

Monthly Homeschool Q&A Recap

Hosted by: Heather (Customer Relations Manager & Coach), Vicky (Spanish CS Rep), Jessica (Member Support Specialist)

Support Team: Debbie & Lindsay (Resource Link Support)

Introductions

- **Heather:** Homeschooling 12 years, two kids (HS & MS), special education background.
 - **Vicky:** Bilingual rep, helps Spanish-speaking families find resources.
 - **Jessica:** Four homeschool graduates, supports member coaching—especially for high school to college transitions.
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Getting Started with Homeschooling in Texas

3 Legal Requirements:

1. **Bona fide instruction** (not a sham)
2. **Visual curriculum** (book, video, workbook, etc.)
3. **Cover 5 subjects:** Reading, spelling, grammar, math, citizenship

Withdrawal Tips:

- If your child has never been enrolled—just start!
- If previously enrolled—submit a withdrawal letter (available in the THSC portal or website)

For Young Learners:

- Embrace play-based learning (e.g., scavenger hunts, nature walks, manipulatives)
 - Life is learning: use daily routines and read aloud frequently
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Assessing Learning & Retention

Free Tools:

- **PSAT via Khan Academy** for older students

Other Strategies:

- Curriculum provider placement tests (use above, at, and below level)
 - National standardized tests for identifying gaps and strengths
 - Experience-based assessment (e.g., business fairs, writing competitions)
 - Real-life application (e.g., shopping math, conversations)
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High School: Electives, Transcripts, and Early Credit

Creating Electives:

- No need for formal lesson plans—use real-world activities (e.g., car repair, home economics)
- Assign grades based on effort and outcome
- Use the **TEA Career & Technical Education (CTE)** site for elective ideas and course descriptions

Transcript Tips:

- Use the **Subject-Based Transcript Template** (available to THSC members)
 - Log courses like Algebra I regardless of when taken (e.g., middle school)
 - Dual Credit/AP:
 - Log as standard subjects (e.g., English 2, not ENGL 1301)
 - Optional: note dual credit or AP in the transcript's comment section
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Curriculum for Multi-Level or Special Needs Students

Flexible Curriculum Options:

- **Campfire Curriculum** – unit studies for multiple ages
- **All About Learning Press** – level-based reading/spelling
- **Matthew C, Denison, Teaching Textbooks** – manipulatives and accessible formats
- **Easy Peasy All-in-One Homeschool** – free, customizable, full-grade curriculum

- **Royal Fireworks Press, Thrive by MasterBooks** – great for special needs or learning differences

Key Tips:

- It's okay to mix & match curriculum by subject and child
 - Focus on strengths while gently supporting weak areas
 - Modify curriculum to fit your student's pace and needs
 - Some students demonstrate understanding better in real-life settings than on paper
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Getting Started with Special Needs

- Same withdrawal process applies—**no ARD required**
 - Use the **ILP Generator** in the member portal to create individualized learning plans
 - Take your time deschooling and adjusting to a new learning rhythm
 - Key is meeting kids where they are developmentally and building from there
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Homeschooling on a Budget

- **Free & Low-Cost Curriculum:** Easy Peasy, library resources, printable PDFs, local co-ops
- **THSC Member Discounts:** Access 3-month trials, discounted programs in your member portal
- **Tip:** If a student already understands a topic, skip review-heavy assignments

Encouragement for Parents:

- Don't compare your homeschool journey to others
 - "Behind" is a public-school term—your student is on their own timeline
 - Homeschooling builds character, flexibility, and grit in both kids and parents
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Final Encouragement & Scripture

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you." — Psalm 32:8

Stay encouraged. You know your child best. God will guide you as you faithfully show up each day.

 **Next Q&A Session**

Date: July 30

Time: 11:00 AM

Contact: support@thsc.org