

## California Homeschool Network

Strengthening the Voice of California Homeschoolers<sup>TM</sup>



We encourage every homeschooler in California to become part of our united effort to keep homeschooling legal in California so that everyone can choose the option that is best for their family.

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#### California Homeschool Network

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## Tell Them A Story: Using Oral Storytelling to Enrich Your Homeschool

Long before they learn to read the phrase, "Once upon a time," kids can spend hours immersed in imaginary worlds of their own creation, embarking on fantastical adventures with nothing but the innate desire to "play." Imaginative play weaves the stories that, in turn, color the tapestry of childhood.

I can recall one afternoon with my daughter, in the backyard pretending to be honeybees, that really changed the way I think about play. We flitted from flower to flower, drinking nectar and gathering pollen to take back to our "hive" (the jungle gym). Not only did we enjoy the time outside, laughing and exploring, but our imaginative lives had become a wonderful catalyst for learning.



Storytelling interwoven with imaginative play "And then the fairies had a bonfire..."

As my daughter grows, my family continues to find ways to tell stories and learn through play. In the fall of

this first year "officially" homeschooling, we studied the life cycles of butterflies by acting out the various phases of metamorphosis through poetry, song, and dance. To feed a budding curiosity about weather and natural disasters, we grabbed a few toys and played "tsunami" — interweaving the knowledge we had gained from books and videos to develop a story line for imaginative play. It wasn't long before we created a "story corner" complete with props like play silks, puppets, peg dolls, and natural items to inspire our own, original fairy tales.

What began as a favorite playtime activity for my family naturally became the cornerstone of our homeschool — storytelling.

You might still be wondering, in the face of all the wonderful curriculum out there, "why focus on storytelling?"

Stories take many forms and are beneficial for all ages — even teens and adults can enjoy a poignant, well-loved picture book. There are thousands of children's books on any topic, many are beautifully illustrated with unique literary approaches fine-tuned to a variety of cultures and values. When your shelves are stacked with books that the children gingerly carry to their bedsides, entreating "one more story", it raises the question — "where does storytelling fit in?" Yet, if you've ever told your child a personalized story from your own imagination (I get frequent requests for unicorn stories) or embellished a memory from your childhood, you've experienced the magic of storytelling. I have found that rich, oral storytelling is a unique tool and

has vastly improved our approach to learning at home because it engages the senses.

Specifically, oral storytelling promotes "self-expression, identification with story characters, empathetic understanding of self and others and bi-directional communication," according to Rebecca Hibbin in Pastoral Care in Education, The psychosocial benefits of oral storytelling in school: developing identity and empathy through narrative.

"It is suggested that the oral retelling of pre-existing stories offers children a parsimonious yet psycho-socially complex form of speaking and listening practice which is as rare within the classroom as it is native to human thought and interaction," Hibbin writes.

In other words, oral storytelling provides yet another pathway for children to think about and interact

with the story and inevitably reach a deeper connection with peers, teachers, and people around the world. The ability to tell a story in your own words is a powerful and natural lifelong skill that translates to fluency in reading, structure in writing, and potentially into becoming a powerful speaker and communicator. Further, storytelling props like puppets and play silks add a sensory component to a story that brings it to life, enabling the children to see, touch and interact with the story in new ways.

Then there's the added impact of the creative problem-solving that happens in storytelling — figuring out "what happens next" and the wonder and curiosity that is stimulated in the process.

In a recent New York Times article, States Consider Longer School Recess, and the Adults Aren't Complaining, researchers state that creativity in children is essential to their futures. "Creativity in children involves the ability to make things up and generate ideas on their own," said Sandra Russ, a professor in the department of psychological sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

#### Start Storytelling Today

Storytelling can be intimidating at first. It is easy to spend too much time and money searching for the perfect stories and props. I have been there and hope you will learn from my mistakes. After purchasing a Waldorf-inspired curriculum bursting with pages of multi-cultural stories to chose from, I became a bit overwhelmed and often felt under prepared when I simply could not remember the stories!

What if I said you could begin reaping the benefits of storytelling today without planning, prepping or memorizing a single story?

#### Here's how to get started:

**Tell Favorite Stories:** We all know a few treasured stories by heart - start by telling the simplest. Stories like "The Three Little Pigs" and "The Tortoise and the Hare" will do nicely. If a full-length story seems daunting, start with a well-loved poem, verse, or finger-play, depending upon the age of your audience. Another, more creative approach is to tell a tale from your own childhood or make up a simple story on the spot. Children love to hear personalized stories about themselves enjoying simple adventures with their friends or pets. A younger child may enjoy a summary of their day, as storytelling can help kids process life's events. Do not worry if a child has heard the story many times before! Repetition is beneficial as you establish storytelling into your family rhythm. Once you've chosen the story, all you need is time and a place to gather — circled around a

rug, cuddled on the couch, on car rides, on a picnic, or at bedtime...the possibilities are endless!

Read it First: When you are ready to choose new stories, find books of fairy tales, folk tales, fables, and traditional stories that cross cultures. These are typically the easiest to recall and tell, as they often include universal story structures, themes, and morals that have persisted throughout time. Consider the "rags to riches" story of Cinderella — there are 900 written versions dating back to 850 A.D.! Look for stories that are short but rich with fantastical or realistic settings, nature or animal themes, memorable characters, life lessons, humor, adventure, and interesting dialog that employs the rhyme or repetitive story structure kids crave. Start by reading the new story aloud a couple times, as the child will most likely ask to hear the story again. The following day at story time, tell the story as best as

you can from memory. It may help to keep the book open to any favorite illustrations and for reference to memorable lines. Don't hesitate to personalize the story or ad-lib any parts you don't remember word for word. Most importantly, relax and have fun honing your acting skills throughout the story by using funny voices and sound effects. If you have props to enrich the story, use them but don't make them the focus of the story. Keep reading and re-telling a story or two throughout the month until you feel everyone is ready to move on to the next story. Ask your audience what they liked or disliked about the story to help you choose the next family favorite!

**Listen and Learn:** If you are like me and not a natural performer, translating the written word to an oral story might be a struggle. It wasn't until we were riding in the car, listening to our favorite



"Rosie's Walk," a short picture book by Pat Hutchins, is well-adapted to storytelling. Props can be made from anything you have on hand.

storytelling podcast, Circle Round, that I formed an all-in-one solution, a method that would revive storytelling in my home. The Circle Round stories are perfect for storytelling! Featuring folktales from all around the world, each story is about 10 to 20 minutes long and focuses on inclusivity. Some of our

favorites are: "The Months of the Year," "The Woman in the Moon," "Why the Ocean is Salty," and "Armadillo's Song". All you need to do is listen to the story once or twice and then re-tell it throughout the week or month, whatever works for the interest level of your kids. In addition to long car rides, we love to listen to story podcasts during meal and snack times or during quiet time. Thanks to what Circle Round offers children and people of all ages, — the opportunity to listen to someone tell a story - I learned ways to re-introduce storytelling into my homeschool in a simpler, more effective way.

#### Let the Children Take the Lead:

Once you've started telling stories with your family, it's time to give your children a role by assigning characters (props like wooden animals or peg dolls can help) or a memorable line for everyone to repeat. Children learn through

repetition, which is one of the reasons storytelling and read-alouds are so beneficial. The goal is to inspire the child to not only connect with the story and it's message, but to comprehend language enough to begin telling their own stories. What better way to learn the mechanics of literature and, eventually, how to write, than to tell stories often.

Once you get started telling stories with your family, you will find a whole world of resources and tools to help along the way, from best storytelling props and favorite story collections, to unique ways to use storytelling in your homeschool. To make it even easier, follow "Beneath the Tulip Trees" on Instagram for new storytelling inspiration each week. I will soon be posting pictures of the tales we weave at home, outdoors, throughout our homeschool lessons, and more.

It won't be long before your children plead for "just one more story!

## Further Reading on the Benefits of Storytelling:

It's story time!: exploring the potential of multimodality in oral storytelling to support children's vocabulary learning

If I Had Three Wishes: The Educational and Social/Emotional Benefits of Oral Storytelling

Lilly Vicens is the homeschooling mom of one artsy, imaginative, story-loving girl. As a published writer with a science degree, she shares nature-inspired stories and homeschooling insight on her blog at http://www.tuliptreehomeschool.com.
You can also follow her family's adventures on Instagram or Facebook.

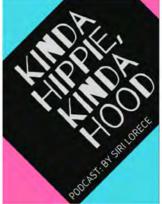








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MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2019

CALIFORNIA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK

## Interested in learning the basics of homeschooling in California?

Get started by tuning in to the Kinda Hippie, Kinda Hood Podcast for a Q&A with California Homeschool Network President, Pam Dowling.

Monday, August 12, 2019



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Please call your local branch library for details on registration. This training has no formal lunch break, so please bring a lunch. For questions contact Alison Day at 831-883-7542 job search process from reactive to proactive and puts the job seeker in the driver's seat. CAREER VISION will customize the workshop to your local area and provide you with resources that make sense in your community!

Jamie Beck, M.S. has been providing Career Vision workshops in libraries for 8 years. Read quotes from past participants at

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Carmel Valley Library, Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am-3:30 pm Marina Library, Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 am-4:30 pm Seaside Library, Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am-4:30 pm Gonzales Library, Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm-6:00 pm Greenfield Library, Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am-5:00 pm

This project was supported in whose bein part by the U.S. Institute of Massern and Elstany Services under the provisions of the Union Service and Technology &ct. premises and to California by the State Union and beautiful from Next Union Seatem.



## School Choice



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#### **Monitoring Social Media Usage Without Breaking Trust**

By Amy Boyington

I've always been careful about using social media since it first became a thing back in my late high school days. I'd heard stories of "catfishing," cyber-bullying, and social media addiction, to name a few of the pitfalls associated with platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and Snapchat.

Since my oldest child started using social media at age thirteen, I've been more diligent than ever in keeping abreast of the latest internet and social media trends and how they might affect my child. One of the most important lessons I've learned is that there's a fine line between monitoring my teen's social media usage for her own safety and breaking the trust we've worked so hard to build. By not allowing her to make smart decisions of her own based on what I've taught her, I could unintentionally break that trust. It's our job as parents to keep our kids safe, but it's equally as important to build a strong foundation of trust we can all rely on.

### Five Necessary Steps to Bridge Effective Monitoring and Trust

Social media can be an invaluable tool for responsible teenagers to keep in touch with friends and family, learn about technology, advocate for things they believe in, and support each other. It can also boost feelings of isolation, anxiety, or depression, spread intolerance, and cause impressionable teens to do things they normally wouldn't do, like meet up with a stranger. Here are a few tips to help you monitor your child's usage while also building a long-lasting base for trust:

## 1. Make sure you and your child understand how to use social media safely.

The more you both understand about how social media works and its potential dangers, the easier it will be to talk about, and manage, safe practices. Create accounts for yourself on any sites you'll allow your child to

use. Browse the settings to understand the network's

privacy filters, account settings, and policies. Don't be afraid to ask other parents about their experiences or attend local community classes about safe social media usage to learn all you can. Then, relay what you've learned to your child (or better yet, have him or her attend the classes with you, if allowed).

#### 2. Open the lines of communication.

Honesty is the best policy for any conversation between you and your child, including safe social media usage. Explain to your teen how you plan to monitor his account, such as holding the password to it and checking its messages weekly or having alerts for any suspicious account activity pushed to your phone. If you're truthful about your plans in the beginning, there won't be any breach of trust later.

## **3.** Approach rule-making as a team. **5.** K soo

that they understand right from wrong and internet safety by creating a list of rules about social media usage with you. You can work together to include rules governing monitoring boundaries, time limits, friend requests and follows, content sharing, and more. You might go one step further to create a "contract" between you and your teen that outlines the rules you came up with together. You and your child can sign and date it to hold each other accountable.

## 4. Set content filters, and check them routinely.

One of the best ways to protect your child on social media without hovering over their shoulder is to set privacy filters on each account your child will have. Privacy filters are crucial. They can keep other users from following or contacting your child, and they can prevent your child from sharing too much with strangers. Tell your teen that settings will be changed by you or their other parent only, and make it a point to double check the privacy filters weekly, since some apps include new settings in their updates.

## 5. Keep devices used to access social media in your line of sight.

If your child always keeps their phone in a central location in your home, there's a far lower chance that temptation to break a social media rule will creep in. Set rules for the family about storing and using devices only in a gathering area of the home, like the den or kitchen, rather than allowing free range for them to end up in more private areas, like bedrooms.

Everyone makes mistakes; you and your teen might along the way, too. It's important to remember that you're both human and each bump in the road is part of the learning process. Be there for your child to talk to and ask questions, and don't be afraid to ask what they've been up to with social media. Congratulations—you're one step closer to having a social-media-savvy-and-responsible teen!

Amy Boyington is a graduate of University of Phoenix where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in English and an associate of arts degree in elementary education. As a mom and former lead preschool teacher, Amy has since focused her passion for effective parenting and early education into a freelance writing career helping parents and teachers through informative blogs, articles, and other content. You can read her blog, The Work at Home Mom (theworkathome-mom.com), or learn more about her work at AmyBoyington.com.



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## The Basics: The "Why" of Home Education

Part one in the Who, What, Why, Where & When series

# Learning OUTSIDE the Lines



Listen to the Podcast (Part 1)

Listen to the Podcast (Part 2)

This podcast presents a brief overview of reasons why people homeschool or look for alternatives to traditional school. A few reasons discussed include:

- Early childhood readiness/development issues
- Health of student or parent
- Safety issues
- Vaccination issues (specifically California)
- Learning disability or challenges
- Religious reasons
- RV living/traveling-long term or short term
- Sports/acting/modeling requires a lot of hours of practice, work and travel
- Gifted students that need more than what traditional school can offer

**Book recommendation**: *Dumbing Us Down The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Education* by
John Taylor Gatto

Thanks for listening!

Ann Ryan
Learning Outside the Lines







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#### **The Friendship Evolution Cycle**

By Kinta Parker, Ph.D.

The care and feeding of friendships is something we don't often talk about, yet something that affects all of us. Thanks to materials designed for autistic children, who do not learn these things so intuitively, we now have child-oriented "how to be a friend" information readily available.

What is even less present is information about different *kinds* of friendships, and what that means for our expectations and social well-being.

This topic came up in talking with a young woman the other day. She was worried about going to college and making friends, when she knows no one there. It is a common concern.

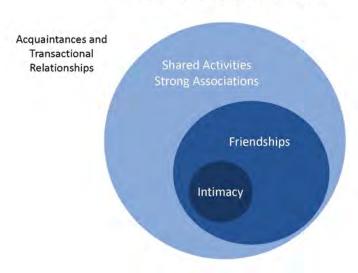
I introduced her to the idea that we have friendships at different levels, and that everyone starts out as a stranger.

There are three basic tiers of actual friendship. Outside the graph is a fourth level of relationship.

#### **Acquaintances and Transactional Relationships**

Every relationship starts out as an acquaintance or transactional relationship. No one starts out as genuine friends. The most intimate, life-long relationship starts with an introduction, proceeds through a long, frequently awkward getting-to-know-you phase, suffers disappointments as we inevitably let each other down and then take responsibility or set boundaries and mature into better versions of ourselves.

#### Friendship Evolution Cycle



The people you know by name, or recognize, or interact with at all fit here, unless they have become actual friends. The barista who does your coffee just right, your physician, the second cousin you only see at graduations, family weddings, and funerals.

From this pool of people, some number of them will become friends. Most will not. That is normal.

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#### **Participation**

The name gives this away - these are friends, but ones with a relationship largely defined by mutual participation in some activity or group. The parents you sit with regularly at your kids' baseball games. Members of a book group. People you know from a hiking group or a house of worship. Co-workers or colleagues. Many neighbors. We have ongoing relationships with all of these people that are mostly limited to a setting or situation or a role. These can be enjoyable and long-lasting relationships. We can have moments of considerable intimacy in the context of a shared experience. If the relationship does not grow beyond the confines of that role or setting, however, it still fits here. This is also normal. We are not compatible with everyone we routinely encounter at a level that constitutes a more substantive friendship.

#### **Friendship**

Nearly all the people you think of as friends are in this circle. You see them



regularly and in more than one setting. There is genuine relationship not restricted to a situation or role. These are friends you generally enjoy spending time with in a variety of ways. You know a lot about each other and have shared history. Occasionally, there is a real friendship that is drought-resistant - it is strong enough to make it through

long periods of time with limited contact, but then pick up again easily.

While you can share many things with these friends, you would not bare your soul entirely to all of them. These are not necessarily the people you choose to call in the middle of the night with a crisis. That level of trust is earned by a very small number of friends who move into the smallest, most exclusive group of confidants.

#### <u>Intimacy</u>

These are your very closest, most trusted friends and family members. Being a family member doesn't get you entrance to this small society - though most people have at least one family member here. These are the people who will drop everything when you genuinely need something, and for whom you would do the same. They would bail you out of jail or donate a kidney. You share with them parts of yourself most others never see. A true friend will call you out on self-destructive behavior when you need it. One sure sign of love is a willingness to endure conflict for a friend's benefit.

Most people only have a few people at this level. Interestingly, introverts more likely have more of these, though far fewer people at the friendship level.

Most friendships are not destined for this highest level of intimacy. High levels of intimacy require a unique cocktail of self-awareness, compatibility in various ways, and opportunity to spend enough time in grade to gain this high level of trust. It takes actual time and real effort to get here.

And that is sort of the point.

The famous quote from Maya Angelou, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them" comes to mind here.

In my view, most of what goes wrong in building relationships and social support systems happens when we mistakenly treat a relationship as more intimate than it really is. This happens particularly when we are lonely, or anxious. At these times, we see in others what we want to see, someone who can meet our emotional needs at a higher level than the relationship can legitimately support through lived experience. When that happens, it is especially sad expecting too much early on does damage that often prevents the relationship from growing deeper and more intimate. Rushing the process actually defeats it.

It is, then, vital that we have realistic expectations for relationships, allowing them to develop in the way they need to. In the case of the young college-bound woman I spoke with the other day, she seemed to brighten at the idea that no one is truly friends with everyone, no matter what it looks like. She has the opportunity to get to know other students and decide who, based on her experience of them, she wants to know better.

It is a fundamentally different, and empowering perspective of relationships. When you see it as a process, and understand the process, it becomes a challenge one can meet.



A native of New Orleans, Kinta became a medical and pediatric psychologist and enjoyed a wide-ranging career of nearly 30 years. As a psychologist, she worked in a Children's Hospital, for nonprofit organizations, and in a community-based

practice. From time to time, she worked with others on public policy initiatives affecting students with disabilities and children in foster care.

A few years ago, Kinta and her husband moved from the deep South to the Pacific Northwest. She retired her psychology license to focus on a mentoring practice.

Kinta has a passion for helping young people acquire the skills needed to be successful adults. This was an emphasis she often built into therapy, and is now the main focus of her mentoring practice. Additionally, she works with adult clients on improving quality of life, navigating changes in circumstances, and wellness. Learn more at https://www.thenextsteps.online/



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## We went Camping with CHN!

We just returned from CHN's San Simeon camp out and it was AMAZING!

It's hard to think about where to start, there were so many fabulous things that happened during camp out. Maybe with the kids - since that is why we all homeschool, right? There were so many kids, from kinder to teens, all having fun, hanging out, making friends. They climbed trees, they rode all over camp on their bikes and scooters, enjoyed dump cake, made glow jars, grew crystals, sewed emoji pillows and tied mermaid hair. They played at the beach, organized group picnics, created and performed music, played board games, ran and played and laughed and just enjoyed life.

San Simeon was a great site too - filled with great, old trees, close to the beach, dark enough at night to see the milky way and filled with wildlife. A pair of owls kept us entertained each evening. The ground squirrels were prolific, mischievous and adorable to watch. And if you or your kids like bugs, we found some fascinating ones - a potato bug and a ten-lined June beetle, to name a couple. Mosquitoes were not a problem, as a healthy colony of bats kept the area pest free each evening. We also saw deer, frogs, hawks, cranes and more.





And then there was the elephant seal colony! These massive creatures were fascinating to watch. This time of year, only the bulls and young males were at the grounds, but they were impressive. Huge, loud and pushy, always jockeying for the best position on the beach to sun themselves. We looked up lots of info about them and hopefully will return on another adventure to see the mothers and pups in the spring.

CHN also coordinated a group tour of Hearst Castle, which was just up the road. We had never been, and if you are the same, you should definitely go. Owned and operated by the state parks system, the grounds are just phenomenal. The meticulous details, the architecture, the art, the fabulous hodge-podge style modeled after many cultures and time periods around the globe, it's something you have to see to believe. And be sure to view the free 40 minute documentary film while you are there, to learn more about the history and creation of this historical monument. Oh - and keep an eye out for the zebras!

I'm so thankful that I finally fit camping with CHN into our schedule. I was able to see friends that I don't see often. I met people I'd only talked to online, but never got a chance to visit with in person. And I made new friends from both Northern and Southern California. This camping experience provided a great opportunity to be part of the homeschooling community. While the children and teens played and hung out, we adults had time to visit, talk, compare notes and share stories. It was truly a wonderful event.

**Sharon Anderson** 

CHN is looking for a co-camping coordinator to help out. If you love to camp and love to plan, contact Tina Janzen and let her know you'd like to be part of the CHN camping team!















## **CHN Fall Camp Out**

Carpinteria State Park October 17 - 22, 2019

Group Camping at Carpinteria State Park on Thursday, October 17th until Tuesday, October 22nd (5 nights). Members Only Camp Out: \$45 per person (under 3 is free). Price includes all 5 nights. Plus parking fee of \$10 per vehicle, per night.

For more info and to register, please visit us online **HERE** 

#### Homeschooling Doesn't Have to be Expensive

Inspired by Harriet Goren

Homeschooling can be done on a tight budget. Really. I would love for you to find all the inexpensive/free things you can do to educate your children. We've started a list on our

Group, Homeschooling in Southern California. Here are a few for you to explore:

Use your local library. Many libraries also have digital media.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art has a free card for students. It includes 2 adults.

Shakespeare by the Sea/Music in the Park. All over the place. Check your local area.

Orange Coast Musical Arts Locations in OC & LA. \$350 a year flat rate for as many classes as you want.

Free concurrent enrollment at most community colleges in California.

Free crafts at Home Depot and Lowes

Bank of America debit card customers get museums/zoos free the 1st weekend of the month.

Khan Academy for math, science, engineering, humanities, arts, economics and more.

Youtube for a wealth of educational videos on all subjects.
PBS online educational opportunities,

documentaries & games.

Seaworld 1/2 day homeschool trips for \$6.50 per person, minimum 10 people.

Local museum or zoo memberships.

Parent-led co-op classes. For art, science, sports, history, writing, etc.

California Science Center, African

American Museum, The Broad, The Getty, Griffith Observatory, Cable Car Museum, Street Car Museum, Chinese Historical Society of America, San Francisco Maritime Park - all of these are always free.

Duolingo - learn languages for free.

Groupon - discounts on local activities.

Coursera - free online classes.

Free Microsoft and Apple camps.

Local Park & Rec activities.

cK-12 - free online curriculum.

Local Marine Mammal Centers

JPL Jet Propulsion Laboratory in

Pasadena - free field trips.

JPL & NASA Educational Sites.
Young Eagles free flights program.

Free CERT Training.

Local Homeschool Days at museums, science centers, aquariums & amusement parks.

Free tours of the CA State Capitol.

Storytimes at Barnes & Noble, your

local library, small book stores.

Looking for more inexpensive ideas for homeschooling? Join the group Frugal Homeschooling Moms.

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## Game Review: Eye Found Itl

By Bella Bir, age 11 (and mom)



Eye Found It is a hidden picture game. You spin the spinner and either move the number of spaces or take a search card. If you take a search card then everyone looks all over the giant board for tiny pictures of what you are searching for. If you spin and land on the clock you have to add time to the clock. If the clock strikes midnight before everyone gets to Cinderella's castle then you all lose the game. If you all get to the castle before the clock strikes midnight then you all win! I like it because you can play with a lot of people and you can find lots of things all over the giant board.

#### From Mom:

Eye Found It! is a 6 foot-long board game for ages 4 and up that is engaging for all ages. I like it because you play as a team so you either all win, or all lose. It's a great game for siblings to play on days when they just can't seem to get along. Teamwork is the key.







### **Perseid Meteor Shower**

The most popular meteor shower of the year will be viewable as Earth passes through the path of comet Swift-Tuttle from July 17 to August 24th. We will pass through the densest, dustiest part of the comet and reach peak meteor viewing on the night's of August 12th & 13th, but a nearly full moon that night will make viewing more difficult. Earlier or later this month are better viewing times.

To learn more about the meteor shower, see videos, learn how best to view it wherever you live, find out what planets will be visible at the same time and more, visit:

https://www.space.com/32868-perseid-meteor-shower-guide.html





## **Alternatives to Public School**

Children between the ages of 6 and 18 must be enrolled in a public school or a specified alternative, and that is your decision to make! Kindergarten is not mandatory, but children who turn 6 by September 1st must enroll that school year (*California Education Code §48222, 48224*). Each family has unique needs and circumstances, so choosing an alternative will require considering your individual family situation and the needs of each child.

#### **Your Options:**

- Credentialed tutor A parent with an appropriate current California teacher's credential may teach his/her child under the private tutorial exemption. Parents may also hire a credentialed tutor for their child. Tutors are required to teach for a minimum of 3 hours each day, 175 days per school year, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm. (California Education Code §48224)
- **Private School** There are two home-based private school options:
  - Establish a Home-Based Private School by filing a Private School Affidavit (PSA) You may establish a private school in your home and enroll your child as an alternative to public school. This will give you the ultimate in control over your schedule and curriculum. If you establish a home-based private school, you will be the administrator responsible for record keeping, curriculum and all aspects of your child's education.
  - Enroll in a Private School Satellite Program (PSP) PSPs (formerly known as umbrella schools) file a California private school affidavit every year as part of their legal obligation to be in compliance with California Education Code. They can enroll families who want to homeschool. Some PSPs offer classes, both site based and online, curriculum packages and/or activities for their members. Others offer guidance and record keeping, but leave the day-to-day details to the parents. Fees, guidance and requirements vary widely with each school.
- **Public ISP/Charter School** Some public schools and charter schools offer independent study. These public programs are funded by tax dollars, so there is no fee to attend. Some offer a set curriculum you do at home or online. Others allow parents to select some materials. The curriculum will be aligned with Common Core and testing is required. If you enroll in one of these programs, you will need to keep the records required by your program and regularly meet with a credentialed teacher to turn in required paperwork. The amount of freedom you have in choosing what to study depends on the program's policies and your assigned teacher

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#### COMPARING HOMESCHOOLING OPTIONS

	Credentialed Tutor	Home-Based Private School	PSP	Public School ISP	Charter Schoo ISP
Is there an enrollment fee?	No, but possibly salary for tutor	No	Yes	No	No
Who chooses curriculum?	Parent/Tutor	Parent	Parent/ Sometimes School	School	School/ Parents may have options
Who pays for curriculum?	Parent	Parent	Parent	Tax payers	Tax payers/ Parent may pay for some things
What is the parent's role?	Parent may be the tutor	Teacher	Teacher	Aide to the teacher	Aide to the teacher
Who assigns grades?	Tutor	Parent	Parent	Teacher	Teacher
Standardized test required?	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Are certain days/hours of work specified?	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes



The most important consideration in choosing a program is to find one that respects your authority as the parent and works with you to serve your child's individual educational needs. Ask questions before choosing, and remember that you can change your child's enrollment to a different legal option at any time during the year.



## Not Back To School Day at Disneyland! September 11, 2019

To celebrate homeschoolers NOT returning to brick-and-mortar school this year! We love learning at many venues, including Disneyland!!

The main meet-up is the group photo in front of California Adventure at 2pm.

Families are responsible for their own admission to the parks. View the official event here:

https://www.facebook.com/events/997368427278796/

The event is Hosted by Celebration Education, offering amazing classes for homeschoolers since 2006: https://www.celebrationeducation.com/



Join more than 100 of your fellow homeschool teens for a night of music, dancing and fun!

- Anaheim
- August 16
- 7pm 11pm
- Ages 12 19
- Live DJ & Dancing
- Games
- Snacks
- Drinks



For more info and to purchase tickets, visit:

http://homeschoolingtnt.com/Totally-80s-Dance-Party.php

We encourage every homeschooler in California to become part of our united effort to keep homeschooling legal in California so that everyone can choose the option that is best for their family.

Join CHN or renew your membership today for only \$30 per family per year.

#### JOIN TODAY!



### Legislation

CHN continues to monitor legislation to ensure that homeschooling remains a legal option in California. Monitored bills include: AB2756, AB2926, SB972, HR610 & HR899.

For updates on these bills visit: https://www.californiahomeschool.net/legislation/

#### Thinking About Homeschooling Because of SB277?

Thinking about homeschooling because of SB277?

SB 277 eliminated the vaccine exemption for children who attend public and private schools. An independent study homeschooling exemption was written for children who are not receiving classroom-based instruction.

The independent study exemption gives parents three educational options to consider if their child is not fully immunized as required by the new law and their child did not have a personal beliefs exemption filed prior to January 1, 2016 (see code for grade span limitations). Those options are to:

- ▶ File a Private School Affidavit (PSA) and teach your own child at home.
- ► Enroll in a PSP and teach your own child at home.
- ► Enroll in a public ISP or Charter that does not require classroom-based instruction and teach your child at home.

In California, children six and over must be enrolled in a legal school. If you wish to homeschool with a vaccine exemption, your legal options remain the ones above, with your child being taught at home with the family, not a group of unrelated children.

#### **JUST THE FACTS**

New to homeschooling? Start by downloading our step-by-step guide to starting your homeschool!

**DOWNLOAD JUST THE FACTS** 

## **CHN Local Contacts**

COUNTY

Placer

Plumas

Riverside

Riverside

Riverside

(Palm Springs)

(High Desert)

(Yucaipa)

High Desert

Santa Cruz

Shasta

San Bernardino

San Bernardino

San Bernardino & Lynette Ridgel

**NAME** 

Ariana Flamik

Brenda Lory

Maria Egbert

Lynette Ridgel

Michelle Huelle

Frika Schron

Heddi Craft

Trina Reuber

Email

Email

Email

Email

Email

**Email** 

Heather Martinson 909-446-5962 Email

**CONTACT INFO** 

530-283-9069 Email

760-501-5952 Email

831-458-1711 Email

34

**CONTACT INFO** 

510-326-8718 Email

310-902-7034 Email

323-369-7669 Fmail

714-649-0657 Email

Email

Email

**Email** 

Email

Email

Stephanie Laurean 760-693-7951 Email

COUNTY

Contra Costa

Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Los Angeles

Orange (North)

(Long Beach)

Orange

(Culver/Inglewood)

(San Gabriel Valley)

(Culver/Westchester)

Alameda

**Imperial** 

Indio

NAME

Michai Freeman

Michelle Tryner

Lynette Ridgel

Adrienne Quinn

Washington

Vicki Giansante

Siri Hirth

Laurel Ward

Teresa Fitzpatrick

Tina Janzen

CHN Local Contacts are homeschooling families who serve as ambassadors to their local communities for California Homeschool				
Network. We will be happy to answer your questions about homeschooling, refer you to local support groups or private/public ISPs, and				
keep you abreast of the local legal climate in your county. We also organize homeschool information events and are available to provide				
you with information on local resources. If your county is not listed below, or if you are unable to reach your local contact, call the				
Homeschool Hotline toll free at *1(800)327-5339 for answers to your homeschooling questions				

## CHN Local Contacts (Continued)

Counties not listed are in need of a representative. Please consider volunteering as at CHN Local Contact. For information about how to volunteer as a local contact in your area, contact CHN or call the homeschool hotline at 800-327-5339.

COUNTY	NAME	CONTACT INFO	
Tehama	Trina Rueber	Email	
Tulare	Rhonda Hamilton	Email	
Ventura	Christy Brunker	Email	
Unique Situations (Bilingual: Spanish)	Maria Egbert	Email	
Unique Situations (Gifted)	Becca Orlowski	858-576-1239 Email	
Unique Situations (Learning Challenges)	Erika Schron	Email	
Unique Situations (Special Needs)	Pam Ragland	Email	



#### **Homeschool Advocacy**

Want to learn more about Legislation, how to become more involved, or contacting your representatives?

Check out our newest publication:

**Grassroots Homeschool Advocacy** 

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Pam Dowling - When I'm not busy with CHN or dabbling in bookkeeping, I'm teaching beginning sewing to homeschoolers! I find it very rewarding and at times very entertaining. The things kids say! I started my homeschooling journey in 2002 and now my son is a college graduate, has a driver's license and is employed! They do make it. Homeschooling, like parenting isn't something you do, it's something you experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything in

the world. I'm grateful to have the opportunity to stay connected to this wonderful community through my serving on the CHN board of Trustees. CHN provides me with speaking opportunities that I never thought would be something I would immensely enjoy. Given that public speaking is people's number one fear. But, after I spoke for over two hours at the 2014 Expo and had a dad come up to me after and tell me that he didn't think they could homeschool their child. They were afraid since they lived across the street from the school but, now they knew what their rights were and they knew they could do it! Then he asked if he could hug me. I'm hooked. It's the most rewarding part of volunteering for me. Helping to produce Expo is also very rewarding. Expo brings so much to homeschooling families, new and experienced. I am very proud to serve on the CHN Board of Trustee and help CHN fulfill its mission statement.



I am very excited to be welcomed to the California Homeschool Network Board of Trustees and I look forward to continuing supporting the homeschool community and personalized education. I am originally from Iowa but Long Beach, CA is now home for my family of three. By day, I am an aspiring urban farmer and homeschool Mom to our science driven 6 year old

son. I spend my evenings as a recording artist and singer. I have toured, taught, and performed internationally in 7 countries as well as throughout the U.S., singing at prominent music fests, entertainment venues and private events. Thank you for having me, I look forward to growing with the CHN community!



Martin Forte, along with his wife Carolyn, owns and operate EIE Academy and Excellence In Education Resource Center in Monrovia, California. Martin and his wife successfully homeschooled their two daughters for 14 years. Both girls are college graduates and married with children. Martin has been a homeschool spokesman and advocate for more that 20 years.

appearing on numerous radio and television programs and speaking at homeschool conventions as well as on of the co-founders of the California Homeschool Network. He is also a certified Learning Style Coach with his wife Carolyn.



Rhonda Hamilton is mom to four great kids: Scott (27), Stacy (24), Sean (18), and Rebecca (16), all who were/are homeschooled. She has many roles within CHN: Board of Trustee Treasurer, 800 # Hostess, Email Hostess, Expo Registration Coordinator, and the Non-Profits and Career Fair Coordinator, besides helping out when needed for other activities to make

Expo awesome. Besides the many activities within CHN, homeschooling the kids, and working, she just received her MBA with a Specialization in Human Resource Management. She spends her spare time, whenever that may be, reading and hanging out with her kids.



Trina Rueber - I live in Northern California with my fun-loving family where between team sports and my endless to do list; there is never a dull day. I'm a homeschool mom of 18+ years for three awesome children, all born almost a decade apart and each with unique interests and talents. I have a wonderful husband who keeps a blind eye to our creative chaos and my "I'll use it someday" clutter, as he navigates through our Bag of Holding of a home. When I'm not teaching you can find me

outside working on our hobby farm complete with goats, sheep, and chickens, or in my studio, where I'm a Jacklyn of all trades, doing everything from woodworking and painting to stain glass and ceramics. I love life, learning exploring and am inspired by a great quote from Abraham Lincoln who once said, "Most folks are as happy as they make their minds to be". I'm thankful to work with such an amazing group of people as I embark on the journey alongside the other Trustees and I am so excited to see what this next year brings for the CHN homeschool community!

# CHN Newsletter August 2019

We hope you found our newsletter helpful and that it provided information and activities that are useful to your homeschooling journey.

California Homeschool Network is an all-volunteer organization of energetic and dedicated homeschooling families working to preserve educational freedom. CHN monitors and responds to legislation which may pose a threat to homeschooling. We also inform and empower homeschooling families, educate the public and foster community among home educators in the state of California.

CHN

California Homeschool Network was founded in 1994 by a statewide group of homeschooling families. We are an inclusive group, which means we serve families from all religious and ethnic affiliations that practice all homeschooling styles.

Thank you,

California Homeschool Network

#### California Homeschool Network

Strengthening the Voice of California Homeschoolers™

JOIN TODAY!

#### **Submissions & Advertising**

To submit articles, curriculum reviews, homeschool information or for questions about content or advertising in upcoming issues of California Homeschool Network's quarterly newsletter, please contact our editor at editor@californiahomeschool.net