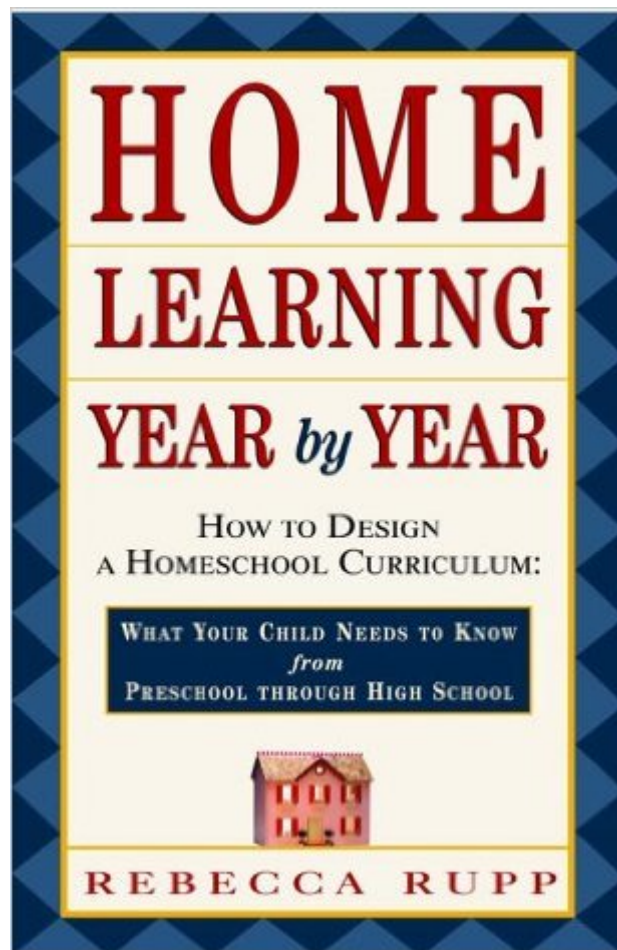


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Home Learning Year By Year: How To Design A Homeschool Curriculum From Preschool Through High School



Synopsis

Finally, homeschoolers have a comprehensive guide to designing a homeschool curriculum, from one of the country's foremost homeschooling experts. , Rebecca Rupp presents a structured plan to ensure that your children will learn what they need to know when they need to know it, from preschool through high school. Based on the traditional pre-K through 12th-grade structure, Home Learning Year by Year features:

- The integral subjects to be covered within each grade
- Standards for knowledge that should be acquired by your child at each level
- Recommended books to use as texts for every subject
- Guidelines for the importance of each topic: which knowledge is essential and which is best for more expansive study based on your child's personal interests
- Suggestions for how to sensitively approach less academic subjects, such as sex education and physical fitness

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

We've homeschooled for 13 years. I co-founded a homeschool group and buy for the group's library. I purchase many books every month and read even more than I buy. If I had to chose what two books I wouldn't be without, my choice would be two authored by Rebecca Rupp, this book and The Complete Home Learning Source Book. In our homeschool group the comment I hear most from other parents about homeschooling is "I'm just not sure we're on track". Home Learning Year by Year provides the information parents need to guage if they are covering what their child needs to learn. I'm a believer in letting the child's abilities set the pace but by using Rebecca Rupp's book, I have now made a checklist of what I want my children to cover and I have confidence that we're on track. If you don't homeschool your child, you'll still want this book. As a former special education

teacher, I remember parent meetings where parents were lost about whether their child was being taught what he/she needed to learn. Home Learning Year by Year can guide parents in taking charge and making good choices for their child's education regardless of whether that education takes place in the home or in a classroom setting. The book gives the most complete listing of education goals grade by grade I've seen in any book. Ms Rupp suggests resources for each grade and it's apparent to me that her suggestions and her goals have been carefully researched.

I was looking for a book that had just checklists of what to teach when- for example, when a child is finished with first grade in a public school what do they typically know. What I got was a book that had this information and much more. It lists one thing that kids should be able to do (identify colors and mix them to make new colors) and then provides some resources or books that will help teach this concept. To get the information I wanted I am forced to wade through the references and suggestions. That is why I rated it four stars. I think I'd like to have a checklist at the end of each section that has just the expectations of each grade. However, I'm not sorry I bought this book. I have a feeling that as time goes on I'll refer to it more and more. Great resources. There are a variety of books and webpages that are given in this book as places to look for more information. I have looked at many of these references and found them to be high quality.

I agree that as a resource this is a quite useful reference, especially if you need to find book titles for a myriad of subjects. However, and I say this with new homeschoolers in mind, do not expect to cover half of what Rupp recommends for each academic year. You'll drive yourself and your child insane. My criticism of this book lies in the way it positions itself; that is, as a comprehensive guide for what your child *needs* to know each year. The degree of content per academic year (or, the "integral subjects" as the back cover has it) is overwhelming and unrealistic. Had Rupp positioned this book as a resource list divided by age and then, further, by subject, it would be less threatening and more heartening for newer homeschoolers. Of course, a person can take or leave what one cares to. But my fear is that a person contemplating homeschooling, or a person not yet having found their sea legs, might take a few looks at this book, break out in a cold sweat, and send their child to school.

Despite the word "curriculum" on the front cover, this book is the one resource I most often recommend to unschoolers, eclectic learners and out-of-the-box families alike. Our well-thumbed copy was the single best "home-school" purchase I've made. So small, yet so chock-full of goodies!

I reach for it often. Rupp's welcoming attitude is very appealing. She makes it clear that there's room for every style in homeschooling. But even for folks who like it laid out for them in black and white, she demystifies the notion of hallowed, pedestal-bound curricula, explaining "There is No Such Thing as a First Grader" (subtitle of her forward). She wins my heart by quoting Douglas Adams from the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: "Don't panic." The beauty of Rupp's book lies in its balance between brevity and detail. She's given us short, pithy and well-organized chapters -- just flip to a grade level chapter to see brief items listed under traditional subject headings. On the other hand, each item is actually specific enough to be useful. As an example, one entry under Grade Four Mathematics, Number Theory reads "Know numbers through the millions; be able to write these in both numerals and words." Rupp then lists four different resources beneath. We might decide to borrow or purchase or visit the resources she describes, but most ordinary days in our family life will also offer opportunities to tackle the concept of millions. At least having the item in my mental list ensures that will happen. Maybe we'll read Cosmos by Carl Sagan today Yes, an updated edition would be wonderful. But if I were Rebecca Rupp, I'd find it hard to avoid the temptation of cramming in too many new web pages, books, games, and other resources. That would just clutter up a nifty handbook. Consider it condensed soup. Fits well on our crowded shelf.

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