|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***1.*** | [**Know the law**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/law.html). |
| ***2.*** | [**Find a support group.**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/support.html) |
| ***3.*** | [**Find and create group activities.**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/group.html) |
| ***4.*** | [**Investigate your child's interests and personality (learning style).**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/learning.html) |
| ***5.*** | [**Investigate your interests and personality (teaching style).**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/teaching.html) |
| ***6.*** | [**Research this website, the library, and the Internet for teaching ideas, lesson plans, textbooks and resources based on your and your child's interests.**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/research.html) |
| ***7.*** | [**Investigate distance and correspondence curricula and online courses and research the library and the Internet to enrich any curriculum and make it come to life.**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/correspondence.html) |
| ***8.*** | [**Find local opportunities for experiential learning. Use your environment!**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/local-opps.html) |
| ***9.*** | [**Create record-keeping in order to comply with legal requirements and also to make transcripts and resumes easier to compile when they are needed.**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/records.html) |
| ***10.*** | [**Create an exciting learning experience that is an ongoing education that will last beyond the schooling years!**](http://homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps/ongoing.html) |

A Sample of Workshops Available in New York & the surrounding Area

**Art Trek’s *Art Pods* Online Zoom Art Workshop for Homeschooled Kids!**

Art Trek  
<http://arttrek.org/>  
[info@arttrek.org](mailto:info@arttrek.org)  
805-499-1700  
703 Rancho Conejo Blvd.  
Newbury Park, CA 91320

Art Trek Art Studio offers an online art instruction program, *Art Pods*, that provides your homeschooling child, K-8, an experience in creating art that is at once enriching and fun!

**Each *Art Pods* homeschool workshop includes:**  
Professional Art Instruction  
Supplies & materials  
Individual instruction for each homeschooled student

• $30 per person**\***  
• 90-minute workshop  
• Create 2D and 3D art projects  
• For Kids in Grades K-8th

**\***Price includes art materials to be picked up at [Art Trek](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Art+Trek/@34.188936,-118.9270407,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x80e8309973f24129:0x9e433ee9cb197e54!8m2!3d34.188936!4d-118.924852) or shipped to your home for an additional $10.  
   *Art Pods* Workshops are $240 for up to 8 participants, $30 per person for every participant over 8.  
  All workshops/events require a $30 nonrefundable deposit. Maximum of 20 participants.

**Visit the website**[**http://arttrek.org/**](http://arttrek.org/) **and book your homeschool Art Pods workshop today!**

**Homeschoolers can learn a new language online!**

[Signing Online](http://www.signingonline.com/) <https://signingonline.com/>  
• Homeschoolers can learn a new language online!  
• ASL (American Sign Language) first  
• Then learn to sign Exact English!  
• Become a registered Interpreter for the Deaf  
• Some universities recognize ASL as satisfying the foreign language requirement  
• Homeschooled students can learn to sign in British, Korean, French & others,  
If your homeschooling family is searching for an interesting and challenging new endeavor, signing may be just right for you! Full Sign Language curriculum online!

Free Sample here [Sign Language Phrases for Beginners | Signing Online](https://signingonline.com/courses/lessons/here-we-go)

**How to Teach Handwriting for Homeschool Parents**

Yes, handwriting is still a thing in a world that is dominated by technology. Handwriting is essential as a form of communication and crucial for young kids to develop fine motor skills. Teaching handwriting skills starts in early childhood, and although most children learn handwriting at school, the parent’s guidance and the writing tools can help. Here is everything you need to know about how to teach handwriting to your child.

**Every Child is Unique**

Not all children learn the same things at the same age. Some are more inclined to physical activity or spatial exercises. This only shows that every child is unique and that they have different learning capabilities.

Writing is a skill that a child can learn with proper handwriting practice. Therefore, the teacher should never forget that all children learn at different rates when giving handwriting instruction. Some may learn to scribble patterns in a few days, while others are more talented and can already write their names on straight lines.

**Teaching Handwriting**

To learn how to write letters correctly, they must get proper handwriting instruction and letter information first. It helps if they already know the letters and the alphabet and can correctly hold a pen or pencil. Different pencil grips can help develop fine motor skills and have a pen correctly without developing a wrong grip posture.

It is highly recommended that you also teach your students how each letter sounds, not just what they look like. Teaching writing often goes hand in hand with teaching reading. Teaching your child what the letters look like must also be accompanied by teaching them how the letters sound.

Start with associating the letters of the alphabet with anything that starts with that corresponding letter. It is a brilliant idea to associate it with something your child is already familiar with—for example, A for an apple and B for a bag.

Next, your child must already have developed a certain level of hand-eye coordination. You can prepare them by giving them exercises which involve using their hands. You can provide them with mazes or puzzles that involve connecting dots.

**4 Steps of Handwriting Introduction**

1. First, start by teaching them how to hold a pencil and offer a proper pencil grip if needed. Once they have gotten comfortable with that, it’s time to start introducing the letters.
2. Teach the lowercase letters first. Make a dotted line version of the lowercase letters and have them trace them to practice.
3. Write the lowercase letters on a different paper sheet once you think they are ready for the next level. This time, they have no pattern to trace.
4. Once your child has mastered writing the lowercase letters, it is now the time to teach them how to write their name. This is also the time to introduce the uppercase letters. Explain to them that names always start with capital letters. In this stage, a good activity is to write all the alphabet letters with the same uppercase and lowercase letters paired together.

Praise your child for every stage they have completed. Giving them positive reinforcement always aids in learning. Aside from verbal praise, you can also give them treats like candies.

**Final Thoughts**

Writing is an essential skill every child needs to learn. With proper guidance and patience, your child will discover a whole new communication method. Learning how to write should [be a fun activity](https://nyhen.org/how-to-make-homeschooling-fun-and-interactive/). Make sure that you do not push your child too hard. Often, 10 minutes of writing practice is enough for a child before it needs a break.

**New York Homeschool Laws**

The New York State Education Department requires that homeschool parents notify their local school district of their plans to homeschool their children for the upcoming school year. Families must **submit a letter of intent within 14 days of beginning to homeschool**. For every year of homeschooling, families must resend the notice of intent no later than July 1 of the start of the school year. For example, for the 2022-2023 school year, homeschooling families must submit a letter by July 1, 2021.

The school district is then required to respond and provide families with an **individualized home instruction plan** ([IHIP](https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/individualized-home-instruction-plan-ihip-grades-1-6)) that must be signed. Families must also be provided with a copy of the **home instruction regulations**. Parents must also provide the local school district with information about the chosen curriculum and materials that they are using for the required subjects. Language arts, math, social studies, and science are just some of the subjects that must be covered. To adequately prepare to meet [New York homeschooling requirements](https://nyhen.org/2021/01/29/ny-homeschool-laws/) and regulations, families should take the time to research education law, find resources, and search for legal advice.

**Where to Find New York Homeschool Laws**

Every New York homeschool law can be accessed by visiting the [New York State Education Department](http://www.nysed.gov/nonpublic-schools/home-instruction) website.

**New York Homeschool Requirements**

The state of New York has precise requirements for homeschooling in NY. Parents must file a notice of intent to homeschool for the upcoming school year within 14 days of starting. New York homeschool laws require that homeschoolers provide an Individualized Home Instruction plan to the district superintendent of the local school district.

New York homeschoolers should also know the lesson subjects for each grade level. Each student must complete the equivalent of **180 days of instruction.**This can mean **900 hours for grades 1-6**, and **990 hours for grades seven and eight**, and through all of high school. Keeping attendance records is a requirement for families who are homeschooling in NY. These should be made available to the local school district at their request.

**Quarterly Reports and Annual Assessment**

Homeschoolers must provide quarterly reports for each homeschool student. The report must contain a written narrative **describing the materials** that have been covered in each subject on the IHIP, the number of **instructional hours**, and either a written narrative that discusses the **student’s progress** in each subject or a grade.

Homeschooling families must submit an**annual assessment** at the same time as the submission of the fourth-quarter report. Homeschool law states that this assessment should include a written evaluation or results from a **norm-referenced achievement test**. This examination should be a commercial test that meets New York homeschool law. There are also alternative methods for assessment for all grade levels. Beginning in fourth grade, students must take a national achievement test on a bi-yearly basis. From 9th through 12th grade, students must be tested every year.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do Families Get Paid to Homeschool in New York?**

No. New York State views homeschooling as a private decision. According to the New York State homeschool laws, parents should **not be paid** to homeschool their children because it is a choice, not considered employment. New York State homeschooling laws for possible deductions, tax credits, or other stipends may be available to New York homeschooling families.

**Can Someone Else Homeschool My Child?**

The short answer is “yes.” New York parents may **employ a tutor to help** with instruction for part or all homeschooling time. Parents may also choose to have their children instructed in a group setting with students from other families. However, the New York State Education Department says that if a tutor teaches **students are in a group**, it will be considered a **non-public school operation** and not a New York homeschool. The majority of the homeschooling time throughout the year should occur in the child’s home and meet the requirements laid out by the New York State Education Department.

**How Much Does Homeschooling in New York Cost?**

Costs for homeschooling in NY can vary from state to state, but there are key expenses that parents should consider when planning to homeschool in New York State. The **curriculum will be the largest expense** when investing in homeschooling—the prices for a curriculum run the range from low to very high. Costs can be kept lower by using free resources that are available on the internet. To keep the cost low, parents can plan visits to the local public library and go on low-cost field trips. All homeschool field trips should be fun and educational. This could be a field trip to museums, local or national parks, or low-cost local plays and performances.

Homeschoolers can also find gently-used educational supplies or curriculum from fellow homeschoolers or [homeschool support groups](https://nyhen.org/2021/01/25/homeschool-support-group/). There are also many available listings on homeschool websites. Some homeschool curriculum, especially complete boxed sets, are generally the most expensive options. There are also online curriculum services that are low or no-cost.

Homeschooling students in high school is generally more costly than for younger students. In addition to the costs of homeschool education, parents must consider the additional expenses incurred. This includes extracurricular sports, music or dance lessons, martial arts, or art courses. Once again, expenses for high school students may be significantly higher. Parents can control how much they can afford and what resources are the best fit for students in all grades.

**Simple Steps to Start Homeschooling**

At first, families, who will begin homeschooling in New York, should find other homeschooling families and support groups for homeschoolers. The **connection to other homeschoolers** can provide parents with information and resources. It also connects the homeschool students to other kids who are also homeschooling.

The next step that families should take is **researching the state requirements** for homeschooling in NY. Key information and resources are available online. Homeschool families should then decide what teaching style will be used. Before investing in one or a variety of curricula, families should know the learning preference that may be best for the child.

Parents should find the best fit for the child’s education with so many options available. Families can find the curriculum and resources either online or through recommendations of other homeschoolers or the local school district. When choosing the curriculum for either a young child or a 12th-grade senior, parents should keep themselves, their child, and their situation in mind. Finally, parents should **set up their student or students’ area** and begin lesson planning.

To further prepare to homeschool, parents can read highly-rated [books on homeschooling](https://nyhen.org/2021/02/01/homeschool-books/), subscribe to a homeschool magazine, connect with a state homeschool group, and find a local support group. Once the family agreed on a curriculum, the homeschool parents should visit their local teacher supply store. These stores are chock-full of helpful resources, charts, posters, craft and science kits, classroom supplies, and many other teachers’ resources.

**Last Words**

Getting ready for homeschooling in NY may seem intimidating, with all the regulations and requirements. With helpful information available, trustworthy and reliable homeschool support groups, and positive interactions with other homeschoolers, families can see their students grow, learn and prosper. Academic flexibility, meaningful and efficient learning, and time for subjects and activities that may not be possible in a public or private school setting, are all benefits to home education.

While homeschooling may seem like the ideal situation for families looking to educate their children at home, it is sometimes not the solution for every family. There will still be difficult days while homeschooling. It isn’t one-size-fits-all. However, with time spent researching information and helpful resources, families can find ways to succeed in homeschooling. Homeschooling can produce positive benefits, including emotional support, academic achievement, and social growth.

