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Homeschool Method Comparison

Different paths. One goal: raising confident, capable learners.



FEATURES	CHARLOTTE MASON	CLASSICAL (Trivium)	TJED (Classical Christian)	MONTESSORI	UNIT STUDIES	ECLECTIC	UNSCHOOLING	TRADITIONAL SCHOOL-AT-HOME	WALDORF
DAILY STRUCTURE	Gentle rhythm with short lessons, morning basket, and nature study.	Structured around the Trivium: Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric.	Strong daily structure with scripture, academics, and mentoring.	Prepared environment with child-led work and freedom within limits.	Flexible structure built around a theme or subject.	Mix of structure and flexibility based on what works for your family.	No set structure. Child-led learning through interests and life experiences.	Follows a set schedule similar to traditional school.	Rhythmic and routine-based with blocks of time for subjects and arts.
PARENT INVOLVEMENT	High – parent is the teacher and facilitator.	High – parent teaches and guides all subjects.	High – parent teaches with a focus on mentoring.	Medium – observe, guide, and prepare the environment.	High – parent plans and teaches based on the unit.	Varies – depends on the subjects and resources used.	Low to none – parent is a facilitator and supporter.	High – parent teaches all subjects using curriculum.	High – parent teaches with rhythm and intentionality.
READING	Living books, poetry, and read-alouds are central.	Classical literature and foundational skills.	Strong emphasis on reading comprehension and living books.	Reading readiness through hands-on language materials.	Reading tied into the unit topic and real-world learning.	Whatever resources your child enjoys and needs.	Read what they want, when they want, based on interest.	Textbook and curriculum-based reading assignments.	Stories, fairy tales, and rich literature stories.
WRITING	Narration, dictation, journaling, handwriting.	Focus on grammar, logic, and composition stages.	Emphasis on writing skills through structured lessons.	Writing develops naturally through moveable alphabet and hands-on work.	Writing through projects, reports, and creative expression.	Varies – use methods your child responds to best.	Write when motivated to express ideas or tell stories.	Curriculum-based writing assignments and grammar.	Creative writing, copywork, and artistic expression.
SCIENCE	Nature study, observations, and simple experiments.	Observation with notebooks and classical content.	Hands-on experiments with a biblical worldview.	Hands-on materials and real-life experiences.	Science explored deeply through the unit topic.	Use a variety of science resources and approaches.	Explore science through real life and curiosity.	Textbook-based science curriculum.	Hands-on, experiments, and nature connection.
HISTORY	Living books, timelines, and story-based learning.	Chronological history with primary sources and discussion.	Biblical history alongside world history and civics.	Stories and cultural studies through hands-on activities.	History studied through the unit theme.	Use resources that engage your child best.	Learn history through interests and real-world connections.	Curriculum-based world and American history.	Stories, myths, legends, and cultural history through narratives.
GRADES?	No grades – focus on growth and mastery.	Yes – often levels based on Trivium stages.	Yes – based on mastery and progress.	No grades – progress at the child's own pace.	No grades – focus on understanding and projects.	May or may not grade depending on your preference.	No grades – learning is interest-led.	Yes – tests, quizzes, and grades used.	No grades – reports and narrative feedback.
TESTS?	No formal tests.	Yes – tests and assessments used.	Yes – assessments and tests.	No formal tests.	No – projects and presentations instead.	Varies – use what fits your approach.	No – learning is self-directed.	Yes – regular tests and quizzes.	No tests – observations and projects.
BEST FOR...	Families who love books, nature, and gentle structure.	Families who value structured learning and tradition.	Families who want strong academics and faith integration.	Hands-on learners and independent, self-motivated children.	Families who enjoy diving deep into topics together.	Families who like flexibility and choosing what works.	Curious, self-directed learners who thrive with freedom.	Families wanting a school-like experience at home.	Families who value rhythm, creativity, and holistic growth.
POTENTIAL CHALLENGES	Requires planning & preparation, less scripted.	Can be rigorous and time-intensive.	Requires parent commitment to structure and mentoring.	Materials can be expensive; needs training to start.	Can feel overwhelming to plan.	Easy to lack focus without a plan.	Requires confidence and trust in your child.	Can feel rigid or stressful for some families.	Can be resource heavy; finding teachers.

There's no one perfect way to homeschool.
Choose what fits your family best, and know it can grow and change as your children do.

You know your child best.

You've got this!

Remember:
Every style can create amazing learners in a loving home.

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