



Hip Homeschool Moms

How to Add Games and Fun into Your Homeschool Without Feeling Guilty!

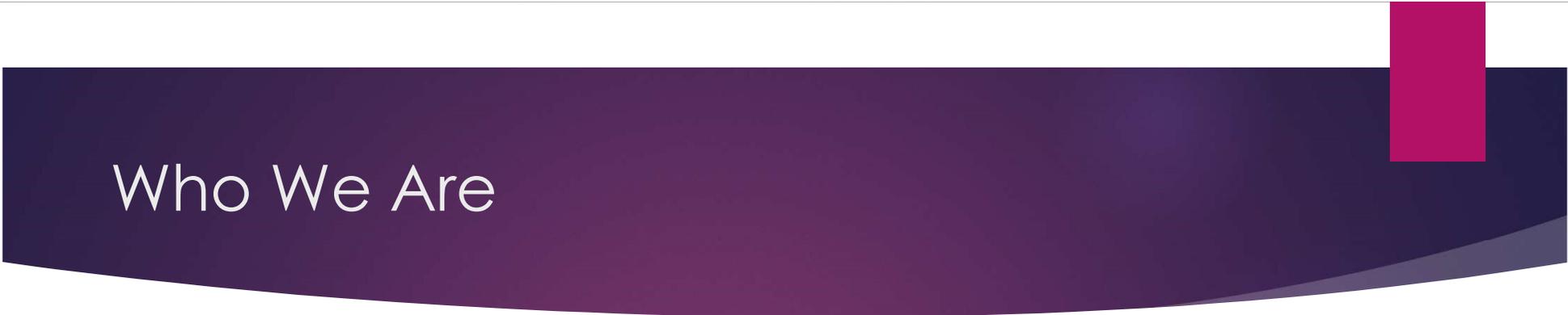
Introductions

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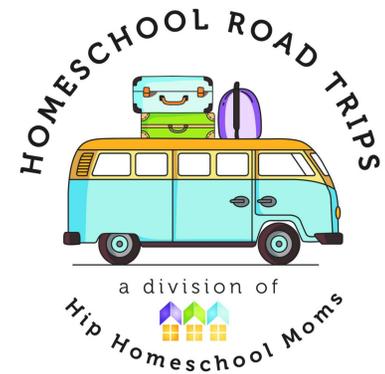


Who We Are

- ▶ We are moms just like you.
- ▶ We are genuine—flaws and all.
- ▶ We share our real-world experiences.
- ▶ We are passionate about helping you homeschool.

What We Do

- ▶ Hip Homeschool Moms:
 - ▶ website
 - ▶ Facebook page
 - ▶ Facebook group
- ▶ Homeschool Road Trips:
 - ▶ Website - travel section of HHM website
 - ▶ Facebook page
 - ▶ Facebook group
- ▶ Love These Recipes:
 - ▶ website
 - ▶ Facebook page
 - ▶ Facebook group



Can learning actually be fun?

- ▶ Gameschooling is a fantastic way to build relationships and connect with your children while learning and having fun at the same time! Parents can't ask for more than that!
- Are you skeptical? Does it sound like a whole lot of fun without any learning? Let's take a look at the benefits your children (and you) will reap.



Why should we make learning fun?

- When we use activities that make learning engaging and fun, children are more willing to participate.
- Brain research actually suggests that fun is not just beneficial to learning ... many studies show it is required for authentic learning and long-term memory! Play impacts development in several areas, including language, executive functions, mathematics, and spatial skills!



Why should we make learning fun?

- ▶ Laughter increases dopamine.
- ▶ Having fun causes better brain engagement.
- ▶ Having fun together builds relationships.
- ▶ Emotions are memory glue.



Why should we make learning fun?

- ▶ As your children engage and play games, they are working on developing skills—including social skills—such as:
 - ▶ sharing
 - ▶ taking turns
 - ▶ communicating with each other
 - ▶ listening
 - ▶ cooperating
 - ▶ developing/using creativity
 - ▶ handling wins and losses



Why should we make learning fun?

- ▶ Games are a less-intimidating way to introduce new concepts or skills to your children. Would you rather learn how to divide by doing a worksheet or by playing a challenging new math game?
- ▶ Most children would prefer to learn and develop their skills and concepts through games. Teach your children all 50 states with games or have them learn how to count coins with games.



Why should we make learning fun?

- ▶ Practicing skills can be hard for children. If you have a child who is struggling to understand subtraction, multiple worksheets with red X's lead to embarrassment and frustration.
- ▶ Games are a judgment-free way to practice skills. Games are safe for kids. There is no pressure to get the perfect grade. Your children focus on enjoying and playing the games. Kids feel encouraged when they win games using skills they've developed.
- ▶ Instead of drill and kill, learning becomes fun for your children. Truth be told, playing a board game feels like you are cheating. Can learning a new skill REALLY be this much fun? Absolutely!



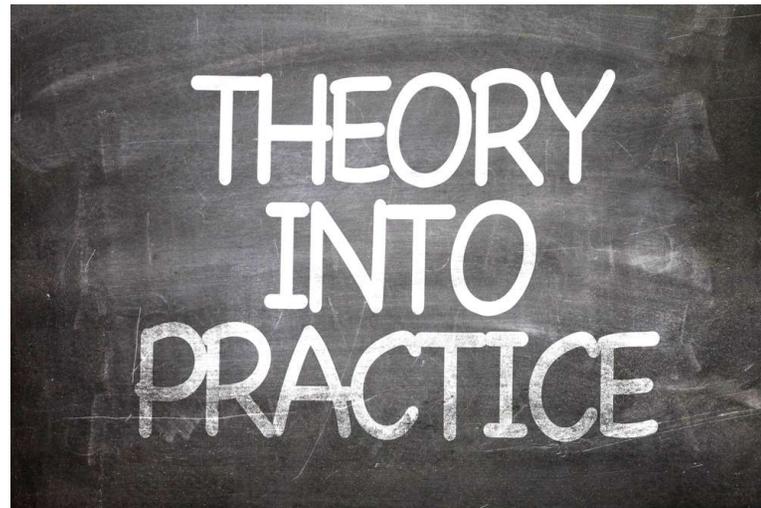
Why should we make learning fun?

- ▶ A strong parent-child connection is vital for effective parenting and effective homeschooling. Playing with your children, whether it is imaginative play or a board game, is a sure-fire way to bond and connect with your kids.
- ▶ If something is wrong with your homeschool or you find yourself butting heads with your children, slowing down and connecting with your kids is a great way to get back on track.
- ▶ Kids often find themselves frustrated over skills and subjects. Parents want to see smiles and laughs, not tears of frustration. Don't push your children too hard. Step back, pull out some games, and enjoy the fun (and smile because your children are learning when they don't realize it).



How can we make learning fun?

- ▶ We have talked about why... now let's talk about practical ways to make it fun!



How to Make Spelling Fun

- ▶ Sensory spelling using finger paint, sand, or shaving cream.
- ▶ Spelling puzzles like crosswords, seek-a-word, or puzzle words.
- ▶ Word games like Hangman, Scrabble, or Bananagrams.
- ▶ Manipulatives. Write or tape letters on Legos, letter blocks, or foam letters.
- ▶ Be crafty! Let them write the words with art supplies like window crayons or paint, stamps, or colored glue.



Hip Homeschool Moms

How to Make Reading Fun

- ▶ Follow their interests. Read books about things they want to know about.
- ▶ Don't focus too much on level until they are fluent readers.
- ▶ Read a book, then watch the movie, and compare the two.
- ▶ Act out the book or story.
- ▶ Take reading outside.
- ▶ Travel. Visit the places you are reading about.
- ▶ Join or create a book club for older children.
- ▶ Read aloud
- ▶ Read together.



How to Make Math Fun

- ▶ Practice tables by rolling dice.
- ▶ Use games like Math Bingo or Equate.
- ▶ To practice fractions, cook!
- ▶ Play math scavenger hunt. Make the clues math problems.
- ▶ Use manipulatives: rocks, Legos, Barbie shoes, peanuts, really anything.
- ▶ Sings math songs to help them remember facts.
- ▶ Take it outside!
- ▶ Go grocery shopping.



How to Make Science Fun

- ▶ Use a curriculum that is full of experiments like Apologia.
- ▶ Find out how things are made. Take things apart, watch videos, or go on plant tours.
- ▶ Cook and talk ... For instance, study how yeast was used from ancient cultures to the current manufacturing process.
- ▶ Go outside and look for science everywhere.
- ▶ Use your garden as a classroom to teach botany!
- ▶ Follow those rabbit trails!
- ▶ Watch great documentaries.
- ▶ Play STEM games.



How to Make Geography and History Fun

- ▶ Travel, Travel, Travel!!!
- ▶ Cook and talk ... study the culture by cooking one of their primary meals.
- ▶ Scratch-off maps.
- ▶ Puzzles.
- ▶ Games like Scrambled States and Bingo.
- ▶ Follow your child's interests. For instance, study dance in the area or inventions.
- ▶ Read living books and great stories about the location.
- ▶ Virtual field trips.



How to Make Any Subject Fun

- ▶ Use their interests to approach the subject from a perspective they will enjoy.
- ▶ Use current events. Talk with them about big ideas!
- ▶ Travel. Find short and longer trips that go with the subject.
- ▶ Tell a personal story related to the topic.
- ▶ Incorporate humor and laughter.
- ▶ Play games associated with the subject.
- ▶ Show how subjects are connected.
- ▶ Cook.
- ▶ Do art.



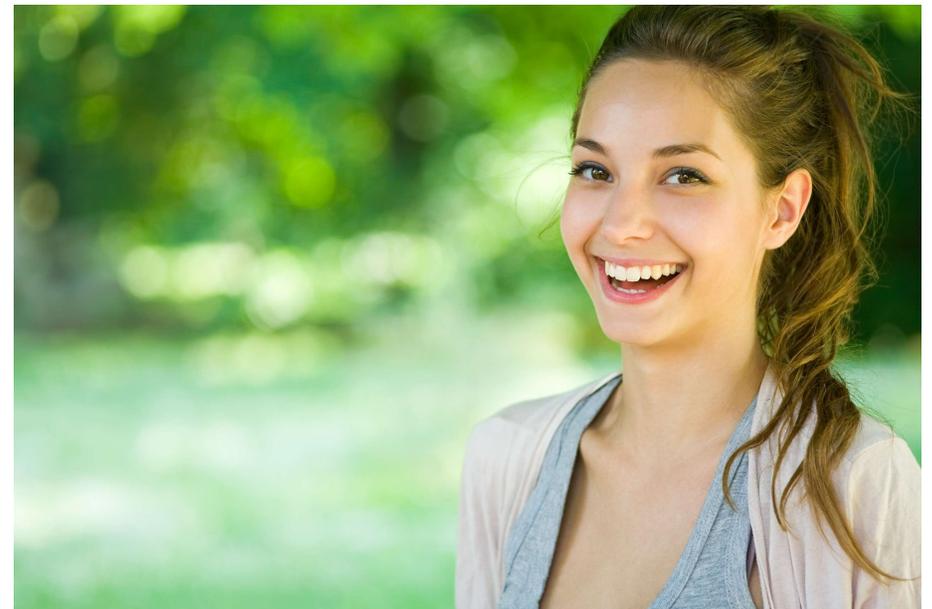
Learning is fun when our children can explore and play as they learn.

- ▶ Children don't have to be sitting in desks or at tables to learn.
- ▶ Learning doesn't have to be serious.
- ▶ Incorporate every-day activities into your homeschool.
- ▶ Include lots of time for exploration in your homeschool.



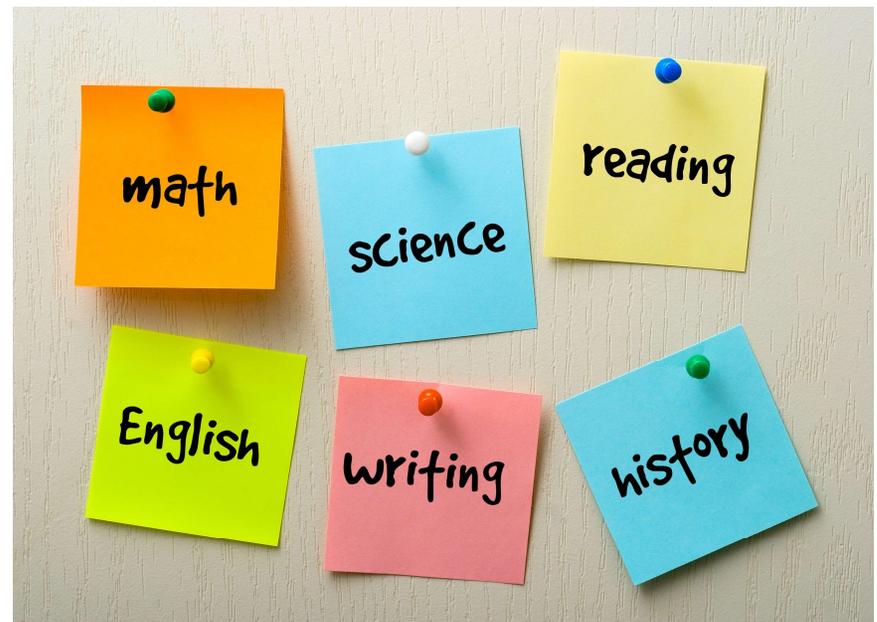
Learning is fun when our children feel capable and comfortable.

- ▶ Children want to feel capable! Help them succeed.
- ▶ They want us to be proud of them.
- ▶ Help our children develop a positive attitude toward learning.
- ▶ Help them know mistakes are normal. Talk about how they are learning even when they make mistakes.



Learning is fun when our children are allowed to make choices.

- ▶ Give them a daily checklist and allow your children to choose which subjects to do and in what order.
- ▶ Let them pick which science to study next.
- ▶ Let them help pick the field trips or road trips. Give them four choices and have them pick one.
- ▶ Most children love having more input into their homeschool experience.



How can we make learning fun for our children?

- ▶ Discover new things together.
- ▶ Learning is the most fun when it's surprising. Cloak it in mystery.
- ▶ Be goofy and laugh. Explore the lighter and funnier sides of subjects.
- ▶ Replace lectures with conversations.
- ▶ Engage their emotions. Emotions are memory glue.



How can we make learning fun for our children?

- ▶ Another idea is escape rooms! Why? Because they are challenging and fun forms of entertainment. But escape rooms are valuable experiences for homeschoolers too. They are a great way to develop problem solving, team building, collaboration, and time management skills as well. The ability to think creatively and to collaborate under high pressure are valuable skills to continue to develop.



Learning is fun when we relate it to real life.

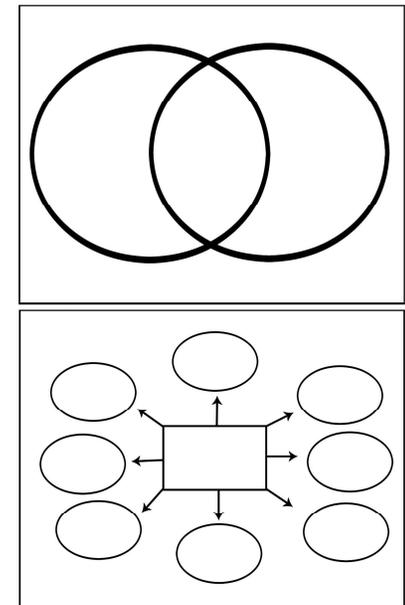
- ▶ Relate fractions to recipes.
- ▶ Relate addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to grocery shopping.
- ▶ Relate percentages and sales tax to shopping/sales.
- ▶ Relate government classes to current events involving the government.
- ▶ Relate English grammar to jobs like teaching, customer service, public speaking, business, etc.
- ▶ Relate health, biology, etc. to health-related jobs, nutrition-related jobs, and parenting.
- ▶ Use case studies to make science, history, and government more relevant.



Learning is fun when we use charts, graphs, and illustrations.

- ▶ There are many kinds of charts and graphs we can use!
- ▶ KWL chart
- ▶ Story map
- ▶ Venn diagram
- ▶ Calendars/planners

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned



Learning is fun when we incorporate humor.

- ▶ Adding humor here and there keeps our children's attention and interest.
- ▶ Use humor that is funny to your children—not to you.
- ▶ For older students, share a meme, cartoon, or joke.



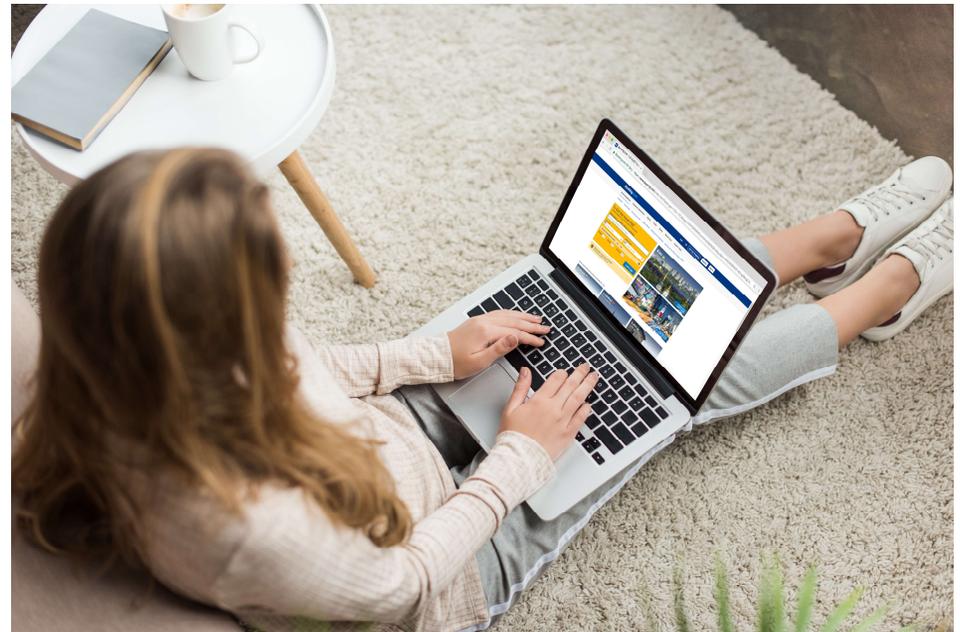
Learning is fun when our children can be the teachers.

- ▶ Some children will love being the teacher for the day (or for the hour).
- ▶ Teaching a skill “cements” it in the child’s mind.
- ▶ Let children teach Dad, grandparents, siblings, friends, or neighbors.



Learning is fun when we incorporate technology.

- ▶ Educational websites for:
 - ▶ Spelling
 - ▶ States and capitals
 - ▶ Math facts
 - ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Reading-related skills
 - ▶ Art
 - ▶ Photography
 - ▶ Map skills
 - ▶ Creative writing
 - ▶ Virtual field trips
 - ▶ Coding
 - ▶ Building websites



Learning is fun when we incorporate technology.

- ▶ Skrafty Online Homeschool Education and Fun
 - ▶ Skraty.com
 - ▶ Whenyouriseup.com
 - ▶ K – 12 courses (live and self-paced)
 - ▶ Heavily moderated Minecraft server
 - ▶ Live online events
- ▶ Sparketh online art classes
 - ▶ Sparketh.com
 - ▶ Online subscription art classes
 - ▶ Classes teaching about:
 - ▶ Still life, colored pencil, watercolor

Learning is fun when we incorporate technology.

- ▶ Canva (app or computer-based)
 - ▶ Canva.com
 - ▶ Graphic design and photo editing
 - ▶ Report covers
 - ▶ Certificates
 - ▶ Charts and graphs
 - ▶ Visual organizers
- ▶ Duolingo (app or computer-based)
 - ▶ Foreign languages
 - ▶ Free or paid options
- ▶ codeSpark Academy
 - ▶ Codespark.com
 - ▶ Award-winning learn-to-code platform for kids ages 4 - 10

Learning is fun when we learn alongside our children.

- ▶ Example of life-long learning
- ▶ Models that learning can be fun
- ▶ Models that learning is a priority
- ▶ Makes learning seem like a team effort
- ▶ Makes learning collaborative



Having fun benefits you too!

- ▶ A side effect of playing board games is laughing. As we talked about earlier, **laughing** has been shown to increase endorphins--chemicals that give us the feeling of happiness. The release of endorphins helps muscles to relax and blood to circulate, which also **lowers your blood pressure.**



Having fun benefits you too!

- ▶ Playing games with your kids is a perfect way to spend time together and build learning skills at the same time. Playing a board game is an excellent way to get closer to your family, while **strengthening your family bond**.



Having fun benefits you too!

- ▶ Board games help the brain retain and build **cognitive associations well into old age** too. Playing board games reduces the risk of cognitive decline, such as that associated with dementia and Alzheimer's. Keeping your mind engaged means you are exercising it and making it stronger. A stronger brain has lower risks of losing its power.



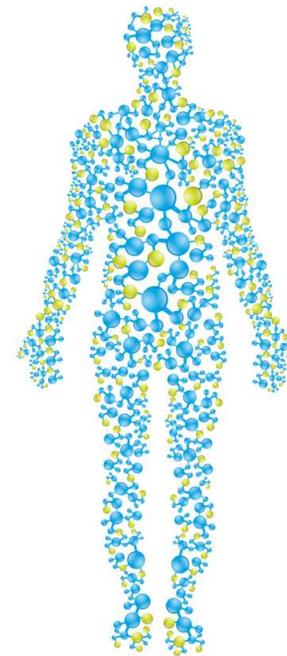
Having fun benefits you too!

- ▶ **Reduce stress:** You can always benefit from a healthy distraction like playing a board game since it is an excellent way to kick back and relax.



Having fun benefits you too!

- ▶ **Grows your immune system:** Research has shown that negativity, depression, and stress can reduce your ability to fight disease. Positive feelings and thoughts, like the laughter and enjoyment that always come with board games, prevents these effects by releasing chemicals that fight stress and boost your immune system. A simple board game could give rise to the 'survival genes' and activate them in your brain, making the brain cells live longer and helping to fight disease.



Having fun benefits you too!

- ▶ **Therapy treatment:** Many board games require the use of fine motor skills to pick up or move pieces, actions that take both coordination and dexterity. Regular practice and activity improve these basic skills, which is important for children, people with mental or physical disabilities, the elderly, and those recovering from accidents. Board games are very helpful when they are added to occupational therapy treatments, as well in places like classrooms for special needs to help improve muscle and nerve function over time.



Learning is fun when we know our children's learning styles.

- ▶ “Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.”
- ▶ Working with our children's learning styles helps make learning more fun and effective.
- ▶ 3 main types of learners:
 - ▶ Visual learners
 - ▶ Auditory learners
 - ▶ Kinesthetic learners
- ▶ <https://HipHomeschoolMoms.com/what-is-my-childs-learning-style/>

what **is** YOUR CHILD'S Learning Style?



<https://hiphomeschoolmoms.com/what-is-my-childs-learning-style/>

Visual Learners

- ▶ Prefer using pictures and images to learn.
- ▶ Enjoy books and/or picture books.
- ▶ May be easily distracted by seeing movement.
- ▶ May be inattentive to spoken instructions.
- ▶ May like to see things demonstrated when learning something new.



What makes learning fun for a visual learner?

- ▶ Field trips
- ▶ Visuals (words or pictures)
- ▶ Lapbooks/scrapbooks
- ▶ Notebooking
- ▶ Photography/videography
- ▶ Games



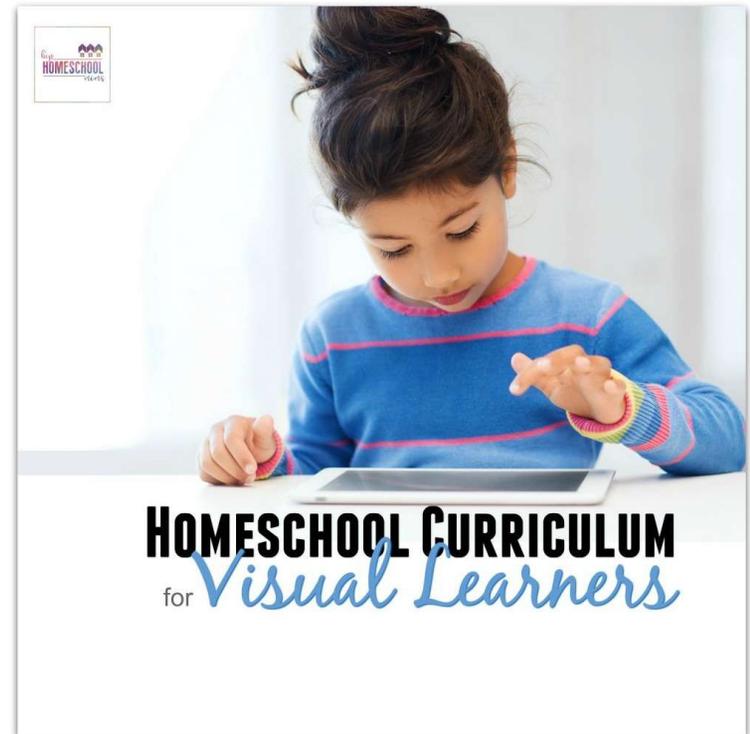
What makes learning fun for a visual learner? (continued)

- ▶ Calligraphy
- ▶ Highlighting
- ▶ Videos
- ▶ Art projects
- ▶ Manipulatives
- ▶ Demonstrations



Curriculum for Visual Learners

- ▶ <https://hiphomeschoolmoms.com/homeschool-curriculum-for-visual-learners>



Auditory Learners

- ▶ Prefer using sounds and music to learn.
- ▶ Enjoy listening to books being read.
- ▶ Enjoy talking.
- ▶ May be easily distracted by noise (or may enjoy having quiet music in the background).
- ▶ May be inattentive to written instructions.
- ▶ May easily remember what they hear.
- ▶ May like to say words out loud when reading.



What makes learning fun for an auditory learner?

- ▶ Oral instructions
- ▶ Songs and jingles
- ▶ Some may enjoy soft music in the background
- ▶ Oral tests
- ▶ Listening to books being read
- ▶ Incorporating talking



Curriculum for Auditory Learners

- ▶ <https://hiphomeschoolmoms.com/homeschool-curriculum-for-auditory-learners>



Kinesthetic Learners

- ▶ Prefer using their bodies, senses, and movement to learn.
- ▶ Enjoy moving, building, and doing.
- ▶ May have a hard time being still.
- ▶ May be considered hyperactive.
- ▶ Need to *do* things in order to learn and remember.
- ▶ May be good at sports, playing instruments, etc.



What makes learning fun for a kinesthetic learner?

- ▶ Field trips
- ▶ Clothing or foods from time periods or countries
- ▶ Acting
- ▶ Hands-on spelling
- ▶ Chewing gum
- ▶ Fidget toys
- ▶ Math manipulatives
- ▶ Experiments



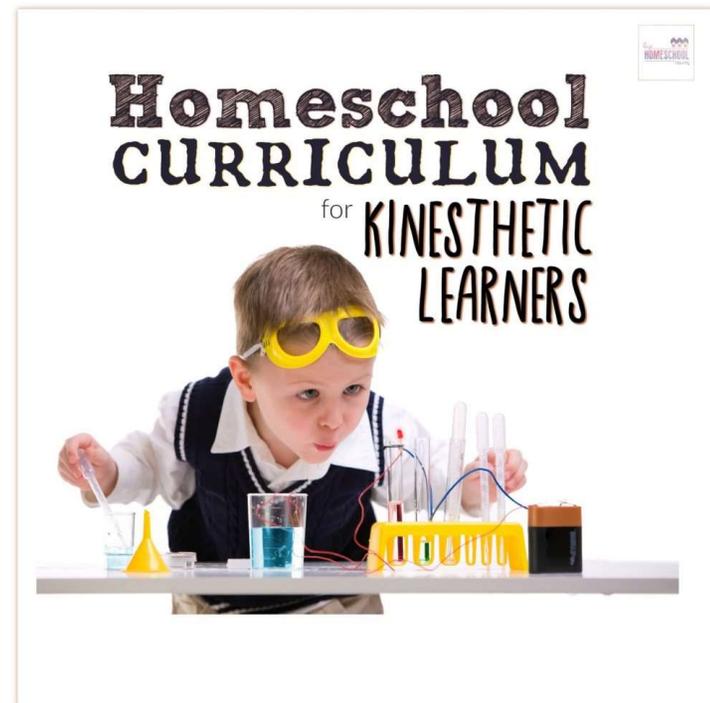
What makes learning fun for a kinesthetic learner? (continued)

- ▶ Reading out loud
- ▶ Gardening/nature walks
- ▶ Coloring
<https://hiphomeschoolmoms.com/how-to-homeschool-with-coloring-books/>
- ▶ Making models
- ▶ Arts and crafts
- ▶ Large-motor activities
- ▶ Quiet activities while sitting



Curriculum for Kinesthetic Learners

- ▶ <https://hiphomeschoolmoms.com/homeschool-curriculum-for-kinesthetic-learners>



For More Information, Resources, Etc.

- ▶ <https://HipHomeschoolMoms.com/teach-them-diligently-2018-resource-page>
- ▶ Password: HHMTTD2018

Where to Find Us

- ▶ Hip Homeschool Moms website
 - ▶ <https://HipHomeschoolMoms.com/>
- ▶ Hip Homeschool Moms public Facebook page
 - ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/HipHomeschoolMoms/>
- ▶ Hip Homeschool Moms private Facebook community (which we often refer to as our group)
 - ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HipHomeschoolMomsCommunity/>
- ▶ Homeschool Road Trips
 - ▶ HomeschoolRoadTrips.com