

# Teaching Tips Contents

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## Recorded Webinars

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training, support, and encouragement  
for home schooling parents

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# Teaching Tips

## I. General Tips

- A. Teach all children (or all that you can) together in subjects of Bible, science and history.
- B. White boards or chalkboards are a nice tool
  - 1. allow shifting of focus
  - 2. chances for movement
  - 3. nice for groups
- C. When reading aloud, give wiggly kids a quiet toy or a coloring book to use. A coloring book about the subject you are studying, or blank paper for drawing works nicely.
- D. After reading a passage, stop and see who can narrate back what you've read; or just discuss what they think about the reading.
- E. Books on tape are great for the car.

## II. Toddlers

- A. Give them some special time before school
- B. Special toys
  - 1. school-time only toys
  - 2. toy rotation
- C. Keep activities ready and close at hand
  - 1. prepare ahead
  - 2. bead stringing, lacing cards, etc.
- D. Take advantage of nap time!

## III. Preschoolers

- A. Work with them early in the day
- B. Keep teaching time short
- C. Use games and puzzles more than workbooks
- D. Read aloud

## IV. Early Elementary

- A. Readiness Skills
  - 1. motor development
  - 2. ability to determine right and left
  - 3. visual discrimination

- a. matching colors and shapes
      - b. hand to eye coordination
      - c. matching by size
    - 4. visual memory
    - 5. language usage
      - a. rhymes and poems
      - b. “Simon Says”
      - c. ask open ended questions
    - 6. auditory discrimination
  - B. Avoid burnout – don’t overdo it!
    - 1. burn out causes resistant learners
    - 2. learn to recognize when your child has had enough
  - C. Teach through play
    - 1. tea parties, dolls, cars, legos
    - 2. explore their world with them
    - 3. learning games and puzzles
  - D. Read aloud
- V. Upper Elementary
- A. Delight-directed studies
  - B. Give them more choices, more control
  - C. Begin to build independence in study
    - 1. book reports
    - 2. research projects
  - D. Allow exploration through building models, science experiments, etc.
  - E. Read aloud
- VI. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and Up
- A. Entering the Homeschooling World as a Teen
    - 1. Information please: Tell them what to expect, what their lives will be like.
    - 2. Allow an adjustment period.
  - B. Work Toward Independence
    - 1. Make lesson plans and have student check off completed items.
    - 2. Let them set up their own schedule and try it out.

- a. middle schoolers should start working towards longer days (3 to 3½ hours per day)
  - b. high schoolers – 4 to 6 hours per day
  3. Some moms have their students make their own lesson plans.
- C. Daily Teaching Tips
1. Check student’s work daily. It’s easy to get behind and not realize your student is not “getting it.”
  2. Daily check can be followed by a discussion time of reviewing problems and talking through the next day’s assignments.
  3. Strive to make check-up time a relaxed, warm, sharing kind of encounter where topics of all kinds can be explored.
  4. Aim toward “teaching time” being a time of discussion and give-and-take.
- D. What About Those Tough Subjects?
1. Video Courses
  2. Internet Courses
  3. Local Junior or Community College
  4. Co-ops
  5. Tutors
- E. Career-directed Studies
1. Help your student decide on a career plan
    - a. consider academic strengths and weaknesses
    - b. consider natural talents
  2. Choose high school subjects according to plans for future
    - a. GED
    - b. college bound – elite or junior college
    - c. vocational school or apprenticeship
  3. Give student more control over curriculum choices; make him responsible for his own education.
    - a. take your student to the bookfair and give him a choice between two or three curriculums
    - b. use contracts – an agreement between parents and students as to the duties and responsibilities of each party in order for homeschooling to work
- F. Social Life

1. The beauty of positive friendships and family life
  2. Courtship vs. dating – an overview
- G. Age of Independence
1. Rooster Syndrome
  2. Leaving the nest

## VII. Resources

- A. *Teaching Tips and Techniques*, Weaver Curriculum
- B. *Learning in Spite of Labels*, Joyce Herzog (for special needs)
- C. Books by Peggy Kaye
  1. *Games for Reading: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Read*
  2. *Games for Writing: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Learn to Write*
  3. *Games for Math: Playful Ways to Help Your Child Learn Math from Kindergarten to the Third Grade*
  4. *Games for Learning: Ten Minutes a Day to Help Your Child Do Well in School from Kindergarten to the Third Grade*
  5. *Games with Books*
- D. *Hands-On Alphabet Activities for Young Children*, Roberta Seckler Brown
- E. *The Three R's and Language and Thinking for Young Children*, Ruth Beechick
- F. *Early Education at Home*, Jean Soyke
- G. *Slow and Steady Get Me Ready: A Parents' Handbook for Children from Birth to Age Five*, June Oberlander
- H. *Before Five in a Row*, and *Five in a Row*, Jane Claire Lambert
- I. *Childplay: Activities for Your Child's First Three Years*, Evelyn Moats Minger and Susan Jane Bowdon
- J. *Mudpies to Magnets: A Preschool Science Curriculum*, Robert A. Williams
- K. *The Body Book: Easy-to-Make, Hands-On Models that Teach*, Don Silver
- L. *200 Goey, Slippery, Slimy, Weird & Fun Experiments* and other books by Janice VanCleave
- M. *Backyard Scientist* series, Jane Hoffman
- N. *Drive thru History*
- O. *My Body*, Patricia Carratello (ages 6-9)
- P. Book Lists
  1. *Honey for a Child's Heart*, Gladys M. Hunt

2. Honey for a Teen's Heart, Gladys M. Hunt
  3. *Books Children Love*, Elizabeth L. Wilson
  4. *Who Should We Then Read?*, Jan Bloom
- Q. *Home School, High School, and Beyond: A Time Management, Career Exploration, Organizational and Study Skills Course*, Beverly L. Adams-Gordon
- R. *Gruber's Complete Preparation for the New SAT: Featuring Critical Thinking Skills*, Gary R. Gruber
- S. *High School @ Home*, Diana Johnson
- T. *Barron's How to Prepare for the SAT I*, Sharon Weiner Green
- U. *Cracking the GED, Cracking the SAT, and Cracking the ACT*, Princeton Review Series
- V. *College Admissions: A Guide for Homeschoolers*, J. Gelner
- W. *Discover What You're Best At*, Linda Gale
- X. *Fiske Guide to Colleges*, Edward Fiske
- Y. *What Color Is Your Parachute?*, Richard Bolles
- Z. *Career Direct Guidance System and YES! (Youth Exploration Survey)*, Rodney Marshall
- AA. *Success without College*, Linda Lee
- BB. *Age of Opportunity*, Paul Tripp
- CC. *How to Really Love Your Teenager*, Ross Campbell
- DD. *Five Love Languages of Teenagers*, Gary Chapman