

IS HOMESCHOOLING FOR
YOU?



THERE ARE MORE OPTIONS
THAN YOU THINK!





STEP 1: WHY HOMESCHOOL?

People choose to homeschool for any number of reasons:

- religion
- social philosophy
- support for learning disabilities unmet in school system
- gifted children bored/unchallenged in school system
- social anxiety
- participation/opportunity for specialized programs (art, dance, drama, music, nature, etc.)

STEP 2: WHERE DO I START?

If you are brand new to homeschooling, you will need to choose whether to Enroll or Register:

“Under Part 2, Div. 4, Sec.’s 12 and 13 of the BC School Act, you may register your child as home schooled and provide whatever educational program for that child that you think would be best suited to them. ‘Enrollment’ means the child becomes a ‘student’ and takes part in a Distance Ed, DL, or in-class public school program and as such fall under the remainder of the School Act.

As an enrolled student, your child(ren) may be taking courses at home and you may facilitate those courses, but the family does not have authority over the educational program. See BCHEA’s Educational Options in BC.” (www.bchea.ca)

Homeschooling in BC is an alternative education choice to public or private school. It is important to remember that Homeschoolers are not:

- Supervised by a B.C.-certified teacher
- Required to meet provincial standards
- Inspected by the Ministry of Education



Homeschoolers **are not eligible** to receive a British Columbia Dogwood Graduation Certificate. However, many homeschool students, either those who Register or Enroll, go on to higher education with little or no difficulty.

It is important to note that many courses are provided to Homeschoolers, either in person or online. These courses do not always provide accreditation.

There are two ways to Homeschool in BC: Enroll or Register:

If you **Register**, you are not required to report your daily “schooling” and have flexibility to instruct your children in your preferred curriculum. You may receive minimal or no funding,

If you **Enroll**, you are considered a Distance Learner (DL) and are required to meet the Provincial Ministry Outcomes. These are the “benchmarks” for each grade. You will receive funding, usually between \$600-800 per child. Teachers or Learning Consultants are provided either by your on-line provider or a third-party, such as:

- Fawkes Academy
- Phoenix Elementary, Salt Spring
- Heartwood Learning Community
- Oak and Orca
- Heritage Christian Online Academy
- Regent Christian Online Academy
- Self Design
- Ascend Online
- more listed on <http://bchla.bc.ca/>

Many third-party DL Providers ALSO provide Registration. You are legally required to be Registered OR Enrolled as a Homeschooler.



STEP 3: REGISTER OR ENROLL

If you choose to **Register**, you must contact the public school in your local area. They will provide you with the necessary paperwork and information.

Enrollment requires you to choose an “umbrella” organization (Distance Learning Provider). You can connect these providers directly or online to sign up. Money is usually provided directly to the family with a VISA card for funding, or directly to a support service, such as Zoma Creative.

*See above list for DL providers or visit:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/ways-to-learn/homeschooling>

As an enrolled student, you can choose a “blend” of programs, including participating in public school sports, music and arts programs, while completing an entire program via distributed learning or partner it with other learning options like in-person classes, blended classrooms or your own homeschooling curriculum (online, packaged, your own creation, etc.).

“In this style of learning, students can connect with their teacher from anywhere in the world on their own schedule and their own terms. This approach is called distributed learning (DL).

Teachers use a wide variety of electronic tools to teach their students including voice and video conferencing over the Internet, email, telephone calls and others. Every DL school provides a teacher who works with each student to:

- Plan and deliver a course of study
- Get course textbooks and resources
- Assess student progress and complete a report card”

In short: design a curriculum with your learning consultant that works well for YOUR CHILD.



STEP 4: FORMAL OR ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL YEAR?

The longer you plan to homeschool the more flexibility you have to meet your curriculum "targets." In 2016, the BC Ministry of Education reduced the learning "outcomes" from dense bullet points to an inquiry-based approach. This open, critical thinking, and creative approach to learning asks students to look at "big ideas". Don't be afraid to tackle a subject in grade 5 Social Studies or Science for your grade 1 student as the curriculum often overlaps year after year.

Where do you start?

Jumping into a homeschooling experience can be stressful! Start your journey with exciting projects and fieldtrips that help your child to transition into their new schooling experience with interest and enthusiasm and build your *own* confidence.

What topic would you like to explore first? Create three or four lessons and projects that can get the creative juices flowing. The most important thing is to have fun! If you love museums, go to museums! If your children are nature lovers, go for lots of hikes and walks and visit nature centres. If they love the library, join in their weekly events and activities. By creating a learning environment together, you will create an incredible experience for both you and your child.

Some families set up a formal day and setting for their home learning; these parents may guide their children through a set curriculum. Other parents rely



almost entirely on the guidance of their Learning Consultant or a specialized class.

Don't worry! You are not supposed to have all the answers, get a teaching degree or replicate a "brick and mortar" system experience.

STEP 5: BUILD A SUPPORT NETWORK

Most importantly, connect! Interacting with local homeschool families not only helps with emotional support, it is also the best source of information on everything from playgroups to bargain resources! Join Facebook groups, social get-togethers, workshops and drop-ins. These groups can be a resource for field trips, park days, and homeschooling co-op classes.

Educating your child takes time. Go slow at first, introduce yourself to homeschool families and experiment with philosophies, curriculum, and educational approaches. As all the best teachers and students know, mistakes are nothing more than opportunities to learn!



FAQ:

WHAT IS ZOMA CREATIVE, AND WHERE DOES IT FIT IN TO HOMESCHOOLING?

Zoma Creative promotes “communication, creativity and collaboration,” combining several unique educational approaches and a multisensory experience. We offer “blended” programs and courses for homeschool students, as well as support for parents looking to bridge academics and home learning experience. We are not affiliated with a DL program and fall under the umbrella of “tutoring” and specialized programs: nature school, cooking, art, theatre, etc.

For more information, please contact Zoe Clement by phone 250.929-5555 or email lovelearning@zomacreative.com More information can be found at zomacreative.com.



UPCOMING PARENT MEET-UP TOPICS:

When: every third Tuesday of the Month

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Where: Valleyview, Zoma Creative Centre

Bring: \$5.00 donation for food/drinks/resources

Expected Topics (suggestions/requests may change the schedule):

September:

Elementary Overview: curriculum, brains and bodies

October:

Parents as Teachers: "class"room management

November:

Academics: the Big Picture

December (second Tuesday of the month):

Right Brain Kids: how creative kids learn

January:

Cutting Curriculum Costs

February:

Learning Disability or Creative Brain?

March (second Tuesday):

Middle School Overview: curriculum, brains and bodies

April:

My Wife wants me to know about Homeschooling: FAQ for Dad

May:

Mixing Learning and Life

June (second Tuesday):

Looking ahead to Highschool