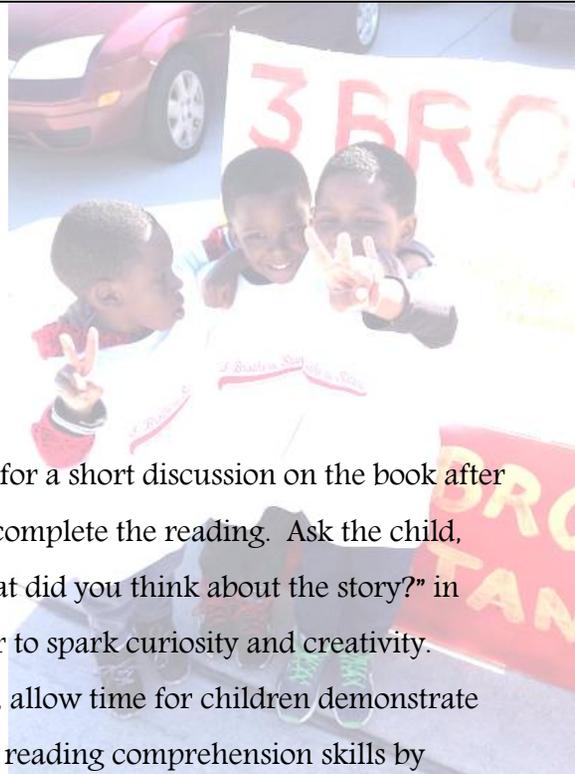


# Homeschooling 101 for the Un-homeschooled Parent

## Reading

Reading is an essential part of any homeschool curriculum. It is both important to read to your child no matter their age *daily*. Long term, avid readers make great writers. Lifelong readers and great writers make successful entrepreneurs and owners- a goal of many homeschooled families. Older children greatly benefit from being read to just as toddlers. Generally, external resources will tell you to aim to read to your children between 15-30 minutes daily (minimum). I personally recommend reading 1-2 books daily to your small children (ages 0-5 years) and 1 chapter book per week for older children (ages 6- 12). Always allow



time for a short discussion on the book after you complete the reading. Ask the child, “What did you think about the story?” in order to spark curiosity and creativity. Next, allow time for children demonstrate their reading comprehension skills by asking 2 or 3 specific questions about the story/book. For children who are literate, take turns reading the texts- alternating between parent and child. Families who read together, excel together!

### Books To Read

- \*Galimoto- Karen Lynn Williams
- \*Encounter- Jane Yolen
- \*This is the Rope- Jacqueline Woodson



- \*Just Us Women- Jeannette Caines
- \*Sunne’s Gift- Ama Karikari Yawson
- \*I’m a Pretty Little Black Girl- Betty Bynum
- \*The Secret Olivia Told Me- N. Joy
- \*www.ReadWorks.org- fantastic site for reading passages to boost your child’s reading comprehension

## Extension Activities!

Extension activities are really where you and your child’s inner creativity and brilliance shine! Extension activities are activities that you do with your children after reading a story/book in order to demonstrate their understanding of the text and to encourage their artistic/creative

abilities. I have learned that my children retain information from a text better and longer when I combine it with extension activities. Extension activities can range from creating arts & crafts to the completion of larger projects to include poster boards, brochures, book covers, sculptures, or paintings. After reading the Berenstain's Bear's Lemonade Stand, my sons begged to make their own lemonade stand. So, we built a lemonade stand and after making their stand (by hand) & their first dollar, that one activity has culminated into a long-term Entrepreneurship portion of our homeschool curriculum. Children are creative, intelligent beings- they simply need the space & right tools to be able to demonstrate! Follow "3 Brothers Stand" on Facebook & at [www.3brothersstand.weebly.com](http://www.3brothersstand.weebly.com) for more ideas on Extension Activities.

## Mathematics

Reading & mathematics should be a part of daily learning & education for

children. Children see words and math everywhere from street/traffic signs to trips to the grocery store to playing at the local playground. Our job as homeschooling parents is to make them aware of it and show that it's not complicated. Children as young as 1 can learn geometry by playing with cans (cylinders) and boxes (cubes) while seated in the grocery cart. I make everyday car trips a math game by challenging the children to name as many shapes 2 and 3 dimensional that they see from home to our destination. More importantly, make learning practical. For instance, ride through a neighborhood and ask your child what shapes does a builder have to use to make this house. When they state the shapes, shout "You're a wonderful architect! Architects use all kinds of shapes to make homes and buildings- just like you!" So, their aspirations are set early when it comes to what they will be able to do practically with their skill sets and knowledge base.

Financial Literacy- money and financial literacy should be a basic part of every homeschool. At any age, a child should know (a) what money is, (b) how it is made, (c) how to use it, (d) how to save & invest.

## History & Culture

Without question, African history & culture should be an integrated part of your family's homeschooling. The hallmark of homeschool is to be able to teach your child (a) according to your own standards as well (b) educate them on what they most definitely will not receive within a public or private school setting. It is imperative that families of African descent control how the next generation takes pride in their history, heritage, and culture.

From the books we read to the supplemental materials, I aim to ensure that my children's curriculum include signs and information about THEM. If I work with my sons on nouns and proper nouns- I ensure to use example sentences that utilize

cultural names, persons, and places that relate to their culture and history. This way I can simultaneously teach them one subject while sparking interest and knowledge on another. The same goes for math, entrepreneurship, etc.– I always begin by explaining to my children the contributions of their ancestors and elders to whatever subject matter I am instructing them in (for example, I made it clear in our first homeschooling session that ancient Egypt ensured the first written form of writing was able to be preserved using papyrus). I use the same strategy when I instruct them in art, mathematics, science, etc. People of direct African descent have made major, if not, the most major contributions to the world. However, standard school history books or current texts will not reveal this to our children which directly affects how they see themselves and their ancestors. The goal of African-centered homeschooling isn't to Europeanize textbooks and materials but rather to put African history and culture at

the center of our family's learning and being.

### Books to Read

- \*My First Trip to Africa– Atlantis Browder with Anthony Browder
- \* Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions– Margaret Musgrove
- \*Jambo Means Hello– Muriel Feelings
- \*Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X– Ilyasah Shabazz
- \* I Get Energy From the Sun– Kajara Nia Nebthet
- \*The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind– William Kamkwamba

### Entrepreneurship

It is my family's belief that any homeschool curriculum for children of color should have a component of entrepreneurship integrated into its curriculum. Current times compel African families to use ujamaa– cooperative

economics to produce goods and services for our own communities in order to help our communities thrive and flourish. African-Americans consume over \$1 trillion a year but own very little of anything in the United States of America. One way to solve this issue is to teach our children early to use all of their skill sets and knowledge base to create goods and services needed in our communities. The younger, the better.

### Books to Read

- Enwan the Entrepreneur– Dr. Michael Casson, Jr.
- Kidpreneurs– Adam & Matthew Toren
- Rich Dad, Poor Dad– Robert Kiyosaki

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