

From Box to Shelf - Top 3 Considerations for Organizing your Homeschool Materials

“The secret to getting ahead is getting started.” – Mark Twain

❖ Location - Home school area set up:

Your available space and set up may vary and will evolve over time as your students age and their needs change.

Whatever type of location you may have access to, **three important things to include:**

1. Clear work surface-
2. Well-lit work area -
3. Adequate storage nearby-

Bonus: Use of an electronic device nearby (eg. tablet, laptop). For the teacher and students, if conducting quick look ups, research, and online courses are part of your curriculum.

NOTE: You know your students best, if a nearby device will be a distraction for other students working, place the device in an adjacent, visible space/room, perhaps for the older student(s) to access for school work (eg. the living room).

❖ Curriculum - Homeschool materials organizing:

Take time to consider: how your family **thinks**, what are your and your **student's needs, education goals, number** of students are you teaching, and the **various ages/grade levels** of your students?

- **By Subject –**
- **By Student –**

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➤ **Bins, Bookshelves, Bookends**



- **Bins (daily use) –**

- **Storage bins – For the teacher –**

- **Bookshelves -**



- **Bookends – For the Teacher –**

- For the student -

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➤ Time and scheduling (for YOUR health!):

The bottom line is: next to God, YOU are the greatest resource your students have.

Therefore, it is imperative to monitor and manage **your energy, focus, and health.**

- Set up a schedule for starting and ending times for homeschool –
- Centrally post general homeschool class schedule -
- Don't forget breaks-
- Preparing for schedule flexibility and changes –

A “teacher tote” or backpack –

- Student(s) backpack –

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Bonus: Help in the car* –

***Tray Examples:** *(Found at Oriental Trading Company)*



(\$12.99 each)



(\$37.00, set of 4)



(\$29.99, set of 6)

QUESTIONS I WANT TO ASK:

RESOURCES

Websites:

- <https://lifeasmom.com/organize-your-homeschool/>
- <https://www.thehomeschoolmom.com/homeschool-help/homeschool-teacher-resources/>
(also has an informative **homeschooling blog**.)
- **Iowa Professional Organizers** – iowaprofessionalorganizers.com - Search for a Professional Organizer in your area.
- **Oriental Trading Company** – www.orientaltrading.com
- **The Old Schoolhouse**, [curriculum site](http://curriculum.site) for homeschool teachers – (free and paid options), schoolhouseteachers.com

Podcasts:

- **Focused His Way**, hosted by Karina Dusenbury- Productivity from a Christian, God-centered perspective. (Weabidetogether.com)
- **Make Room**, hosted by Jennifer Ford Berry, Professional Organizer, speaker and coach of the “Created Order Neighborhood” coaching group.

Books/Magazines:

- ***Organize Now!*** book series - by Jennifer Ford Berry
- ***The Clutter-Health Connection*** by Julie E. Barton, available through: **Lulu.com**, and other popular book sellers.
- **The Old Schoolhouse Magazine** (subscription)- theoldschoolhouse.com

Blogs/Articles:

- **10 Homeschool Organization Ideas** – *Article* - <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/home/organizing/g33534040/homeschool-organization/>
- **Year-Round Homeschooling** (*blog post*)– Misty Leask, Top 10 Homeschooling Mom podcasts. (<https://www.yearroundhomeschooling.com/podcasts-for-homeschool-moms/>)

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” -*Arthur Ashe*