

Homeschooling Helps

Hello and welcome to Homeschool Helps! I'm a homeschooling mom of two boys, ages 12 and 14. I have been homeschooling now for 7 years and have tried a lot of curriculums and planners. I know some of you have chosen to homeschool, where others have been thrown in to homeschooling with no choice due to COVID-19. I'm here to hopefully help!

Several social media posts I've seen are "How do I schedule my day?" Following is a schedule that I have been using for 3 years now. I schedule a 4 day school week, with Fridays being our catch-up day, field trip day, music lessons, etc. Most days are around 2-4 hours long depending on the kid, the work, the subjects, etc. For those new to homeschool, just a reminder that every day is a school day, so don't worry that they are not cracking the books open on Friday, or whatever day you decide to "take off" of school. If they are learning, they are in school.

We did school year-round so a "Term" for us was 6 weeks on, one week off. This was our Term 1. I use Christian and secular titles for songs, poems and books, but those can be easily switched out to what you enjoy.

Listed below is a description of each color block and how I used it. I also give suggestions on how you might utilize it differently. Remember, this is your schedule so use it in a way that works for you and your family.

- **Morning Time:** This is when you come together as a family. Littles all the way up to teens should join in this if at all possible. We started our time with the Doxology for this term. As soon as they heard the song start to play, that was their cue to come to the living or dining room for Morning Time. Our Morning Time consisted of a devotional, prayer, a song, poetry memorization, artist or composer study and then Read Aloud. This can be as long or short as you want and could also be done as a Family Time in the evening before bed.
 - **Bible Study/Prayer:** we always had our own different books and read quietly to ourselves that day's devotion. After everyone was finished, each of us told the group what our devotional was about and then prayed as a group. You could do this with any kind of book. It's great for those that struggle with reading comprehension.
 - **Song Study:** I use all different kinds of music from classic hymns to patriotic to classic folk. There are YouTube links for each song provided. The first day introducing the song I would read the story or meaning of the actual song (click on the little yellow comment box for links to song

info) or even the genre, hand out the lyrics (most are found online or are included in the YouTube video) and listen. Then each day after, we'd just listen to the song and (hopefully) sing along. For those using the hymns I highly recommend the book [Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories](#). This book tells the story of each hymn, and provides the lyrics.

- **Poetry Memorization:** We usually did one poem every two to three weeks, but you can do more or less depending on your kids and how long the poem is. Links are provided for each poem. You can also have your kids choose something they'd like to memorize.
- **Artist/Composer Study:** We studied one artist and one composer each term, rotating every other week. First day is usually the biography of the artist/composer we're studying and one piece of work. The following days are more pieces of works, videos on YouTube or music on Spotify. This does not have to be a daily thing, although the composer's music is easy to play in the background while doing other work. Some questions to ask about the artwork you're looking at are:
 - What is the first thing you see in the artwork?
 - Describe the coloring or lighting of the artwork?
 - How does the artwork make you feel?
 - Tell me a story using this picture.
 - What is weird about this artwork?
 - What is your favorite thing about this artwork?

You can get into some pretty interesting discussions about art!

- **Read Aloud:** This was my kids' favorite time. We did Aesop's Fable this term but you can use any book. Depending on the length of the days reading I'd have them read a page or two, then I'd read the rest. If the book is available for free on Kindle, I've provided the link. This is also really fun with historical fiction to go along with whatever you're doing for history or science.
- **Quiet Time Reading:** This is where you get some down time before jumping into the school work. I always let my boys choose whatever book they want to read. We always had breakfast after reading and then playtime and by then the kids had some energy out and were ready to start learning.
- **Science:** We have only done science twice a week for the most part. The links I provided are from [Mystery Science](#) which is by far the best curriculum I've found that is all inclusive. We would usually take the lesson and split it between the two days. It is only K-5th grade but was very easy to push into 6th and 7th grade with having them do the extra worksheets and studies that are provided at the end of the lesson. You of course can choose whatever science you'd like but I included the links for these if you want to try them out.
- **History:** The days we didn't do Science we did History. You can always do a topic, learn more about a current event, etc. Lots of choices here.

- **Copywork/Dictation:** Usually I used a passage in the book we were reading from our Read Aloud or a Bible verse. My boys learned to write cursive so this was also their handwriting time. Dictation helps a lot with retention and taking notes.
- **Math:** This was always considered our main subject and usually takes the longest. Personally we used [Teaching Textbooks](#) because it grades their work for me. Huge time saver! But there are many curriculums out there.
- **English Language Arts (ELA):** We did this all four days but you can break it down to a couple days of grammar, couple days of spelling/vocab. Whatever fits for you and your kid.
- **Journaling:** At the beginning of each school year the boys would choose their own journal which got them excited to start using it. I've included some prompts here but use whatever comes to mind. My boys loved writing silly stories and then we'd read them together and get a good laugh. Topics are endless for journaling.

I hope seeing this will help ease the scheduling part of homeschool for you. Remember, every day is a learning day. Don't worry if you don't get something done, just bump it to the next day or to Friday...that's what it is there for. Take a deep breath, have fun, and know that you CAN do this!

Sincerely,
Lori

PS - I do not get paid for any of the links provided. I just want to help you in your journey as much as I can and make it easy for you to find things. You can also find a huge list of online resources on my website [here](#). You can contact me [here](#) if you have any questions. Happy Homeschooling!

Subject	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
Morning Time	Doxology	Doxology	Doxology
	Bible Study/Prayer Choice	Choice	Choice
	Song Study All Creatures of Our God and King	Star Spangled Banner	Turn! Turn! Turn!
	Poetry Memorization "Dreams"	"Dreams"	"Dreams"
	Artist/Composer Study Read Aloud Jan Vermeer Bio Aesop's Fables: The Swallow and the Crow	Vivaldi Bio Aesop's Fables: The Tortoise and the Hare	Day 3: Vermeer: The Art of Painting Aesop's Fables: The City and Country Mouse
Quiet Time Reading: Choice Book:	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 3:	Day 3:	Day 3:
	Day 4:	Day 4:	Day 4:
Science (2x/wk)	Mystery Science Topic: Power of Flowers, Mystery 2	Topic: Power of Flowers, Mystery 3	Topic: Power of Flowers, Mystery 4
History/Geography (2x/wk)	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
Copywork/Dictation (4x/wk)	Day 1: Copy	Day 1: Copy	Day 1: Copy
	Day 2: Dictate	Day 2: Dictate	Day 2: Dictate
	Day 3: Copy	Day 3: Copy	Day 3: Copy
	Day 4: Dictate	Day 4: Dictate	Day 4: Dictate
Math (4x/wk)	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 3:	Day 3:	Day 3:
	Day 4:	Day 4:	Day 4:
ELA (4x/wk) Grammar, Spelling, Vocabulary	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 3:	Day 3:	Day 3:
	Day 4:	Day 4:	Day 4:
Journaling (3x/wk) Daily Prompts	Day 1: Think about an incident that happened to you and exaggerate in the telling. Make it into a tall tale.	Day 1: Convince someone why music or art or computers are important in your life. Make them appreciate your viewpoint.	Day 1: Write one characteristic or habit about yourself that you like and describe it. Or write about one thing you don't like about yourself.
	Day 2: If you were ruler of the world, what things would you banish for all time (rain on weekends, chores, etc.)? Make a list. Use your imagination.	Day 2: If you could do something that you never have done before, what would it be? Why would you want to do it?	Day 2: If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be? Why would you make this change?
	Day 3: If you could go back in time anywhere and "anywhen," where/when would you go and why?	Day 3: What do you consider your greatest accomplishment to date and why?	Day 3: Write about what you think you will be like and what you will be doing 10 years or 20 years from now.

Subject	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Morning Time	Doxology	Doxology	Doxology
	Bible Study/Prayer Choice	Choice	Choice
	Hymn Study Be Thou My Vision	America, The Beautiful 	Puff the Magic Dragon 
	Poetry Memorization "The Swing"	"The Swing"	"The Swing"
	Artist/Composer Study Day 3: Vivaldi: Spring, 1st movement from The Four Seasons	Day 3: Vermeer: The Music Lesson	Day 3: Vivaldi: RV 109 / Concerto for strings & b.c. in C major / Budapest Strings
	Read Aloud Aesop's Fables: The Lion and the Mouse	Aesop's Fables: The Crow and the Pitcher	Aesop's Fables: The Fox and the Grapes
Quiet Time Reading: Choice	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 3:	Day 3:	Day 3:
	Day 4:	Day 4:	Day 4:
Science (2x/wk) Mystery Science	Topic: Animals Through Time, Mystery 1	Topic: Animals Through Time, Mystery 2	Topic: Animals Through Time, Mystery 3
	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
History/Geography (2x/wk)	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 1: Copy	Day 1: Copy	Day 1: Copy
Copywork/Dictation (4x/wk)	Day 2: Dictate	Day 2: Dictate	Day 2: Dictate
	Day 3: Copy	Day 3: Copy	Day 3: Copy
	Day 4: Dictate	Day 4: Dictate	Day 4: Dictate
	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
Math (4x/wk)	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 3:	Day 3:	Day 3:
	Day 4:	Day 4:	Day 4:
	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
ELA (4x/wk) Grammar, Spelling, Vocabulary	Day 2:	Day 2:	Day 2:
	Day 3:	Day 3:	Day 3:
	Day 4:	Day 4:	Day 4:
	Day 1:	Day 1:	Day 1:
Journaling (3x/wk) Daily Prompts	Day 1: What is it like to go shopping with your mother?	Day 1: What was it like to come back home after a long vacation?	Day 1: Write about the time you played in one of the following: treehouse, a field, a construction site, old barn, a stream, a pasture, railroad tracks.
	Day 2: Write about a difficult decision you had to make.	Day 2: Write about a disappointment.	Day 2: Write about an experience in a hospital.
	Day 3: What was it like to spend your first night away from home?	Day 3: Write about something you desperately wanted when you were younger.	Day 3: Write about moving to another city or neighborhood.