

Just Tell Me What to Order!

2011 Edition



A “Homeschooling How To” Book
by Anne Elliott

Just Tell Me What to Order! (Sample)

2011 Edition
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Dear Anne,

I'm overwhelmed! It feels like there are unlimited homeschooling choices, yet I don't have unlimited time to research, nor do I have unlimited money to make a bunch of mistakes. I have several children to teach at the same time, plus I need to keep up with the house and laundry... oh, and have energy for the baby and my dear husband, too!

I know that I should customize my children's education to fit their unique personalities – but at this moment, I just want someone to hold my hand through all the decisions.

You've been homeschooling awhile, right? Please, please, please...

Just tell me what to order!

~One Tired Mom

Dear Tired Mom,

You're right! I can't possibly recommend the perfect homeschooling curriculum for your family, because your family is different from mine. But... (sigh)... I do know what it's like to be overwhelmed!

So okay... you've twisted my arm... But be warned! These are just my favorites. Yes, these choices are all easy on you and on your budget. And yes, I've used all these things in my own home (and I happen to be a bit biased). But no, don't expect miracles. If you make the exact choices recommended here, you'll have to tweak them a little here and there to make them fit your family.

So if you agree to that, then all right. Here's what I would order for my family....

~Anne



Table of Contents

About These Plans	5
Together School	6
Preschool	10
Kindergarten	11
First Grade	13
Second Grade	15
Third Grade	17
Fourth Grade	19
Fifth Grade	21
Sixth Grade	23
Seventh Grade	25
Eighth Grade	27
High School	29
Electives	30
Teacher Training	31
Coffee Break E-zine	35



About These Plans

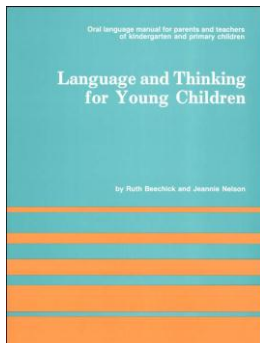


- ❑ **What about learning styles?** Yes, all of our children will have different ways of processing information (auditory, visual, or kinesthetic). However, I personally think that we need to train our children to think in *all* of these ways. Use the teacher training materials I have included to show you how to use the curriculum below, no matter what learning styles your children have.
- ❑ **What about a philosophy of education?** If you're not sure yet what yours is, use this next school year to do lots of reading and reflecting. (You can learn more about various philosophies of education at <http://anneelliott.com/homeschooling/answers-to-common-homeschooling-questions/>)
As for these plans, we emphasize an eclectic style, with a little bit of classical education, Charlotte Mason, and Ruth Beechick, as well as some textbooks.
- ❑ **How much will this cost?** I haven't chosen the least expensive or the most expensive curriculum choices; rather, I tried to choose curriculum that gives you the most for your dollars. You shouldn't need to spend more than \$1000 per year, and you might spend a lot less! If you don't have another way to finance your homeschooling curriculum, try withdrawing \$20 from your checking account each week when you pay for your groceries. If you stash these \$20 bills away in an envelope, you'll have \$1040 saved at the end of a year.
- ❑ **How do I order?** Click on each item to visit a website from which you can get more information. I like to order from Rainbow Resource, a company that sells curriculum at a discount and will make your ordering simpler. Many of the prices listed in this guide were from Rainbow Resource and were effective May 4, 2011.
 - <http://rainbowresource.com>

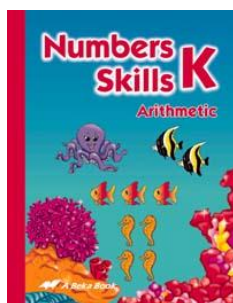
Kindergarten

Kindergarten is a modern invention, and you really don't need to do much. But for those 5-year-olds that are ready to begin a little more formal learning, this is what I would order.

- *Language and Thinking for Young Children*, by Ruth Beechick. This great little book helps you teach life skills and learning skills to your child. **Cost: \$6.75**
 - <http://astore.amazon.com/anneshomeyplace/detail/0880621524>



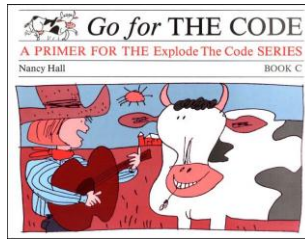
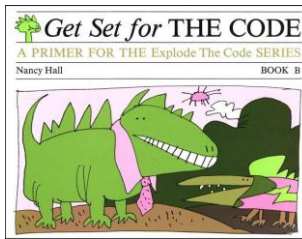
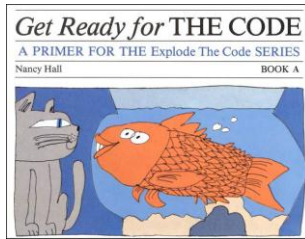
- *Abeka Numbers K* – Use this simple, consumable workbook to introduce your child to numbers and simple arithmetic. The book includes 170 lessons, but some of the lessons at the beginning of the book are not included in this workbook. Abeka recommends that you purchase a \$20 parents' curriculum and additional visual aids. I have found that these are not necessary if I first read and understand Ruth Beechick's book, *The Three R's* (see "Teacher Training" on p. 32). Just do a page a day, simply, slowly, without stressing out. **Cost: \$12.95**
 - <http://www.abeka.com/>



Learning to Read

How do you teach a child to read? I use kindergarten as a “get acquainted to letter sounds” year, then in first grade, I tackle reading in earnest. For the simple schedule I use, visit <http://anneelliott.com/downloads/learningtoread.pdf>. I use the following *Explode the Code* books along with *Bob Books*:

- ❑ *Get Ready for the Code* Book A. **Cost: \$5.95**
- ❑ *Get Set for the Code* Book B. **Cost: \$5.95**
- ❑ *Go for the Code* Book C. **Cost: \$5.95**
 - <http://rainbowresource.com/prodlist.php?sid=1273519038-883220&subject=5&category=823>



- ❑ *Bob Books First!* (Level A). **Cost: \$11.75**
 - <http://rainbowresource.com/product/Bob+Books+Set+%231%3A+Bob+Books+First!/009457/1272937866-1982238>



Fourth Grade

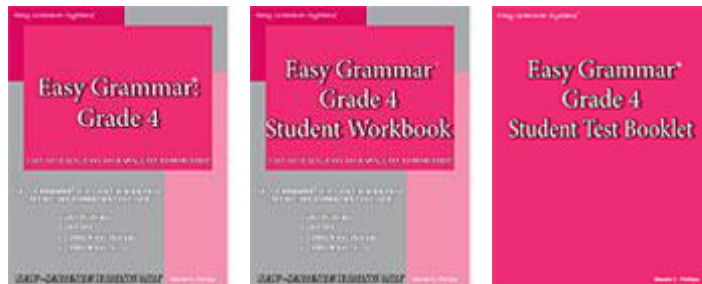
- *All About Spelling* Level 4 (Note: If remedial spelling or reading instruction is needed, I recommend using Level 1.) **Cost: \$39.95**
 - <http://www.all-about-spelling.com/spelling-book-level-4.html>



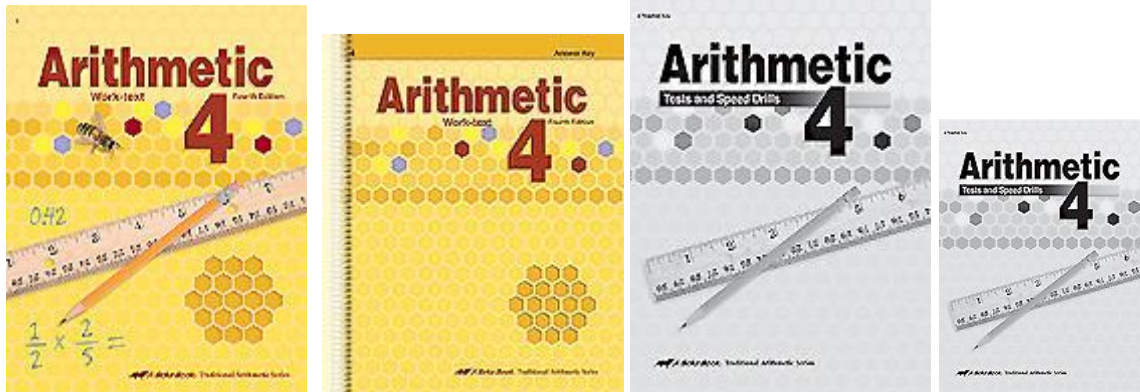
- *Abeka Readers* - By fourth grade, children are reading for content, and these contain excellent content! I like the excellent moral quality of these reading books, and my children really like the stories. I just have my child read one or two stories each day. We use the Speed & Comprehension Reader once a week. **Cost: \$64.25 total.**
 - <http://www.abeka.com/>



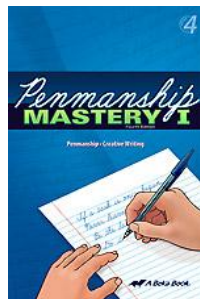
- *Grammar* – I start teaching grammar to my children in fourth grade. *Easy Grammar* uses a “prepositional approach,” which means that the students find and label all prepositional phrases before trying to identify subjects, verbs, or other parts of speech. This has really helped my children! **Cost: \$36.85 total.**
 - <http://easygrammar.com/eg4.html>



- Abeka *Arithmetic 4* – This year, I’ve listed answer keys to purchase, simply to make it a little easier for you. **Cost: \$63.50 total.**
 - <http://www.abeka.com/>

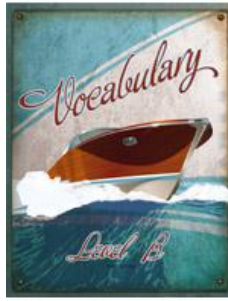


- Abeka *Penmanship Mastery I* – This book emphasizes excellent copywork and creative writing. **Cost: \$10.25**
 - <http://www.abeka.com/>



Eighth Grade

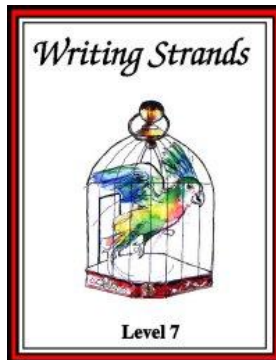
- BJUP's *Vocabulary Level B* – Rather than spelling, I like to reinforce vocabulary in 8th grade. I like how this book emphasizes the Latin and Greek roots of words. **Cost: \$15.50**
 - <http://www.bjupresshomeschool.com>



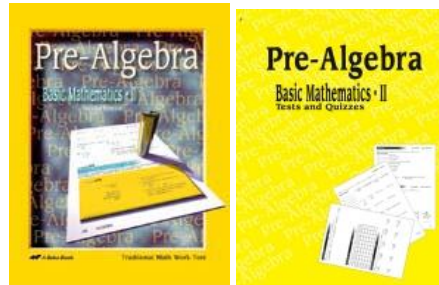
- BJUP's *Writing & Grammar 8* – This is an excellent junior-high work-text. I especially like the emphasis on sentence patterns, which make grammar easy to understand. **Cost: \$21.50**
 - <http://www.bjupresshomeschool.com>



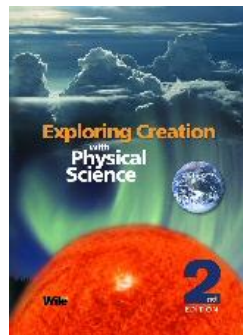
- Writing Strands 7. **Cost: \$16.75**
 - <http://www.writingstrands.com/home.asp>



- Abeka *Arithmetic 8* – Abeka’s pre-algebra text forms an excellent foundation for more difficult high school subjects, such as algebra and geometry. I recommend ordering the student work-text, the speed drill & test book, and answer keys for both. **Cost: \$66.50**
 - <http://www.abeka.com/>



- Apologia: *Exploring Creation with Physical Science* – This is an excellent text for your seventh grader to use as he begins studying science more independently. I recommend also getting the solutions and test manual for mom. **Cost: \$85.00** (plus optional lab kit)
 - http://www.apologia.com/store/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=3
 - Helpful schedules are available at <http://donnayoung.org/apologia/physical.htm>.
 - Lab kits are available at <http://www.hometrainingtools.com/physical-science---science-kit/p/AM-KTPSCI/> (cost \$30.95).





Was this helpful? The complete version has suggestions for

- ❑ “Together school” (school time that you do together each day, combining several subjects).
- ❑ Curriculum suggestions for preschool through 8th grade.
- ❑ Ideas for high school.
- ❑ Many resources for “teacher training,” to give Mom lots of confidence.

Order now at

<http://foundationspress.com/homeschool-support-2/homeschool-how-to-series/just-tell-me-what-to-order/>