

First Steps for Families Considering Home Education in Alberta Updated Sept 2012

By Judy Arnall

1. Speak to other homeschoolers you know and get a feel for how it might be like.
2. Decide if you want to be responsible for all subjects (traditional parent-directed) or some subjects (blended-half subjects parent responsible and half subjects school responsible via online, correspondence or part-time face-to-face classes) or no subjects, but want your child to learn at home (aligned or teacher directed via online, and correspondence courses). If you are parent-directed, you can teach anything you want. If you are school-directed, the school must teach the Alberta Program of Studies according to grades.
3. Register with a willing supervising local or non-resident school or school board. Below are some suggestions but is not a complete listing. The supervising school or board will help you with programs, curriculums, and education plan as well as notify your existing school of your intention to homeschool.
4. Observe your child and how he/she learns. Is she auditory, kinesthetic, or visual learner?
5. Delay buying curriculum for only those subjects you are responsible for, until you decide your teaching style and your child's learning style. A library card and a computer will provide a good extent of resources initially.
6. Join a support group for friendship (yours and the kids), support, information and fun.
7. Be flexible, patient and enjoy the journey!

School Boards (in alphabetical order) that Register Calgary and Area Home Education Students

Alberta Distance Learning Centre www.adlc.ca Only registers courses, not home education programs

Argyll Centre <http://argyll.e-psb.ca/>

Cbelearn www.cbelearn.ca or www.calgaryhomeschooling.com

Centre for Learning at Home, Okotoks www.centreforlearning.ca

Education Unlimited www.educationunlimited.ca

Families Learning Together www.familieslearningtogether.com

Golden Hills Home Learning seamansd@telusplanet.net

Home Learning Connections www.homelearningconnections.ca

Hope Christian School www.hopechristianschool.ca

Phoenix Foundation www.phoenixfoundation.ca

Rockyview/Airdrie Learning Connection <http://rvlc.rockyview.ab.ca/>

Roots www.roots-homeschooling.com

School of Hope – Vermillion (East Central Alberta Catholic Separate Schools)
www.schoolofhope.org

St. Anne Academic Centre – Calgary Catholic School Board 403 – 262-2525

The Home Education Exchange www.thee.ca

Wisdom Homeschooling www.wisdomhomeschooling.com

Find Your Support Community

Attachment Parenting Canada – Home Education Help

Classes, consultation and support for the first steps. Includes a listing of home education school board comparison.

<http://attachmentparenting.ca/homeeducation.html>

Calgary Home Schooling Help and Support

Find out what to look for in a school board and see what other's experiences have been.

<http://calgaryhomeschooling.blogspot.com/2010/06/what-to-look-for-in-school-board.html>

Information Evening on Home Schooling High School

<http://calgaryhomeschooling.blogspot.com/2011/03/seminar-homeschooling-high-school.html>

Calgary Home Schooling Resources:

The Calgary Home Schooling Resources website lists home schooling resources in the Alberta area, including stores, home school groups, Internet groups, music lessons, web sites, and various other home schooling activities and sources.

www.calgaryhomeschool.com

Calgary Home Schoolers Association:

An activities group that meets once per week for art, drama, gym, and other activities.

chsa@telus.net

Cochrane Home Educators Support Group www.cochranehomeeducators.com

Calgary C.H.E.A. (Christian Home Educators Association) cchea7groups@yahoo.ca

AHEA – Alberta Home Education Association www.aheaonline.com

Airdrie Christian Home Educating Parents eagles.wings@telus.net

Strathmore Home School Support Group snoxell@telus.net

Calgary Education Fair (Annual May Trade Show with most school boards present)

www.calgaryeducationfair.ca

Society for the Homeschool Network of Edmonton (SHINE) <http://shine->

hs.invisionzone.com/

Homeschoolers Guide (Alberta) Magazine <http://www.homeschoolersguide.ca>

Life learning magazine (Canada) www.lifelearningmagazine.com

Yahoo Email Groups

Homeschooling High School

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AB-Highschool-Homeschoolers/>

General support group for all homeschoolers in Alberta

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alberta-hsparent>

For buying used curriculum, and supplies

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alberta-hsforsale/>

Homeschooling Preschoolers

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calgary-hspreschool/?yguid=96745299>

Homeschooling Children with Special Needs

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calgary-hsspecialkids/?yguid=96745299>

Calgary Homeschooling

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calgary-hs/?yguid=96745299>

Canada Unschooling Group

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Unschooling_Canada/

Central Alberta Activities Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CentralAlberta-HomeSchoolActivities/>

Central Alberta Support Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HomeLearningSupport-CentralAlberta/>

Legislation Every Home Schooler Needs to Know for Program Types

There are two types of home education offered by Alberta Education: A Home education program or a Blended school/home education program.

Home Education/Traditional

Parents may choose to educate their children at home, entirely or in part, provided they meet the requirements of the *School Act* and the Home Education Regulation.

The provincial government gives boards and accredited private schools a per student grant for supervising home education students. Parents receive at least 50% of this grant for the purchase of programs of study and instructional materials. Parents do not have to use the Alberta Programs of Study. A Home Education program will meet the Schedule of Learning Outcomes for Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow the Alberta Program of Study. They must ensure their children are receiving an education that meets provincial standards, but can choose curriculum, resources and teaching methods consistent with their beliefs.

Alberta Education Home Education Regulations:

http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=2006_145.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=0779748387

Alberta Education Home Education Handbook:

<http://education.alberta.ca/media/348126/homeedhbk2007.pdf>

Blended Programs/Aligned/Part-timeSchool

Parents may teach their children for part of their education program and have a school teach them for the rest of their instruction. With blended programs, parents may decide to teach the subjects they feel most capable of handling while school teaches the rest. The school may use face-toface classes, online, or correspondence resources to teach their portion. **The school must teach the student at least 50% of the blended program in grades 1 to 9 and at least 20% in high school.**

The school portion must follow The Alberta Program of Studies and the Home Education parent portion will follow the Schedule of Learning Outcomes for Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow the Alberta Program of Study *School Act Rights and Regulations:*

http://www.qp.alberta.ca/574.cfm?page=s03.cfm&leg_type=Acts&isbncln=9780779733941

Reference: Alberta Education

<http://education.alberta.ca/parents/choice/homeeducation.aspx>

Homeschooling Magazines

The Homesschoolers Guide www.homeschoolersguide.ca

Life learning magazine www.lifelearningmagazine.com

Books about Homeschooling

In Their Own Way: Discovering & Encouraging Your Child's Personal Learning Style; ARMSTRONG, Thomas

The Myth of the A.D.D. Child; ARMSTRONG, Thomas

7 Kinds of Smarts: Identifying & Developing Your Multiple Intelligences, ARMSTRONG, Thomas

Homeschooling for Excellence, COLFAX, David & Micki

The Unschooling Graduates: Play as an Educational, Motivating and Stress-free Pathway to University, ARNALL, Judy

The Homeschooling Book of Answers: The Most Important Questions Answered by Homeschooling's Most Respected Voices, DOBSON, Linda

Dumbing Us Down, GATTO, John Taylor

And the Skylark Sings With Me, ALBERT, David

The Homeschooling Handbook, GRIFFITH, Mary

The Unschooling Handbook: How to Use the Whole World As Your Child's Classroom, GRIFFITH, Mary

Family Matters: Why Homeschooling Makes Sense; GUTERSON, David

How Children Fail; HOLT, John
How Children Learn; HOLT, John
Learning All The Time; HOLT, John
Teach Your Own; HOLT, John

The Teenage Liberation Handbook: How to Quit School & Get a Real Life and Education, LLEWELLYN, Grace

School Can Wait; The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook, MOORE, Raymond & Dorothy

Judy Arnall is an international award-winning peaceful parenting speaker, unschooling mom of 5 children and bestselling author of **"Discipline Without Distress: 135 tools for raising caring, responsible children without time-out, spanking, punishment or bribery"** and the DVD ***"Plugged-In Parenting: Connecting with the Digital Generation for Health, Safety and Love."*** Her newest book is coming in 2012 titled, ***"The Unschooling Graduates: Play as an Educational, Motivating and Stress-free Pathway to University."*** www.professionalparenting.ca 403-714-6766 or jarnall@shaw.ca.