

Guide Six

Finding resources

Introduction

Many teachers are called to the profession by an obsessive love of all things stationery; they delight in the start of the new academic year where boxes of full pens, crisp exercise books and flawless glue sticks make their arrival. Home educators don't need to hold out for the start of term to enjoy a well-stocked learning environment and here at EdPlace we're setting out to make your whole homeschool journey that little bit easier.

In addition to tangible offline resources, technology is a fact of life and our children need to have at least a basic understanding of IT in order to succeed in the modern world of work. While a computer isn't essential for effective learning, it is important that you provide your child with opportunities to explore and use technology. A great starting point is the Digital Skills Framework, which provides a road map for what your child might need to know at different stages in order to keep inline or to surpass their peers in mainstream education.

Whether you choose to furnish them with a laptop, camera or tablet at home or whether you'd prefer to use public resources, access to technology is an essential part of your child's education. Many apps and websites offer fantastic online resources and activities to help support your child's learning. You can access the full library of EdPlace resources, for you and your student, via your iPhone or iPad from anywhere in the world, while you're eating breakfast or even in the bath (although we don't recommend that!).

Most local libraries have internet-ready computers available to the general public. There may be a small charge, or you may need to book a slot in advance if you live in a busy area.



Chapter 1:

What books and equipment do I need to homeschool?

One of the beauties of homeschool is that you don't need anything. You have very few limitations above and beyond ensuring that your child has a full time education appropriate to their 'age, ability and aptitude'. The form that that education takes is up to you. You can teach entirely in the garden if you wish!

The Learning Environment...

Despite this freedom we can't lose site of our ultimate aim, which is to provide the best learning environment for your child. In light of this, we'd suggested that setting up a designated work space for your child will help to shape their approach and set the tone for their learning. They'll need a quiet place, free from interruptions, and with space to work. Your designated space might be a whole room, it might simply be the kitchen table, how you set up your area is up to you.

Stationery & Books...

Below we've included a list of all the basics you'll need to get started. You might need more or less than what we've included depending on the age of your child, where they're at in their education and how excited you get about new stationery. While it's not essential, you might find that a stand-alone or a hand-held whiteboard is an excellent addition to your teaching environment as well, enabling you to demonstrate concepts and write up tasks and challenges.

You can stock your learning environment and equip your child with all they need from specialist educational suppliers. However, you can just as easily find everything you need in high street stationery stores if you're not looking to bulk buy. Online retailers are also excellent for just about all of your stationery requirements without even needing to leave the house!

Essentials:

- Writing pens (variety of colours)
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil sharpener
- Ruler
- Glue
- Scissors
- Maths set (protractor/compass/etc)
- Calculator
- Coloured pens/pencils
- Paper (lined/plain/graph)
- Exercise books

Optional Extras:

- Highlighters
- Sticky notes
- Whiteboard and marker pens



Chapter 2:

Where can I find good offline resources

Workbooks, reading books, maths and science equipment are all key additions to any educational environment. But as a home educator where can you get your hands on everything you need to help bring learning to life for your child?

Visit our chapter on finding communities and support to discover the best way of linking with other home-educating parents. You might find others in your area who are keen to **pool and share resources**.

Experiences and real-life learning

The single most amazing resource available to you for educating your child at home is the world around you. Your child can learn all about capacity and measures without even leaving their kitchen. Why not take your lesson about friction out into the garden or the park?

The best bit about educating from home is that you are not constricted by school hours. And so why not visit that museum, explore that castle or walk on that beach? Home education is a great opportunity to share all of your passions and interests with your child as well!

Workbooks and textbook

Most high street retailers stock an excellent supply of National Curriculum aligned textbooks, revision guides and workbooks perfect for supplementing your lessons. Many of these books are tailored to the relevant exam board if your child is approaching their GCSEs and the younger books are geared towards essential skills in maths and literacy for your primary-aged child.

Your local library will also be an invaluable resource for giving you free access to a broad range of books and texts to study if you don't want to purchase a copy yourself.

Downloads and printables

The Internet is a veritable cornucopia of printable teaching resources and worksheets. Many classroom teachers magnanimously choose to share their creative endeavors online, many of which you can access and download for free.

TES – A wide range of teacher created resources and activities, many of which are free to download.

Primary Resources – A hub of printable and editable worksheets and activities for all subjects in the primary curriculum.

Oxford Owl – Created by Oxford University Press and packed full of ideas and resources for educators.

Chapter 3:

Where can I find good online resources?

If you're planning to follow the National Curriculum, however closely, finding a resource site that's aligned to the schemes of work could be a great asset to your teaching, helping you to follow a logical path of progression through your child's education and ensure you don't miss out anything crucial.

One of the biggest challenges in providing an education is keeping tabs on what your child has learnt already, and what they still need to achieve. Gaps in your child's learning, even at a young age, can cause them difficulties and unnecessary challenges further down the line. But don't panic! Your helpful heroes at EdPlace have worked hard to keep home educators afloat and their children on track, or even ahead of the curve, with our adaptive and responsive learning tools.

How ed place can help

EdPlace offers interactive worksheets covering key stages 1 to 4 in the core subjects of English, maths, and science. Our resources will also help you to keep track of your child's learning through assessments and tailor their next activities based upon their rate and level of learning. Our resources are an excellent accompaniment to your home education journey, your guru, your guidebook or your light for the road ahead, if you will. Other sites, such as BBC Bitesize, can give you access to topic information, games and competition-based activities to support your teaching. CBBC Newsround is a great resource for approaching current affairs and the news with a child-friendly slant. Explore is another fantastic resource to help you tackle big questions with your child.

Don't write off social media as a mere distraction either. Check out YouTube or other video sharing websites to explore countless videos perfect for supplementing and enhancing your teaching, for inspiring questions and answering them. Simply type your topic into the search bar and have fun falling down the educational rabbit hole (just don't get distracted by all the cute kitten videos!). You could also join Facebook groups such as Homeschooling Projects and Ideas UK to swap and share ideas with other homeschooling parents.



Why ed place?

EdPlace is here to be your homeschooling partner! We're fully comprehensive from Year 1 all the way up to GCSE in English, maths and science. Our activities, assessments and revision materials are used and trusted by many homeschooling parents. Progress reports provide visibility to your child's development - we want to see them flourish, that's what we're here for afterall!

We're here to help your child soar to success! Our mission is to create invincible learners by building a foundation on inspiration, knowledge and confidence, all with a sprinkle of EdPlace magic.



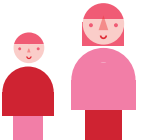
Comprehensive

1000s of English, maths and science activities, assessments and revision materials from Year 1 - GCSE.



Effective

EdPlace students progress 150% in a school year!



SEND accessible

Our accessibility toolbar makes online learning accessible to all students, no matter their learning difference. Change fonts, colours, text sizes and even languages (we have over 150!)



Personalised

Tailored learning journey based on each student's needs.



Student-approved

Badges and personalised rewards help make learning fun and tailored to each individual.

Subscriptions from just £10 a month

Start your 14-day trial for just £1 by visiting [edplace.com](https://www.edplace.com).