

New to Homeschooling?

Whether you're starting from scratch with a preschooler, or transitioning to a home education program from a public, private, parochial, online, or charter school, congratulations! You have made an invaluable decision - and your family will reap priceless rewards and enjoy meaningful experiences for years to come.

In the meantime, however, you may be asking yourself... "Now what?" Well, that's where your F.A.I.T.H. Homeschool Academy support system kicks in.

As passionate homeschooling parents and educators, we fully understand how homeschooling your child(ren) can be both amazingly rewarding and completely overwhelming at the same time. We're here to help keep you and your student(s) on the "amazingly rewarding" track!

This guide will help you to get started out on the right foot - whether or not you choose to enroll your child in any of the courses offered through F.A.I.T.H.*

1. Be sure you have properly established your home education program with your county's school board.
 - a. If you are transitioning out of a public, private, or charter school, you will need to unenroll your child from that school **first**.
 - b. Mail in a "[letter of intent](#)" to your school board's Home Education Office during the school year that your child turns 6. According to [FPEA's Florida Homeschool Requirements](#) "If your child turns 6 sometime between the beginning of the school year and February 1, that child is required to attend the entire school year, and you are required to notify the superintendent."

If you live in Volusia County**, you can visit <https://www.vcsedu.org/home-education> to read more about the requirements for our county, locate important contact information, and to find helpful forms.

2. Decide what your child's needs are educationally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. You are the most qualified person to do this, but we are here to help! If this means your child uses a 5th grade level math and a 7th grade level history text, for example, that's perfectly fine! Homeschooling allows us to focus on progress and truly individualized instruction to meet the needs of the whole child.
3. Reflect on your own strengths, weaknesses, likes, and dislikes when it comes to schooling. You might be very passionate about and love exploring new scientific concepts, but dread the thought of writing an essay (though you might just find a new passion for yourself in the process!) Keep in mind that you are absolutely qualified to educate your child - regardless of your own education, training, or areas of expertise. For many, the hybrid model of homeschooling that F.A.I.T.H. specializes in offers just the right amount of balance and support for families.

4. Choose your [curricula](#) and develop a plan based on your child's and family's needs, as well as your preferred instructional methods. There is an overabundance of curricula options out there. So, while for some, this is a very enjoyable part of homeschooling, it can also be incredibly time consuming and difficult to find *just the right tool* to help you to do the job. F.A.I.T.H. Homeschool Academy takes care of this step for you, so all you need to do is focus on helping your child!
5. Review your newly chosen materials and dive in. You're the teacher and administrator for your new homeschool (some families even give their homeschools an official sounding name!). If you find they're loving their math book and wanting to do three lessons a day, go for it. If your child needs to take several days to complete one lesson, that's fine too! The beauty of homeschooling is found in the freedom and flexibility it offers.
6. Keep [records](#) and student work samples throughout your educational year to demonstrate your home education program meets Florida's legal requirements.
7. Choose an evaluation method before your [annual evaluation](#) is due to your county's school board office. The most preferred option is the portfolio evaluation by a FL state certified teacher. F.A.I.T.H. offers this service at no extra cost to you at the end of each school year if your child is enrolled. Evaluators can also be found [here](#). (We highly recommend that families use the forms found on FPEA's [Free Resources](#) for their annual evaluation).
8. Reflect on your school year, adjust if necessary, and enjoy your well deserved school break before doing it all over again!

*Even if you enroll your child in F.A.I.T.H. Homeschool Academy for the full day, you are still legally required to complete steps 1, 6, and 7 above as the parent by law. F.A.I.T.H. Homeschool Academy may not assume legal responsibility for your child's education.

**If you do not live in Volusia County, visit your [county's school board website](#) and search for their home education department for important department contacts and information.