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## How Our Understanding of Where Our Rights Come From Affects Parental Rights

As citizens, we need to be alert for threats to our rights and responsibilities, whether these threats come from the government or other organizations or both. Our rights and responsibilities as parents are no exception.

Just as with questions about school enrollment (see “How Questions About School Enrollment Affect Parental Rights,” Issue #137, Spring 2021), and questions about the PI-1206 Homeschool Report (see “How Terminology Affects Parental Rights,” Issue #138, Fall 2021) the extent to which we maintain our parental rights depends on how we think and act in regards to our understanding of what our parental rights are and where they come from, especially when dealing with legislators and public officials, including school officials.

Parental rights need to be respected and protected so that families can continue their role as the foundation of our society. But this cannot be done through laws or constitutional amendments for a number of reasons.

Parents’ relationships with and responsibilities to their children are too fundamental, too broad, and too basic to human existence to be

(continued on pg 2)



## 40th Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair

**May 5-6, 2023 - Stevens Point, WI**

WHPA is very excited to announce that, after a 3-year hiatus, we will be holding our **40th Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair** in person on May 5-6, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Stevens Point-Convention Center. WHPA will be working closely with the Convention



Center to follow the guidelines and protocols recommended by the Portage County Health Department. Over the coming months, WHPA’s all-volunteer events committee will be forming to organize the many aspects of this valuable, educational, and social event that supports all Wisconsin homeschooling families. There will be workshops and talks

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## How Our Understanding of Where Our Rights Come From Affects Parental Rights (con't)

(continued from pg 1)

effectively contained within a simple legal statement.

Parental rights exist prior to and independent of anything done by the government. They are part of being a parent, a fact that is based on common sense and is commonly agreed on. They are inherent rights that will only be weakened if parents ask the government to validate or protect them. We do not need the government to grant parents the responsibility for their children's education, and we only stand to lose if the government tries to do this.

If the government appears to grant parental rights, it then follows that the government can hold parents accountable, as well as restrict or even revoke those rights. It is too complicated and too risky (in addition to being unnecessary) to try to get the government to protect parental rights.

Freedoms in education, along with other freedoms, are protected by amendments to the US Constitution, including the ninth amendment which states, "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

It is virtually impossible to write a law that protects parental rights in an area that is considered fundamental, such as education and health care, without also requiring that parents comply with government regulations in these areas.

Various efforts, such as parental rights legislation or amendments, can backfire by giving parents a false sense of security. Some might act less carefully, might comply with requests from officials that exceed their legal authority, or might worry less about setting precedents that would infringe on not only their rights, but also the rights of other parents.

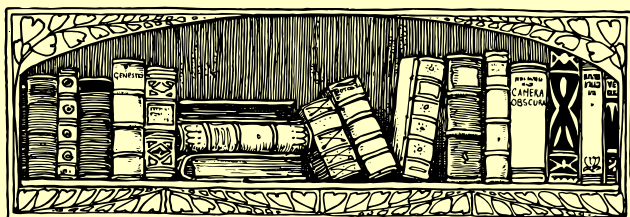
Our parental rights and responsibilities will be far stronger and more secure if we work to maintain them in ways that are independent of the state rather than turning to the state to protect them.

We need to know what rights we have as parents. Educating ourselves is key to taking responsibility for and being prepared to defend our rights. When we have educated ourselves, we are more likely to make decisions based on what our family needs and what will be best for our children. Knowing what rights we have as parents, being prepared to deal with public officials when we need to, protecting our privacy and being very careful what information we give to officials, and avoiding preschool, mental health, and other screenings offered by the school, helps us protect our parental rights.

Our parental rights and responsibilities will be far stronger and more secure if we work to maintain them in ways that are independent of the state rather than turning to the state to protect them.

WHPA encourages homeschoolers not to support legislation or amendments which threaten our parental rights. WHPA will continue to track such efforts. 🏠

(Some information for this article was adapted from WHPA newsletter Issues #100 (June 2009), #112 (June 2012), and #126 (December 2015).)



## 40th Annual Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair (con't)

(continued from pg 1)

with a variety of speakers, presenters, and panelists covering a range of fascinating and relevant topics. The Resource Fair will give you a chance to see and touch homeschooling materials, and talk with representatives from companies, organizations, and opportunities relevant to homeschool families in Wisconsin. With enough volunteers, we hope to offer events and activities for the whole family, and for all kinds of homeschoolers.

If you're interested in more information about volunteering with the committee, becoming a sponsor, or exhibiting/vending in the resource fair, please contact us through our website at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/), and choose the appropriate category from the Subject drop-down. Be sure to watch for more information in the coming months! And don't forget that keeping your membership current ensures you're the first to know about conference updates and other news, and guarantees you special pricing for conferences and events, too! 🏠

### WHPA Board of Directors

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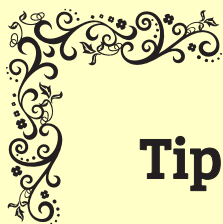
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## QAC Corner: Tips for Homeschooling on a Limited Budget

Is it possible to homeschool on a limited budget? If you take a look at the cost of complete curriculum packages or expensive courses that are advertised to homeschooling parents, you might experience sticker shock! The good news is that many families homeschool inexpensively. Here are some tips from experienced homeschoolers to get you started in homeschooling on a limited budget:

- **LIBRARY!**
- Used book sales (local homeschool groups sometimes host these)
- Almost any used book in print can be purchased online by searching booksellers (There are many sites available that search multiple booksellers, such as BigWords.com or Bookfinder.com).
- Borrow curriculum
- Free curriculum resources online, some provided by homeschoolers for homeschoolers, others available to anyone who wants to learn (like the popular Khan Academy). Do an online search to find the resources that work for you.
- MOOCs, which means Massive Open Online Courses, can be a good source of high school learning classes, often provided by top universities, and often free or low-cost. Search online to see what is currently available.
- CLEP and AP tests can help guide high school studies and may help save costs on college degrees.
- At Home with Learning:  
Homeschooling in Wisconsin, out-

of-print now, but available in many Wisconsin libraries, has a variety of ideas for nontraditional curriculum resources.

- Poll your kids to understand the exact topic they want to learn about in a certain curriculum area. Then proceed to build a unit study around that topic using online, library, community, and field trip resources.
- Explore free or discounted activities in your community by becoming aware of what cultural and educational programs are available. Museums, concerts, tours, gardens, science exhibits Make the world your classroom!
- Arrange a barter system with a tutor for a certain subject or skill. For example, you bake the tutor meals in exchange for piano lessons.
- Get past the mentality of needing books for every subject. A consumable or practice book for math and grammar is helpful, but all other subjects can be handled well with a library card and other free resources.

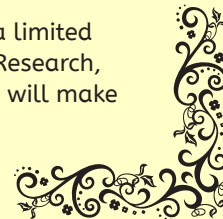


- Consider that a school is a building that brings elements of the world in for children to learn about. Homeschooling allows the opposite possibility--children go out to learn about the fullness of the world. Observing, experiencing, and talking

about what is happening are key ways that children learn!

- Write-on, wipe-off boards and wipe-off sleeves can be used for math and grammar books so they are not consumed.
- Make your own materials for the early years math and reading skills. A roll of clear contact paper is your friend!
- Create your own learning games, worksheets, science experiments or other projects.
- Families who prioritize having one parent at home find resourceful ways to cut expenses in many areas--only having one vehicle, gardening and preserving, home-cooked meals, shopping at thrift stores, learning how to cut hair, making homemade toys, changing the oil in their cars
- Homeschooling families may involve their children in a home business. Examples include: raising animals, teaching a skill like sewing historical clothing, cabinet-making, or providing a service.
- Learning home maintenance and repair skills is a great way to save money and allow the kids to learn these skills for use in their own future homes.
- Hike, bike, etc. - get out in nature and get some exercise too!

Homeschooling on a limited budget is possible! Research, creativity, and thrift will make your homeschool affordable. 🏠



## WHPA Board Meetings

**Members are invited to attend quarterly Board Meetings** regularly (January, April, July, and October) to see what goes on behind the scenes and stay informed - we have a great time at our board meetings and would love to have you join the fun! The next board meeting will be **Monday, July 18th at 10:00 am**. This meeting will be held in person in central Wisconsin, with an option to participate via Zoom. If you wish to attend, go to [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/) to request more information. 🏠

# Are You Looking for Ways to Serve in WHPA?

The WHPA Board of Directors has been a working board since 2019, meaning that the workload is spread among the board members. During this time, we have worked to improve, streamline, and automate many processes in order to make tasks easier and more efficient.

We have identified a few needs on the Board, both to further distribute the workload and to fill the positions that will be vacated over the next 2 years. We are actively seeking individuals to fill the following Board positions:

- Treasurer
- Membership Coordinator
- Events Coordinator

**No experience is necessary, only a willingness to help and a commitment to WHPA's mission.** New Board Members will shadow a current Board Member for up to a year.

In order to be considered for a position on the WHPA Board of Directors, you must:

- Be a current WHPA member
- Have been a WHPA member for at least one year
- Be legally homeschooling in Wisconsin (or be "retired" from legally homeschooling)
- Attend at least three consecutive board meetings

WHPA Board Member terms are two year terms, which can be renewed. The WHPA Board meets four times per year (typically the last Monday in January, April, July, and October), either in person or virtually, and once per year for a strategic planning session (usually in June).

If this sounds like a way you want to contribute to WHPA, please reach out through the contact form at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org) with any questions you may have about serving on the Board, or if you would like to attend an upcoming Board meeting. 🏠



## 2022 Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship Recipients



Congratulations from WHPA to the following homeschool recipients of the \$10,000 Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarship in 2022: **Anthony Kaseman** (Madison), **Kristen Lawton** (Glen Flora), and **Amira Oser** (Madison). Anthony's family are WHPA members.

Best wishes to these shining examples of homeschooling in Wisconsin! Each of them demonstrated excellence and love of learning during their high school years.

The final recipients were announced on April 6, 2022. Herb Kohl Excellence Scholarships are awarded to 100 Wisconsin high school seniors each year. Homeschooling students receive a proportionate number of the total scholarships awarded. WHPA is honored to work with the Kohl Educational Foundation to evaluate

the homeschool student applications, and we applaud the Foundation for its support of homeschoolers.

The Kohl Educational Foundation opens the scholarship application process each year in August. To learn more about applying for a scholarship, please see the Scholarships page at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org) and the Kohl Student Excellence Scholarship pages at [www.kohleducation.org/studentexcellence/](http://www.kohleducation.org/studentexcellence/). 🏠

### Be A Fact-Finder!

**Q:** Which of our Ten Principles asks us to, "Work with other homeschoolers on the grassroots level. Set aside differences in areas including approaches to education, curriculum choices, and political, religious, and philosophical beliefs. Work to maintain the right and freedom of each family to make its own decisions."?

**Hint:** You can find the answer to this and many more Wisconsin homeschooling questions using the handy **SEARCH** tool on our website at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org). 🏠

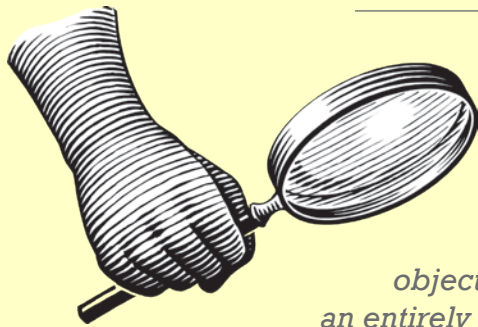




# Legislative Watch Committee Update

## AB 122 / SB 201 - "Micro education pods"

AB 122 was passed by both the full Assembly and Senate, and was **vetoed** by Governor Tony Evers on April 8, 2022. Gov. Evers stated his concerns about this proposed new entity in his veto message:



*"I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to creating an entirely new type of largely unregulated educational structure. The bill would functionally create a new class of small private entities that would operate outside of the current laws applying to private schools and homeschooling, such as those relating to special education, employment, building codes, teacher licensing, and health and safety standards. Micro education pods would operate as mostly unregulated, small private schools with some components of homeschooling."*

The Senate Committee on Education held a public hearing for SB 201 on February 23. Three WHPA board members, Rebecca Ahl, Dawn Cisler, and Jodi Buntin, testified in opposition to this bill. One currently-homeschooling student also testified in opposition. Having parents and young people show up in person and testify so compellingly that our current homeschool law works for them and for their family is incredibly powerful, and was well received by the legislators. Several other currently-homeschooling students and their parents registered in-person in opposition to the bill. This kind of in-person expression of support for our current law is also powerful, and was recognized by the committee. Many more WHPA members and homeschooling supporters contacted the members of the Committee to register their opposition to this bill.

One private school advocate testified in support of the bill. He reminded the Committee of the painful past homeschool and private school families suffered under our vague education laws before WHPA founders helped legislators craft our current law. He stated that "micro education pods" will not negatively affect homeschools, but did not account for the legal morass created by the proposal,

and offered no legal support for this view. One private school business owner testified in person for the creation of microschools. The majority of her testimony was in support of small private schools like hers, which already operate under our current private school law. Her primary complaints about our current law referred not to the definition of private schools, but to local zoning rules and ordinances that apply to residential districts, and which this proposal would not change. Her testimony did not address the underlying legal problem the proposal would create by eroding parental rights.

It is important to point out that not one single person testified at either public hearing - for AB 122 in March 2021 or SB 201 in February 2022 - that they had interest in starting a "microschool" / "micro education pod."

While SB 201 passed out of the Senate Committee on Education, it has proceeded no further, and currently has a status of "Hold (Available for Scheduling)." The Legislature concluded their regular business for the 2021-22 session in March.

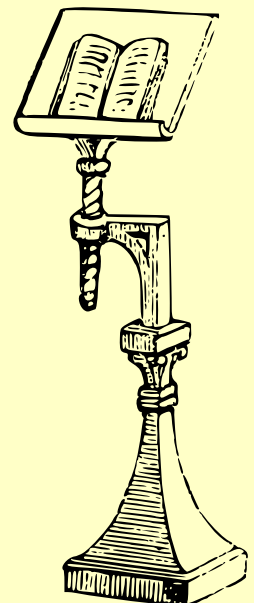
The mission of WHPA is to protect the rights of all Wisconsin parents to homeschool their own children, and to protect our reasonable homeschooling law. When there is a legitimate threat to our law - for example this bill which violates the current legal clarity - it is entirely within our mission to oppose it.

Since its founding in January 1984, WHPA has a well-documented, public record of standing up for the rights of all Wisconsin families to provide an education consistent with their own principles and beliefs to their own children. WHPA Board of Directors members and volunteers work hard to educate and empower parents, legislators, and government agencies with the most up-to-date and accurate information about homeschooling in Wisconsin. This ongoing work is central to the mission of WHPA. Our work is well respected by legislators, by the Department of Public Instruction, and, most importantly, by homeschooling parents from across the state.

WHPA stands by its foundational position to oppose legislation that violates, erodes, or undermines the parental right to homeschool.

To reiterate, WHPA does not now nor has ever opposed small private schools. WHPA would not oppose a "micro education pods" proposal that clearly does not relate to nor violate our inherent parental rights.

**WHPA is grateful for all of our members and supporters who worked to help protect our inherent parental rights and homeschooling freedoms!** 🏠



# Member Submission: The Wonder of Whistling

*By Nell Marie*

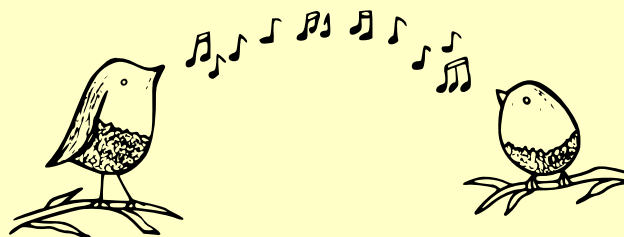
Attending out the window, we note the changing of the seasons  
Waking with the world outside, our senses need no reasons.  
Hearing leaves rustle, cars zoom, or birds chirping in flight  
We hush for the candle, together we sing, "The Golden Sun so great and bright"

We're filled by morning rituals of cuddles, reading, and story  
Living life in gratitude for this homeschool life's repertory  
I whistle as I work to begin this day anew  
"How did you learn to do that?!" she asks. "To whistle like that! How did you?"

I'm filled with memories of my Daddy whistling his twilight tunes  
"He's home!" we'd say, and joyfully we'd bustle about the rooms  
"Time to eat! Daddy's here!" This rhythm served me well.  
And still, the melody of our daily life composes the music in which we dwell.

Just as the Bridge Builder worked to make the good path for which it was for  
Dad built the deck that he crossed each night from garage to the front door.  
Dedication and bringing it forward formed the family of which I belong  
This practice shapes a note into a scale and then a song.

Honoring the discipline necessary for the days of home and heart  
Crafting a life of learning, with wonder, really is an art.  
Appreciation for the ease that I can whistle a joyous line  
I love to share my joy with this little one  
This little one of mine.



# Who Controls Private Education?

Seemingly every political season, another group raises the promise of tax dollars for homeschooling families. WHPA has always opposed accepting government favors for homeschoolers. Consider the following about why you should think twice about seeking taxpayer money for your private choices.

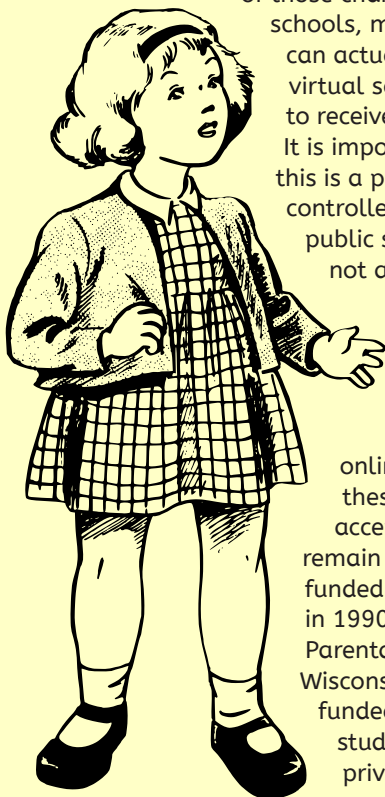
If you have chosen to take responsibility for the education of your own child by homeschooling, you have taken a huge step toward being free from government efforts to “help” families with education. Granted, as citizens of Wisconsin, we benefit from a constitutional guarantee to a free, public education for every child. However, giving up parental rights to the government has disadvantages. Homeschooling is a great option for many families, and we need to celebrate and protect our freedom to do this in our state.

In 1984, after the passing of Wisconsin Act 512, parents had legal protection to choose a private school or a home-based private educational program (homeschooling), if they elected not to send their child to a public school. Notice that both of those now clearly defined alternatives were private. Private schools and homeschooling were both privately-controlled and privately-funded. Private control ensured that each private school or homeschool could decide without government interference on everything from classroom size, to educational philosophy, to curriculum choices.

Since that time, Wisconsin has also authorized public charter schools, and, with the advent of the internet, some

of those charter schools are virtual schools, meaning that students can actually enroll in a public virtual school, yet stay at home to receive most of the instruction. It is important to understand that this is a public school--completely controlled and funded by the public school system, and is not a home-based private educational program (homeschooling).

Some private schools in Wisconsin have also begun operating virtual online education. As long as these private schools are not accepting tax dollars, they remain privately-controlled and funded. However, beginning in 1990 with a very limited Parental Choice program, Wisconsin has provided publicly funded vouchers to some students to enroll in some private schools with public money--tax dollars for private education. This Choice



School program has gradually expanded so that now, many more students may apply to a Choice School--a private school--with the tuition being paid with public tax dollars. ([dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs/statutes](http://dpi.wi.gov/parental-education-options/choice-programs/statutes))

Does this change in funding have any consequences for private schools that accept public money? Of course. All government favors come with the requirement of accountability. Taxpayers are right to expect accountability for how our tax dollars are spent. Without going into specifics, private Choice Schools do have more regulations to follow, such as mandatory testing, than Wisconsin private schools that do not take voucher dollars. Those private schools which decide to participate in one of Wisconsin's Private School Choice Programs (Milwaukee, Racine, Wisconsin, and Special Needs), whether they are “brick and mortar,” online, or part-time-on-campus and part-time-at-home, are no longer completely privately-funded or completely privately-controlled.

Furthermore, accepting funding allows the government to define education and impose its values, judgments, and testing requirements on these schools. The state chooses which schools qualify for the voucher program, and sets up guidelines for accountability on how the public money is spent. The right to privately control a private school has already been lost by those schools in the program. Further control is likely now that the state holds the pursestrings for private Choice Schools.

WHPA has worked hard since 1984 to keep home-based private educational programs free of government control and funding, so that homeschooling may remain entirely privately-controlled and privately-funded. As the sixth of WHPA's Ten Principles states,

*6. Do not seek or accept benefits from the government. Such benefits are likely to be followed by increased regulation, especially since the government is accountable for how tax dollars are spent.*

In 1992, WHPA (then WPA) passed this resolution to explain and uphold this important principle as it relates to educational vouchers:

*Whereas education vouchers being proposed at the federal and state levels of government would allow the government to define education and impose its values, judgments, and often its testing on people; and*

*Whereas such education vouchers would not be available to the family but only to the institutions that the family selects and which the state certifies as eligible to receive voucher moneys from the state; and*

*Whereas such education vouchers can easily lead to state control of education similar to a state religion and further control of families; and*

*Whereas there are better and more direct ways for the state and federal governments to assist families in*

(continued on pg 8)

## Who Controls Private Education? (con't)

(continued from pg 7)

funding private education, including home schooling, such as reducing taxes to families, increasing tax deductions for dependents, and providing tax credits;

Be it resolved by the Wisconsin Parents Association (WPA) that WPA and its members oppose education vouchers that would require the surrender of educational freedom, and, instead, WPA supports measures that would strengthen families by decreasing their tax burdens and thus leaving them money to use for private education or by returning money directly to the family, thus allowing the

family true choice in how moneys are spent for education. ([www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolution14/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolution14/))

WHPA subsequently passed two additional resolutions in 1995 ([www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolution23/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolution23/)) and 2003 ([www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolution40/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolution40/)) which address the risks which come with seeking taxpayer-funded favors and benefits.

Stand up for your right to choose and take full control of and responsibility for the education you envision for your child. Stand with WHPA against any pressure to accept "help" that comes through government funding for homeschooling! 🏠

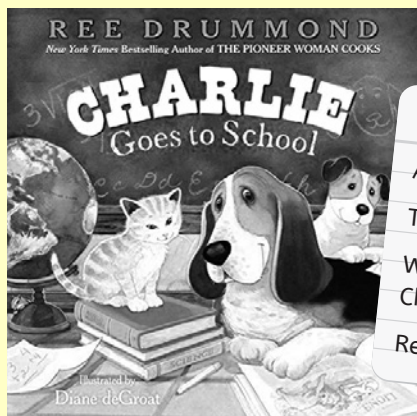
## Spread the Word!

To continue its work, WHPA needs a strong membership base.

Our member families both support and receive:

- Informative and helpful **newsletters** like this one
  - Comprehensive, evergreen **website**, available to all Wisconsin homeschoolers, prospective homeschoolers, homeschool supporters, and anyone with questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin
  - All-volunteer **Question Answering Committee** to respond to questions about homeschooling in Wisconsin
  - Annual **Homeschooling Conference and Resource Fair and Virtual Events**
  - **Legislative Watch Committee** of volunteers to keep informed of legislative actions which could affect Wisconsin homeschoolers
  - Statewide **WHPA 101** programs upon request
  - **Representation** of homeschoolers to the legislature and agencies
- Hardship assistance may be available upon request.
- Encourage your homeschooling friends and supporters to visit [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/membership](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/membership) and **join today!** 🏠

## Bookworm Biblio-File



Book Title: **Charlie Goes to School**  
 Author: Ree Drummond  
 This book is good for ages: 4-8  
 What I liked most about this book is: Charlie is funny and makes me laugh  
 Recommended by: Sebastian, age 5

Bookworm Biblio-File highlights recommendations from members of books that feature homeschooling and/or homeschoolers. It's simple to share your suggestions. Go to [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/), fill out your information, and choose "Newsletter Idea" from the Subject dropdown. Then, for each recommendation, copy and paste the following prompts into the **Your Question or Comment** section and fill in the blanks:

- Book Title:
- Author:
- This book is good for ages:
- What I liked most about this book is:
- Bookworm's first name and age:

All submissions are subject to review of course, and space is limited. We can't wait to hear from you! 🏠





# Additional Reasons Why Homeschools Need Flexibility and Freedom from Unreasonable Restrictions

*Reprinted from WPA Newsletter Issue #17, February, 1988*

Wisconsin needs homeschools which are not overly regulated by state bureaucracy as part of the range of educational alternatives which should be available to children in the state. Important evidence and support for this statement comes from a new book, In Their Own Way by Thomas Armstrong (Los Angeles: Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc., 1987). Armstrong uses the work of Howard Gardner in Frames of Mind (New York: Basic Books, 1983) to show that there are seven different kinds of intelligences (linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal). Everyone has all seven but in different variations--most people are strongest in one, two, or three. We can help children learn by identifying their strengths and providing them with opportunities to use them in learning. (Armstrong contends that there are seven ways to teach anything and gives examples for reading, multiplication tables, etc.)

While most of Armstrong's book contains suggestions for parents who want to help their children who are attending conventional schools (and for ways schools could better help children learn), this approach has very important implications for homeschooling (which Armstrong mentions only briefly but positively).

Homeschools are ideal for this approach to education for at least two important reasons. First, parents who work closely over a long period of time with a relatively small number of children about whom they care deeply can easily identify the intelligences which are strong in each child. (Many homeschooling parents of course do this without ever having been exposed to Gardner's and Armstrong's ideas, simply because they work so closely with their children.) Second, the small scale, diverse, flexible, and "real world" environment of a homeschool makes it an excellent place for the implications of these ideas to be put into practice. For example, a child with strong kinesthetic intelligence may learn best while s/he is moving around; a musical child may benefit from background music with a strong beat. These kinds of things can be accommodated

in a homeschool. (A homeschool is, of course, not the only place these ideas can be practiced. They have exciting potential for conventional schools, too.)

In order to really benefit from this approach to education, homeschools in Wisconsin need to continue not to be stifled by unnecessary restrictions and bureaucratic regulations.

Here is another strong argument against state-mandated standardized

testing. These tests basically measure linguistic and logical-mathematical intelligence. They give an unfair advantage to children strong in these areas and an unfair disadvantage to children who are strongest in the other intelligences. Armstrong taught so-called "learning disabled" children for several years and has some excellent comments on this topic.

"It's no wonder, then, that self-concept scores of children labeled learning disabled tend to be consistently lower than those of non-labeled kids. The belief 'I am a disabled learner' may limit a child's learning potential far more than whatever was causing the original learning difficulty." (P. 126) Say instead 'learning different,' suggests Armstrong, and realize the tremendous abilities they may have in areas other than linguistic or logical-mathematical.

Care should be taken in applying the ideas presented in this book. Armstrong reminds us that everybody has all seven intelligences and cautions against looking only for the one strongest intelligence in a child. To this we would add that while the book may be a good supplement or clarification for homeschooling parents, the ideas may not be all that

*(continued on pg 12)*

## WHPA 101

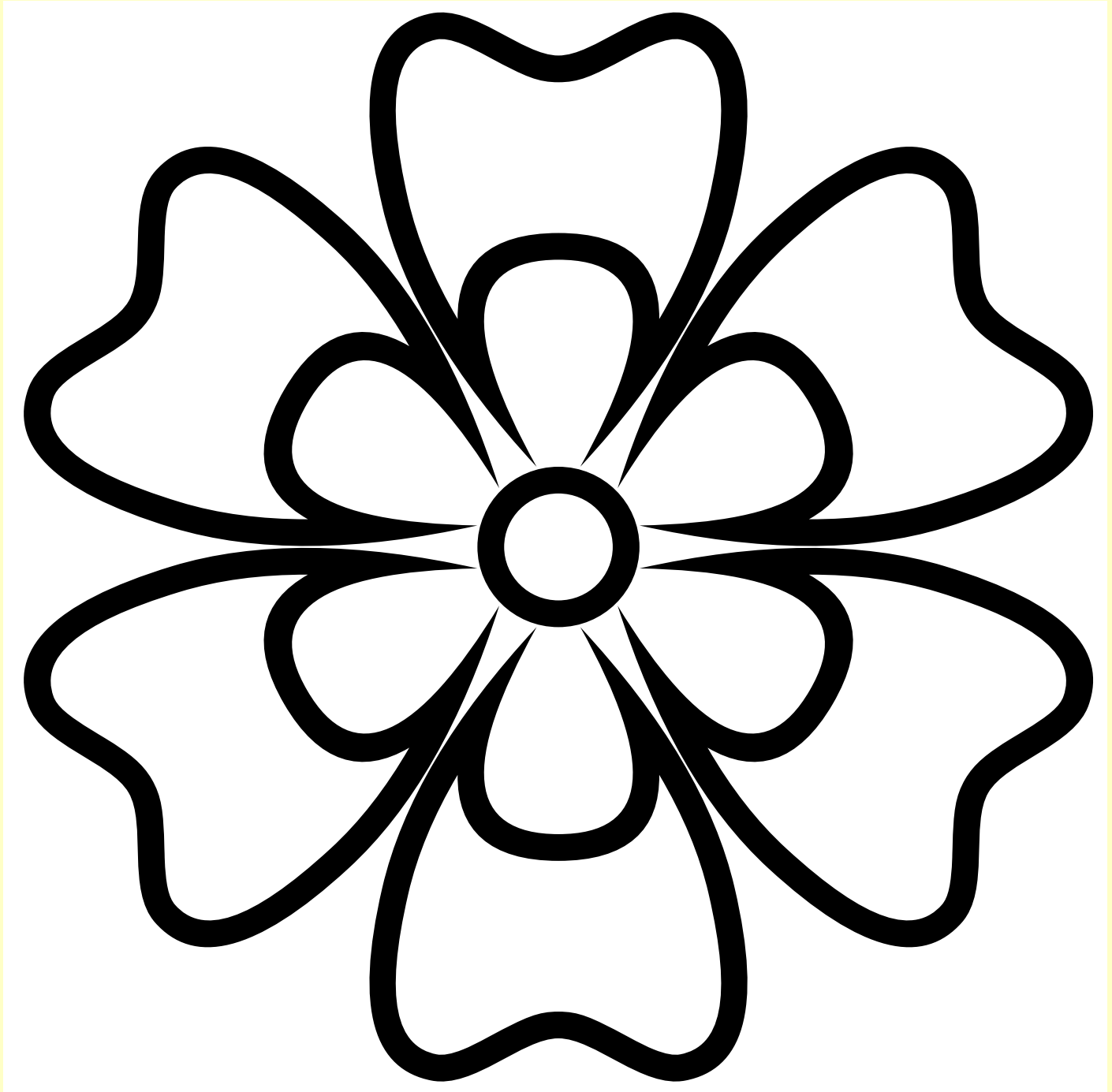
Our popular WHPA 101 session is available to homeschooling groups, libraries, and interested parents throughout Wisconsin. This free 45- to 60-minute program is presented for free by a WHPA-trained facilitator, either in person or via Zoom, and focuses on providing vital accurate information about homeschooling in Wisconsin.

***You organize the group, we take care of the program!***

Keep in mind that we prefer to open up the program to as many homeschoolers and potential homeschoolers in the area as possible, and we will count on you to help spread the word!

To request a WHPA 101 session for your area, please visit [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/whpa-101/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/whpa-101/). 🏠

Make as many copies of these pages as



# r With Me!

as you'd like to color with your kiddos.



## Additional Reasons Why Homeschools Need Flexibility and Freedom from Unreasonable Restrictions (con't)

(continued from pg 9)

new--parents and children have been learning this way for centuries. The primary value of a book like this is often to open the eyes of people who have not had the chance to work and learn with a child in this way. Let's just hope that they get the whole message (and realize that children are capable and need opportunities to learn in a wide variety of ways) rather than trying to devise standardized tests for the other five intelligences!

Another argument against standardized education and in favor of flexibility to allow for individual learning styles can be found in Martin Henley's article, "Something Is Missing From the Education Reform Movement," Phi Delta Kappan, December, 1987, pp. 284-5. And "Deprogramming Reading Failure: Giving Unequal Learners an Equal Chance," by Marie Carbo in Phi Delta Kappan, November, 1987, pp. 197-202, is introduced with, "Too many students are victims of the

unspoken presumption that there is one right way to teach all children to read. But research on child development and reading styles indicates that what is 'appropriate' for one student may be damaging to another, says Ms. Carbo." (Phi Delta Kappan, by the way, is a highly respected educational journal.)

The conclusion that can be drawn from all this has a familiar ring to readers of these pages: **Wisconsin's reasonable homeschooling law should not be changed.** Or put more strongly, how fortunate that Wisconsin's homeschooling law recognizes that homeschools need flexibility in order to be true alternatives that can put exciting ideas like these into practice. This benefits not only the children who are attending these schools. As more is learned in homeschools about the many ways children learn and the variety of ways in which they can be helped to learn, many children not in homeschools will benefit. What a resource Wisconsin has in its homeschools! 🏠

### Website Developments

Great news! WHPA's website redesign is officially underway - watch for a new and improved website, streamlined membership process, and more later this fall. Thank you to all of our members who helped spread the word in our search for the right developer! 🏠

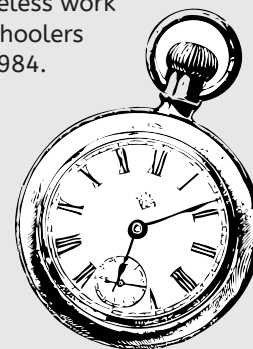


## Milestones Flashback: 1988

When it comes to homeschooling in Wisconsin, we **all** are where we are today because of the tireless work of the volunteers who came before us. Working together through WHPA (formerly WPA), homeschoolers in Wisconsin have reclaimed and maintained basic freedoms in education and family life since 1984.

Here's a flashback to the first four resolutions passed thirty-four years ago in 1988. You can find the full text of these and all of WPA's resolutions on our website at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolutions/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/wiki/resolutions/).

- RESOLUTION: 1. WPA and Choice in Education
- RESOLUTION: 2. Wisconsin's Home Schooling Law
- RESOLUTION: 3. State-Mandated Standardized Testing
- RESOLUTION: 4. Home Schooling, Private Education, and the DPI 🏠





# Insights from the Handbook: Winning Support and Dealing with Critics

*Homeschooling in Wisconsin: At Home With Learning, 7th ed, pgs. 195-198. It has been minimally modified for clarity.*

## The Importance of Public Opinion

In some ways, public opinion can be more important than laws and statutes in determining what rights and responsibilities a group of people will have. If there is strong public opinion in support of a group, officials will be reluctant to take action against them, even if the law would allow it. On the other hand, if a large or vocal segment of the general public is prejudiced against a group, it will probably be difficult for that group to receive fair treatment, even though such treatment is legally required. The more understanding, acceptance, and support homeschoolers have from the general public, the more secure our rights and freedoms will be.

## Dealing with Critics

As homeschoolers we need to deal with skeptics and critics of homeschooling both in public settings and in our personal lives. The following suggestions might help in either of these situations:

- Generally we are better able to deal with critics calmly, without becoming defensive, when we are feeling confident ourselves. It often helps to remind ourselves about what our children are doing and what they are

learning in addition to academics, such as how to get along with others, take responsibility, and talk with people of different ages. It might help to review records we are keeping and remind ourselves about how well homeschooling works. (See the Record Keeping page on the WHPA website.) It is better to share our doubts with people who are strong supporters of homeschooling than with critics.

- Homeschooling is a relatively new and different idea. People who have not had such experience often have a difficult time imagining how homeschooling could possibly work, especially in a culture dominated by conventional schools.
- We can try to make homeschooling seem reasonable and similar to experiences that non-homeschoolers have had personally or can relate to. Hearing homeschools are like one room schools helps some people understand. It sometimes helps to point out to non-homeschooling parents that they do many learning activities (like reading aloud, playing games, and visiting parks and museums) with their children when they are not in school. Homeschoolers just do them more.
- We can explain that children learn in many different ways.

We can translate what our children are doing into conventional school terms. For example, interlocking building blocks are “math manipulatives,” learning to cook is “home economics,” and curling up with a picture book before bed is “learning to read.”

- We can emphasize that each family needs to make its

own decisions about education (and other aspects of family life and parenting). Homeschooling works well for our families, but we are not trying to convince other families that they should homeschool.

- If we avoid attacking the public schools or other conventional schools, non-homeschoolers are less likely to feel angry or defensive.
- Sometimes it helps to try to find out what critics are most concerned about and address those specific concerns. For example, many people say they can understand how children could easily learn basic subjects at home, but they don't see how they can learn to get along with a lot of other people. Once we have heard that, we can focus our comments on how homeschooled children gain social skills.
- It may help if we and our family appear as conventional as possible without compromising important principles.
- The mention of homeschooling or not having to attend school often raises very strong feelings. Without realizing it, people who ask about our homeschooling may really want to talk about themselves. With genuine interest, we can ask what school was like for them or what they think it would have been like if their parents had homeschooled them.

## Dealing with Critics in Public Settings

- Generally speaking, the calmer we homeschoolers remain, the more positive the audience's response will be to us. It often helps to say, “Families have to make their own decisions about

*(continued on pg 14)*



# Winning Support and Dealing with Critics (con't)

(continued from pg 13)

what approach to education will work for them.”

- Regardless of what critics say, it helps to try to get across to the audience that we know from our own experience and from that of thousands of other families that homeschooling works. Increased state regulation of homeschooling is unnecessary and could be detrimental to homeschools. If we have made those points, we can feel good and not worry about the fact that we did not explain in detail things like what the law requires, how homeschooling children learn, or how they develop social skills. If we have convinced a few people that homeschooling might not be such a bad idea after all, we have accomplished a lot. We cannot expect to turn people into supporters of homeschooling overnight.

## Dealing with Critics in Our Personal Lives

Criticism from friends, relatives, and acquaintances is frustrating for parents who are putting a lot of time and energy into their children's education. However, many families manage to homeschool and feel good about it despite criticism and lack of support. These families may begin by deciding that it is more important to choose an approach to education that works well for their children than to please other people and gain their approval. They realize that people can be good friends, neighbors, or relatives without understanding or agreeing with homeschooling.



When their homeschool is criticized, many parents listen carefully to try to understand the critic's real objections.

Critics often fit into one of three groups. Some are open-minded enough to listen to information about homeschooling and possibly change their minds once they understand it better. In this case, it may help to share personal experiences and ideas and possibly articles, books, and websites.

A second group of critics has their minds definitely made up and is simply not interested in learning more about homeschooling. However, they may be willing to agree to disagree. They will continue their approach to education and will accept homeschoolers' decision to homeschool. This approach avoids a lot of pointless discussion and makes it possible to continue a relationship on relatively good terms.

Unfortunately a third group of people seems unable to accept the idea of homeschooling. Some homeschoolers find that they just have to give up, ask these people to stop talking about homeschooling, and, if they refuse, possibly even stop seeing them. It can be very frustrating to have a relationship end this way, but sometimes it seems the only choice. Many parents feel strongly that it is important to protect their children from undue criticism, teasing, ridicule, negative comments, lack of confidence, or informal testing. ("Can you read this word?" "Haven't you learned to multiply yet?" "How are you ever going to learn algebra?") Sometimes this means that parents have to speak very firmly to critics and possibly limit their children's contact with them.

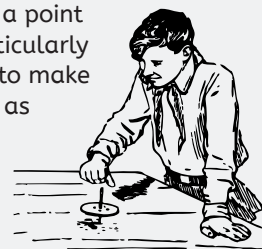
Many homeschoolers find that time spent making connections with people who support homeschooling and trying to help others understand homeschooling is time well spent.

## Telling Our Stories

### Why Tell Homeschooling Stories

Telling our stories is important for a number of reasons, including the following:

- Stories are a dramatic, easily understood way to convey to others why we chose to homeschool and how well it works. Stories about what happens to children in conventional schools do matter, even when they are things that some people might consider "not that important" or "things that happen to every kid growing up." Stories also show how well homeschooling works for children who had trouble learning in a conventional school. Sometimes skeptics can be shown that homeschooling does work by giving them specific examples.
- Homeschooling stories show the indispensable role of parents in children's lives and education, a point that is particularly important to make these days as more people are turning to experts and specialists rather than to parents as the people who know most about raising children. As the stories in this book show, it is not usually school personnel who say, "Things are happening in this school that are harming your child. We need to do something about it." Instead it is usually parents who say, "We have to do something."
- Stories give us an opportunity to give ourselves and our families the credit we deserve for what we are doing. They help children realize how much they are learning and doing and how important and legitimate it is.
- Stories are an effective way to educate legislators about homeschooling and the effects of both reasonable and unreasonable laws and regulations. For example,



(continued on pg 16)

# Sudoku

Make as many copies of this page as you'd like for your family. Answers on page 18.

## 9x9 Beginner

5	6	4	3	2	8	9	1	7
			1	5				
3	8	1	7	6				4
		6			7		9	
4			9		6	7		5
9		7	8	3	2	1	4	6
	9	3	2	8	5	4	6	1
	4	5		7			2	9
		2	4			5		8

### 9x9 Beginner Sudoku

Enter numbers in the empty squares so that the numbers 1-9 each appear only once in each row, column, and box.

## 16x16 Advanced

4	14		5			12				15	13		16	1	
						2				9	7	13		6	
	9				15		1	4		8	12	5		11	
		12		11			4						8		15
	6	4	14		5		12			10	1	2	11	9	
		10						12			5		3	14	
15		3		9		6			14				1	7	16
	1	16					2				4		6		
	10		6	5	7	8			4			14		13	1
	7		4	14		11				13	3			5	9
16				12					11	1		8			4
			8			13	9	16			2	11			
2	8		10				14		12	5	15	7		16	11
	4	9		15		3			7	16	14				2
				13			11								3
1	16	7	3						13			6			

### 16x16 Advanced Sudoku

Enter numbers in the empty squares so that the numbers 1-16 each appear only once in each row, column, and box.

## Winning Support and Dealing with Critics (con't)

(continued from pg 14)

Wisconsin's current reasonable homeschooling law was passed in part because legislators listened when homeschoolers described the arbitrary and unfair ways in which they had been treated by Department of Public Instruction (DPI) officials to whom they had applied for approval of their homeschools. (See the History page on the WHPA website.) As a result, the Legislature decided not to give the DPI authority over homeschools.

- Some families find that telling stories helps them recover from difficult experiences they have had. It also helps if stories prevent others from having similar experiences or show them how they, too, could solve problems.
- Stories sometimes make it possible for listeners to understand how strongly they themselves have been influenced by their own personal school experiences and to begin finding ways to overcome negative ones. Few people question the power and influence that conventional schools have in our society. However, homeschooling stories help people realize that they can make choices and learn things outside conventional schools that they thought or were told they were unable to learn in school.
- Stories are an effective way to convey information about homeschooling without risking the problems of research and surveys.

### Suggestions for Telling Homeschooling Stories

As homeschoolers we need to tell our homeschooling stories, or they will not be heard. However, we also have to be careful to protect our children's feelings and privacy. Making sure we have our children's permission

before telling a story is important. Even then it is often better to say, "I know (or heard about) a nine-year-old homeschooler who..." instead of "When my son John was nine, he..."

When and where can we tell our stories? Among the possibilities are informal conversations, public meetings about homeschooling, radio talk shows, newspaper interviews, and at our place of worship. Also, send your stories to WHPA. They are included as a regular part of the newsletter.

Some points to consider when telling stories:

- Concentrate on the positive aspects of homeschooling rather than the negative parts of conventional schools. Sometimes a story only makes sense if it includes something negative about a conventional school, but such details should be used only to make larger constructive points and only with caution because they may put listeners on the defensive.
- Stories that may be particularly helpful are those that show how much fun learning can be and how children learn in many different ways. Listeners frequently feel more comfortable with homeschooling after they have heard that in addition to academic studies, children can learn science by studying bugs in their backyard, math and nutrition by

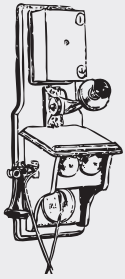
planning menus and shopping, and history by listening to grandparents talk about their childhood. Stories can also show how good parents are at helping their children learn, how well socialized homeschooling children are, how well children who have been labeled "learning disabled" can learn at home, how often children simply need the opportunity to learn at their own pace, how homeschooling strengthens families, what a wonderful opportunity homeschooling provides for parents to simply be with and understand their children, and how homeschooling builds confidence for families to take responsibility in other important areas of life.

- Whenever possible, relate homeschooling to experiences that listeners have had or are familiar with. Some people seem to understand better when homeschools are compared to one room schools. Sometimes it helps to point out that every family homeschools (in the sense that they do things together when children are not in school from which children learn); homeschoolers simply do this full-time.
- It may help if homeschoolers appear as conventional as possible without compromising important principles. Generally it works best to concentrate on one issue at a time, and not try to convince an audience of the importance of both homeschooling and, for example, good nutrition.
- If we have doubts about homeschooling or about our children's learning, it is usually better to share them with people we know who support homeschooling than to include them in stories we are telling to help skeptics or critics understand homeschooling. 🏠





# Call for Submissions



Is there something you'd like to see in an upcoming WHPA Newsletter? Whether you have an *idea* for us, or a *completed original piece* you'd like to submit for consideration, we look forward to hearing from you.

*Ideas* may include a homeschooling question you'd like answered, or a homeschooling topic you think would be useful to Wisconsin homeschoolers.

*Completed original pieces* of all types by any WHPA member - written or visual, by students or parents alike - are also welcome.

Submit your idea or piece via the Contact form at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/contact-whpa/) for consideration! 🏠

## On Our Shelves: Homeschooling Book Recommendations from WHPA Members

### Homeschooling Our Children Unschooling Ourselves by Alison McKee

At the time of reading this book, unschooling seemed so daring and exotic to me. The author, Alison McKee, hosted my very first workshop at my very first WHPA Homeschooling Conference. I was enthralled with the idea of allowing our children to follow their passions. One of the big determining factors for us to homeschool, was allowing passions to lead into a career path. Its especially exciting to know her family's homeschooling journey started out so early in the history of homeschooling being legal in Wisconsin!

### Teach Your Own by John Holt

Truthfully, I love anything by John Holt, but what I especially loved about this particular book was the focus on allowing children to learn on their own, how they're naturally engrained to learn on their own. I appreciated all the stories from parents who shared their special homeschooling in the real world. I appreciated the author's encouragement to "fight for and preserve the right to homeschool".

### Unschooling Rules by Clark Aldrich

One of my absolute favorite books to recommend and give out to people (homeschoolers and non-homeschoolers alike!) I found it difficult to put this book down and had so much fun reading it! It was an AHA and breath of fresh-air all wrapped into an affirmation that embracing homeschooling was a lifestyle choice for my family.

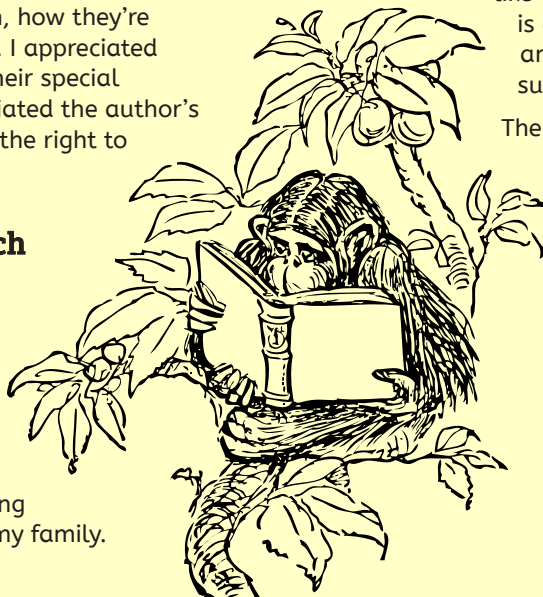
### Simply Classical by Cheryl Swope

A fellow homeschooler introduced me to this book years after our youngest graduated. I have readily recommended the book a number of times to other homeschoolers.

Cheryl Swope and her husband adopted special needs twins. The book tells of Cheryl's homeschooling journey with her children. But it isn't just for the parents of special needs children. I was most impressed by the wide range of curriculum and approaches Cheryl tried. When one method or material didn't work, she tried another - and another - and another. This book offers a terrific overview of many approaches and materials parents interested in homeschooling can consider. An important point to be made is if a material or approach doesn't work for your child, you've learned a valuable lesson - what doesn't work. Cross that off your list and try something else. Just

like all of parenting, homeschooling is a giant experiment to find the answers to guide our children into a successful adulthood.

The text is readable and inspiring. I will mention that one of Cheryl's priorities is that her children have a Biblical grounding. Even if that is not your priority, don't let that deter you from enjoying this book. 🏠



# Sudoku Answers

Puzzles are on page 15.

## 9x9 Beginner

8	7	5	3	9	4	2	1	6
9	2	3	1	7	6	5	4	8
1	6	4	5	8	2	3	9	7
6	4	1	2	3	8	7	5	9
5	3	7	6	1	9	8	2	4
2	9	8	7	4	5	6	3	1
4	5	2	9	6	7	1	8	3
3	8	6	4	5	1	9	7	2
7	1	9	8	2	3	4	6	5

## 16x16 Advanced

1	16	7	3	2	12	9	8	10	13	4	11	6	5	15	14
5	12	14	15	13	16	7	11	9	8	2	6	1	10	4	3
6	4	9	11	15	10	3	5	1	7	16	14	12	13	8	2
2	8	13	10	1	6	4	14	3	12	5	15	7	9	16	11
14	15	1	8	4	3	13	9	16	5	7	2	11	12	10	6
16	13	5	9	12	2	15	6	14	11	1	10	8	7	3	4
12	7	2	4	14	1	11	10	8	6	13	3	16	15	5	9
3	10	11	6	5	7	8	16	15	4	12	9	14	2	13	1
11	1	16	7	10	8	14	2	13	9	3	4	15	6	12	5
15	5	3	12	9	4	6	13	2	14	11	8	10	1	7	16
9	2	10	13	7	11	1	15	12	16	6	5	4	3	14	8
8	6	4	14	3	5	16	12	7	15	10	1	2	11	9	13
7	3	12	1	11	13	5	4	6	10	14	16	9	8	2	15
13	9	6	2	16	15	10	1	4	3	8	12	5	14	11	7
10	11	15	16	8	14	2	3	5	1	9	7	13	4	6	12
4	14	8	5	6	9	12	7	11	2	15	13	3	16	1	10

# Homeschooling in Wisconsin: Know Your RIGHTS *and* Your RESPONSIBILITIES

When you choose to homeschool your child, you are choosing to:

- Take full responsibility for your child's education.
- Not take advantage of other opportunities for your child's education.
- Exercise your rights under Wisconsin law.
- Follow Wisconsin's homeschooling law.

## Homeschooling RIGHTS

Under Wisconsin law you have the right to:

- Homeschool your child.
- Homeschool your child at any time between the ages of 6 and 18, for any number of years, through high school graduation.
- Educate your child in a way that best suits your child, your family, and your principles and beliefs.
- Move freely, and choose freely as to what constitutes your child's education.
- An assessment by your school district, if you or someone else believes your child may need special education services. Under the Child Find mandate of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), your school district must convene an IEP team, assess your child, and provide you with a written IEP plan.

Under Wisconsin law you do not have a right to:

- Public money or goods for instructing your child.
- Any special services outlined in an IEP. To receive these services, your child must be enrolled in public school.
- Shared funding for special services under IDEA. To possibly get shared funding, your child must be enrolled in a private school.

## Homeschooling RESPONSIBILITIES

Under Wisconsin law you MUST:

- File a PI-1206 Homeschool Report with the Department of Public Instruction each year that you are homeschooling.
- File your PI-1206 Homeschool Report on or before October 15.
- Comply with the requirements of homeschooling in Wisconsin, as defined in Wis Stat 115.001(3g) and Wis Stat 118.165.

Your responsibilities to other homeschoolers:

One responsibility we each have is to operate our homeschool in a way that is in compliance with our very reasonable law. As one WHPA founder often said, "What I do affects each of you, and what each of you does affects me."

Two ways to take responsibility are:

- Do no more than the law requires. Doing more than the minimum required by law works to erode your rights to direct your own child's education under the law.
- Don't ask for special treatment under the law. Because homeschoolers have the same legal standing as other Wisconsin private schools, asking for government assistance in the form of public money, goods, or services blurs the line between homeschools and public schools.

## How Can You Support WHPA's Work?

Join WHPA:

- Stay informed and updated; lend your voice.
- Encourage other homeschoolers and supporters to join.
- Set up Automatic Renewal next time you renew.
- Gift a membership to another family.

Communicate:

- Let WHPA know what's happening in your local communities and act appropriately, with one consistent message for parents, schools, districts, and government agencies.
- Contact your state legislators and let them know that Wisconsin's homeschooling law is working for you and your family and that you don't want any changes or special favors for homeschoolers.
- Attend quarterly Board meetings to be an informed member.

Donate:

- \$25 pays for one month of renewal reminders.
- \$30 prints and mails 20 copies of the newsletter.
- \$35 sponsors a family for a 1 year WHPA membership.
- \$90 will pay for a month of email services.
- \$200 makes the WHPA website available for one month.

Get Involved:

- Attend WHPA's quarterly Board meetings to learn about opportunities - both large and small - to share your time and talents with our all-volunteer organization!
- Sponsor a virtual WHPA 101 session in your area.
- Submit a newsletter article, suggestion, or artwork for consideration.

Find additional information, including WHPA's Ten Principles, Protecting Wisconsin Law, and more at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org).





**Wisconsin  
Homeschooling  
Parents  
Association**

*Homeschooling since 1984*

PO Box 2502  
Madison WI 53701  
[www.homeschooling-whpa.org](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org)

## Upcoming Events

You can find all the latest events, updates, and registration information at [www.homeschooling-whpa.org/events-2/](http://www.homeschooling-whpa.org/events-2/).



***Virtual Event: Homeschooling  
the Dyslexic Reader***

May 7, 2022 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am on Zoom



***Virtual Event: New to Homeschooling***

May 17, 2022 @ 7:30 am - 9:00 am on Zoom



***Virtual Event: Homeschooling  
High School Without Fear***

May 18, 2022 @ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm on Zoom



***Virtual Event: Coffee With The Board***

June 2, 2022 @ 9:00 am - 10:30 am on Zoom



***Virtual Event: Homeschooling JAM Session***

June 20, 2022 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm on Zoom



***Virtual Event: The Power of Play***

July 29, 2022 @ 10:00 am - 11:30 am on Zoom



***Board Meeting – Jul '22***

July 18, 2022 @ 10:00 am in Central  
Wisconsin or on Zoom



***Board Meeting – Oct '22***

October 24, 2022 @ 10:00 am in  
Central Wisconsin or on Zoom



***Annual Member Meeting***

November 1, 2022 @  
6:00 pm on Zoom



***40th Annual  
Homeschooling  
Conference and  
Resource Fair***

May 5-6, 2023 at Holiday Inn  
Stevens Point - Convention  
Center, Stevens Point, WI

