw a picture if you like on the back or choose a face below.)





## The 7 Major Learning Styles

Which learning style are you?\* What is your child's learning style? Thanks to the folks at Learning-Styles.com, I was able to find the “7 Major Learning Styles”. These should give you some guidance on how your child best learns. I usually try to organize my lesson plans toward my kids' strong learning styles for the difficult subjects, and sometimes add in a less dominant learning style on the easier subjects. Balance is key! Hope this helps!

**Visual:** These people prefer to use pictures, images, diagrams, colors, and mind maps.

**Physical:** These are the “learn by doing” people that use their body to assist in their learning. Drawing diagrams, using physical objects, or role playing are all strategies of the physical learner.

**Aural:** People who prefer using sound, rhythms, music, recordings, clever rhymes, and so on.

**Verbal:** The verbal learner is someone who prefers using words, both in speech and in writing to assist in their learning. They make the most of word based techniques, scripting, and reading content aloud.

**Logical:** The people who prefer using logic, reasoning, and “systems” to explain or understand concepts. They aim to understand the reasons behind the learning, and have a good ability to understand the bigger picture.

**Social:** These people are the ones who enjoy learning in groups or with other people, and aim to work with others as much as possible.

**Solitary:** The solitary learner prefers to learn alone and through self-study.

\*More about learning styles can be found at <http://www.learning-styles-online.com/>

## **BONUS: Things To Remember As You Begin A New Homeschool Year.**

- Don't compare your family with others.
- Spend time getting to know your kids before starting formal lessons.
- Remember, you know your kids better than any teacher.
- Do what is best for your family.
- Find support that is real. Seek out veteran homeschoolers and join a homeschool group.
- Stay away from negative people until you get your bearings.
- Go into your new homeschool year with confidence, but expect a bumpy road at the beginning if you are trying something new.
- First-time fear is normal, and we've all be there! Just hang in there, breathe, pray, and OWN IT!
- Focus on learning, not grades, at least until high school.
- Give yourself time to figure out what really clicks for both you and your kiddos.

Find Your Homeschool Tribe Here