

# Choosing Home Schooling Teaching Strategies

Many parents gradually grow into a teaching strategy (or strategies). They are open to modifying their strategy as they, their individual children, and their family change over the years. The following guidelines can help parents identify which strategy is likely to work well for them.

Parents should consider:

- Reflecting upon and articulating a personal philosophy of education. They can do this by (a) reading about the philosophy of education, homeschooling, and their personal worldview, (b) talking with close friends and family members about education, (c) considering their own educational experiences, and (d) writing down their key educational beliefs.
- Joining a local homeschool support group that supports their philosophy of education and includes experienced homeschoolers.
- Subscribing to a local homeschool newsletter and at least two homeschool magazines that are supportive of their basic philosophy to learn how other families practice home-based education.
- Examining their personal preferences, strengths, weaknesses, and interests with respect to their complementary roles as communicator, parent, teacher, and learner.
- Thinking about their children individually and as a group with respect to their personal preferences, strengths, weaknesses, and interests in their roles as communicators, children, learners, and students of subject matter.
- Seeking outside help (e.g., National Challenged Homeschoolers Associated Network, [www.nathhan.com](http://www.nathhan.com)) if they have children with an unusual need (e.g., learning disability, giftedness, special interest).

Parents should then move ahead with confidence in their best judgment. As they teach and guide their children, they will have ample opportunity and time to observe and evaluate their children's learning, attitudes, and progress (i.e., academic, social, emotional, and spiritual). Teaching strategies can be modified based on what seems to work best for their individual families.