

CHC Curriculum Recommendations:

Green Highlight = We are using this curriculum to support our Math or Language clinics in this 2022-2023 school

Yellow Highlight = We have used this curriculum in our co-op in a previous year.

Cathy Duffy Reviews is a good website to read a synopsis of a curriculum and see her recommendations: <https://cathyduffyreviews.com/#>

✓ = This curriculum is typically fairly easy to use and is not going to cost a lot.

Beginning Reading & Writing

The Three R's by Ruth Beechick (*A Home start in Reading & A Strong Start in Language*), which is a great reference for parents of students age 5-8:

<https://www.rainbowresource.com/product/000846/Three-Rs-Series-Reading,-Language,-Math.html?>

- ✓ **Explode the Code** <https://www.rainbowresource.com/category.jhtm?cid=822>
 - We used this in both the 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 school year.
 - Phonics workbooks that cover letter sounds and most phonograms. Practice letter sounds, reading words and sentences, blending, and writing. Half levels are available for students needing extra practice on a level (ie: If your student needs extra practice on the level 1 workbook, then get the level 1 ½ workbook for the extra practice.)
 - Teacher's guide is also available for purchase.
- All About Reading <https://www.allaboutlearningpress.com/all-about-reading/>
 - A phonics based, scripted, open-and-go, mastery based, multisensory program. Takes about 20 minutes a day.
 - Scripted = tells you what to do and say, so there is no guess work
 - Checklists are available on the website to help you choose the level your child should begin at.
- Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons https://www.christianbook.com/teach-your-child-read-easy-lessons/siegfried-engelmann/9780671631987/pd/631985?product_redirect=1&search_term=teach%20your&Ntt=631985&item_code=&ps_exit=PRODUCT|legacy&Ntk=keywords&event=ESRCP
 - Phonics-based, scripted reading program. Teacher instruction and student pages are all included in the book. Primary lined paper is recommended for practice writing the sounds.

- Handwriting Without Tears <https://www.rainbowresource.com/category.jhtm?cid=1990>
 - Multi-sensory learning, uppercase letters taught before lowercase, letters with similar strokes and starting point are taught together. Student workbook and teacher's guides are available for each of the 5 levels. The cursive level is slightly altered from traditional cursive.
- ✓ A Reason For Handwriting <https://www.rainbowresource.com/category.jhtm?cid=1986>
 - These workbooks use ball-and-stick printing and transition to traditional cursive. Scripture verses are used as the writing subject, modified to be understandable for children.
 - Level K is for beginning writers. Level A-B is for printing. Level T is a transition from printing to cursive, which is Level C-F.

Language Arts

- **Critical Thinking Company**
https://www.criticalthinking.com/catalogsearch/advanced/result/?subject%5B%5D=122&product_type%5B%5D=all (Can also be found at rainbowresource.com & christianbook.com)
 - We will be using some books from the Critical Thinking Company this year in our Language Arts clinics. Some books we will draw from are:
 - *Editor in Chief*: Teaches grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization, and critical reading while editing passages. Available workbooks for 2nd – 12th grade
 - *Building Writing Skills*: Uses a 5-step process of pre-write, draft, edit, and publish with examples and step-by-step lessons. Available in 2 levels (grade 3-5, grade 6-7), as well as a Tips and Techniques workbook for older students.
 - *Writing Detective*: Combines reading comprehension to solve a mystery with outlining the 5-W's to present their evidence and solution in a written article. Available in 3 levels, beginning with grade 3-6.
 - *Reading Detective*: Develop ability to draw inference, determine cause and effect, and using context to define vocabulary. Available in 3 workbooks beginning at grade 3-4, grade 5-6, and ending at grade 7-8 reading levels.
 - *Language Smarts*: Includes reading, writing and grammar skills all in one workbook per grade level. Uses pieces from some of the above mentioned workbooks.

- ✓ **Language Lessons for a Living Education** by Masterbooks
<https://www.masterbooks.com/language-lessons-for-a-living-education-series>
 - We used this curriculum for grades 2-6 in the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Convenient daily schedule of 20-30 minute lessons. Includes a blend of stories, copywork, oral narration, spelling, and hands-on experience. The workbook has all the student pages, as well as teacher instructions. The Bible storybook can be purchased along with the workbook to be used with the included pages for Bible study.
- ✓ **IEW's Fix-It Grammar** <https://iew.com/shop/products/fix-it-grammar-level-1-nose-tree-teacherstudent-combo> (IEW = Institute for Excellence in Writing)
 - We recommend this curriculum for grades 4/5 and up (age 9 and up). IEW recommends it for students grades 3 and up (age 8 and up).
 - We have used this curriculum with the grade 7/8 students both the 2020-2021 & 2021-2022 school years.
 - Students hunt for and correct errors in daily passages that cumulatively tell a story. There is a student workbook, and the teacher's manual is needed for the answers to correct their work before they rewrite the passage they corrected. New grammar knowledge is taught at the beginning of each lesson, which is 15-20 minutes per day.
- **IEW Structure and Style** for Students Level A <https://iew.com/shop/products/structure-and-style-students-year-1-level-basic-plus-forever-streaming-or-dvd> (IEW = Institute for Excellence in Writing)
 - We used themed units for this program in 3rd-6th grade, the Level B video course in middle school, and Level C course in high school in 2020-2021. In 2021-2022 we used themed units in the middle school classes.
 - For this level A course, we recommend it for grades 4-6.
 - This is a video course of humorous, incremental, and effective writing lessons that parents should watch with the student to learn along with their students this unique structured approach to writing. We recommend working with your student to complete the assignment for each lesson. You can't help your student too much as they learn this skill of writing.
- *Primary Language Lessons* (grade 2-4/ages 7-10), *Intermediate Language Lessons* (grade 4-7/ages 10-13) by Emma Serl
<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category/1556/Primary-Language-Lessons--and--Intermediate-Language-Lessons.html>
 - This is a classic/Charlotte Mason approach to language. Lessons can be used over several days, as need by the child to complete. Includes: copying, dictation, picture study, observation, word usage, letter writing, reading comprehension through conversation, and more.
 - A teacher's guide can be purchased to guide you in teaching the lessons that would not be required, unless you would like assurance and help in making sure you are covering the lessons well.

Spelling

- *All About Spelling* <https://www.allaboutlearningpress.com/all-about-spelling/>
 - A scripted, open-and-go, multi-sensory (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) program.
 - Scripted = tells you what to do and say, so there is no guess work
 - Beginning spellers start at level one. Older spellers, who are struggling are also encouraged to start at level one for better understanding of the why behind the words they spell. Placement tests are available on their website.
- *Spelling Power* <https://www.thespellingpower.com/>
 - For ages 8 to adult, students pre-test their list of words then use a ten step study process to study each word they missed, and are only tested on the words they missed. A DVD is included to help you get started with understanding the program. It is more teacher intensive with understanding of how to place your child in the correct level and the steps needed each week, which are included in the book.
- *Create your own*: Spiral notebook – Write the words your child struggles with in a list. Have your child practice those words through activities. Cross them off the list when your child can spell it correctly 80-90% of the time.
 - *The Three R's* by Ruth Beechick has suggestions and helps for this in the *A Strong Start in Language* section. (Please see the link under the Language Arts section.)

Math

The Three R's by Ruth Beechick (*An Easy Start in Arithmetic*), which is a great reference for parents of students age 5-8: <https://www.rainbowresource.com/product/000846/Three-Rs-Series-Reading,-Language,-Math.html?>

- **Math in Focus (Singapore Math)**
<https://www.christianbook.com/page/homeschool/math/saxon-math/math-in-focus>
 - We are using this curriculum as a spine for teaching our math clinics this school year, 2022-2021
 - Focuses on fewer topics, teaching them thoroughly, for mastery, so they don't need to be retaught continually, developing understanding of the concepts. Builds understanding beginning with kinesthetic learning with manipulatives, growing into visual learning and progressing to abstract thinking.
 - Workbooks A & B are needed for each level along with a teacher's manual for you to give the lessons from.

- ❖ Saxon Math Options: Give a description of Saxons mastery approach through spiral practice and learning.
 - **Saxon math K-3 Program**
<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category.jhtm?cid=2075>
 - We recommend this for grades 1 and 2. We used this in the 2021-2022 school year. There are 2 workbooks per level and a teacher's manual needed.
 - Saxon uses an incremental, spiral approach to learning math. In this model, the student is to gain mastery from practice throughout the year, rather than the focus on a single concept mastered before moving to the next concept. Script from the teacher's manual makes this easy to teach with manipulatives for the early years.
 - **Saxon Intermediate grades 3-5**
<https://www.rainbowresource.com/category.jhtm?cid=2075>
 - We used this for grades 3-5 in the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Saxon uses an incremental, spiral approach to introduce new skills, expanding on them in future lessons, but not always consecutively. Practice in each lesson reviews concepts previously taught.
 - A student text, and solutions manual are needed for this curriculum. The text in the student book has all the information needed for presenting the concepts. A practice Power up Workbook and testing book are also available if desired.
 - **Saxon 7/6** 3rd or 4th edition
<https://www.rainbowresource.com/product/024430/Saxon-Math-7-6-4ED-Homeschool-KIT.html>? (There is also a 5/4 for 5th grade math and a 4/3 for 4th grade math that we can recommend as well.)
 - We used this for 6th grade in the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Saxon is an incremental, spiral method of teaching. New concepts are taught and then expanded on in future lessons, but not always consecutively. Practice in each lesson review the current concept and previously taught concepts. This curriculum is built to be done fairly independently by the student with the use of a solutions manual to check their work, and re-work the problem if they got it wrong.
 - A good resource for helping you present this material to your child is the DIVE CD-ROM series that gives video instruction for each lesson.
<https://www.rainbowresource.com/product/028730/DIVE-CD-ROM-Saxon-7-6-4ED-Win-Mac.html>?

- *Life of Fred* series <https://www.christianbook.com/page/homeschool/math/life-of-fred?kw=life+of+fred&mt=e&dv=c&event=PPCSRC&p=1020037&msclkid=cb6fb70d12311f467e19d5ee3ebded86>
 - Math concepts are introduced in a story about Fred, a 5 year old math professor at Kitten’s University. The silly story keeps a child’s attention with a short ‘Your Turn to Play’ at the end of each chapter to practice math and critical thinking skills. Students see practical application of the concepts being taught. This would be well supplemented by the math clinics at CHC.
 - Each book is to be read, and math work done mentally or written on a separate sheet of paper. The books Apples through Jelly Beans are for grades K/1-4/5, Kidneys through Mineshaft are for 5th/6th grade, while Fractions and Decimals & Percents are for 6th/7th grade.
- *Mathstart* by Stuart J. Murphy <https://www.mathstart.net/>
 - This series is geared for Pre-K through 3rd grade. Individual story books introduce concepts in real world application in an enjoyable story that can be read over and over again. The end of each book includes ways you can further practice the concept.
- ✓ *Math Lesson for a Living Education* by Masterbooks <https://www.masterbooks.com/math-lessons-for-a-living-education-series>
 - Follow the story of twins Charlie and Charlotte as your student learns math concepts. This curriculum has a Charlotte Mason flavor that brings application of some math concepts into the real world with some projects, narration to hear what your child understands, mental math, and traditional methods of working through concepts. Lessons are about 30 min lessons.
 - Teacher instruction and student lessons all in one workbook (except level 6, which has a teacher guide). A separate Teacher’s guide can be purchased that covers level K-5 for extra tips and helps.

Science – Do you or your child desire more science in your homeschooling than we do at co-op? Here are some great recommendations to help you do that!

- **God’s Design** Science Series by Masterbooks, <https://www.masterbooks.com/gods-design-series>
 - We used the God’s Design for Life book for 1st through 8th grade during the 2021-2022 school year.
 - Each book in the series covers 3 related topics in depth, over six units. Each of the 35 lessons is about 45-60 minutes, and intended for students in 1st-5th grade. Two books in the series have Beginner books (1st & 2nd grade) that correlate to the book for older students (3rd- 6th grade). There is a teacher’s guide for the older student books that contains worksheets, quizzes, and tests, if you would like those.

- *Science Through History Series* by Dr. Jay Wile, <https://bereanbuilders.com/ecommerce/product-category/elementary/>
 - Each lesson has an experiment that helps the student understand what is being taught, with an explanation of what should have happened in the experiment in case it doesn't work for you. Scientific concepts are introduced in chronological order from creation on through modern day (7th grade book). This helps the student place science historically as well as understand what scientist used to believe with explanations of why it was wrong, and also how they thought that way. The book with the Helpful Hints booklet is homeschool friendly, gives space for discussion, and to present it to multiple age levels at the same time.
 - *Binder Builders* are available at rainbowresource.com for notebooking and worksheets to go along with the first two books in the series.
- ✓ *Science in the Kitchen* by Usborne books <https://www.christianbook.com/science-in-the-kitchen/k-woodward/9780794514051/pd/514050?event=ESRCG>
 - Simple, easy experiments with things you probably already have on hand. A fun way to learn some fun scientific concepts.
 - Another option: *Science with Plants* or *Science with Water* both by Usborne
- Beautiful Feet (<https://www.bfbooks.com/>): K-3 Nature Study "Seasons Afield" or 4th-7th grade History of Science
 - These are literature-based studies. They come with the books that you read as a family and a teacher's manual with activities you can do as you read through the books.

Social Studies/History/Geography – Do you desire to study a different social studies/history/geography subject than is being done on co-op days? Here are some great recommendations to help you do that!

- Beautiful Feet (<https://www.bfbooks.com/>) Multiple options for Early Elementary and Upper Elementary that cover Social Studies or History or Geography.
 - These are literature-based studies. They come with the books that you read as a family and a teacher's manual with activities you can do as you read through the books. Geography and some history curriculums include maps or timelines to do along with the study.
- ✓ Five In A Row <https://fiveinarow.com/where-do-i-begin/> Options available for preschool through upper elementary.
 - This is a literature based curriculum. You get the teacher's manual, which gives lessons you can use to study history, geography, language arts, some applied math, and science based on the book being read. Most books can be checked out from the library as you use them in any order you choose.

- Masterbooks <https://www.masterbooks.com/homeschool-curriculum/subject/history-geography> Multiple options for Early Elementary and Upper Elementary Social Studies or History or Geography.
 - *My Story* is a social studies curriculum for K-2nd grade. 3 levels
 - *Elementary World History* pack – Students gather information on world events and present it as a real-life reporter.
 - *America's Story* – U.S. History for grades 3-6. 3 levels

Online Resources

- Homeschool Share, <https://www.homeschoolshare.com/>
 - Unit studies for preschool through upper elementary. Create lapbooks, and get ideas and ways of exploring subjects that interest you and your child, including History, Science, Geography, Language Arts, and Math options. Some are based on story books, and others on an area of interest.
- 123 Homeschool 4 Me, <https://www.123homeschool4me.com/>
 - Free printable worksheets to supplement what your child is learning or support a unit study you are doing. All subjects for preschool through grade 8.