

## **Welcome Letter for New Members**

Thank you for joining Desert Hills Christian Homeschoolers and welcome to the group!

You have taken the right step in desiring to take the education of your children into your own hands. As parents, we want what is best for our children because we love them and have a personal interest in their lives. We also know that God has given us the duty for the proper upbringing of our children, including their education. It is an awesome responsibility, but it is also a privilege, and one which we do not wish to delegate to anyone else.

If this is your first homeschooling experience, there's no need to worry or be in a hurry. Take time to prayerfully consider your curriculum choices, your teaching style, and the structure of your new homeschool. Methods range from traditional to relaxed. The home provides a convenient, integrated learning environment. Every day is another opportunity to instill a love for learning that will last a lifetime.

Materials for home education are plentiful and varied. They include textbooks, workbooks, unit studies, correspondence courses, video lessons, and computer instruction. Items from different sources may be combined to create your own "eclectic" curriculum. The annual state convention and curriculum fair provides an opportunity to view and purchase products from many different publishers. Libraries and bookstores have many home education how-to books as well.

There are over 1.5 million homeschoolers nationwide (including about 23,000 home-educated students here in Arizona), and the figure continues to grow. Homeschooled students as a group generally exceed national norms on standardized achievement tests. They demonstrate good real-life social skills and tend to relate better to people in all age groups. Many colleges and universities welcome homeschool graduates.

This may be your first year of homeschooling, but at the same time it is not. From the moment our babies are born we are on a journey to teach them. We train them to walk, to talk, to say please and thank you, etc. So why should the "school" ages be any different? Now we teach them to read, write, study, be good citizens, etc. Just as the baby phase passes quickly, so do the school years. Enjoy!

Hopefully this membership packet will answer some of your questions and provide enough information to get you off to a good start. You are welcome to contact me at [dhch@dhch.org](mailto:dhch@dhch.org) and ask any other questions that are not answered here.

Best wishes for a successful homeschooling endeavor!

*Teri*

Desert Hills Christian Homeschoolers  
[www.dhch.org](http://www.dhch.org)