

Helping Homeschoolers in the Library

Part 1



Adrienne Furness
adrienne.furness@gmail.com
www.watat.com

Who am I?



Today's Agenda

- Homeschooling myths and facts
- A brief history of homeschooling
- Get to know homeschoolers
(philosophies, trends, schedules)
- Homeschooling laws in NJ
- Support groups and other ways to connect with homeschoolers

Part 2 Agenda

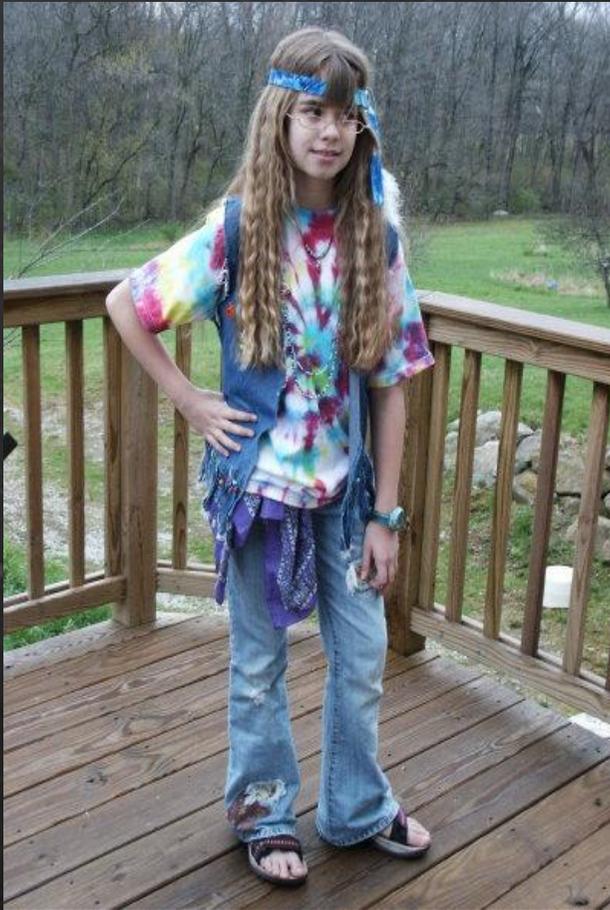
- Policies and services
- Programming
- Collections



Why Libraries Don't Work with Homeschoolers

- Don't know much about homeschoolers and homeschooling
- Past attempts didn't work out
- Concerns about how working with homeschoolers might impact the library
- Limited staff, funding, and other resources

Homeschooling Myths



Myth #1:

Homeschoolers believe the same things, operate in the same ways, and get along with each other.

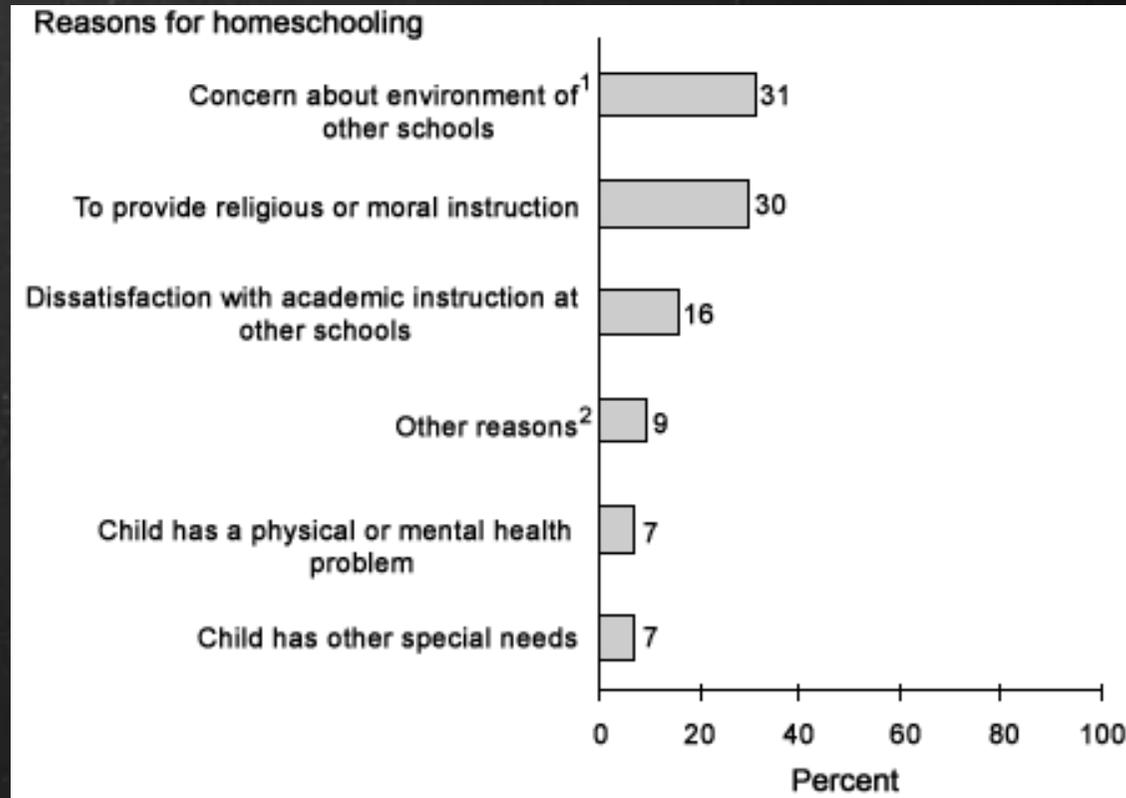
Myth #2:

Homeschoolers are primarily
conservative Protestants.

Myth #3:

Homeschoolers are a bunch of
hippies.

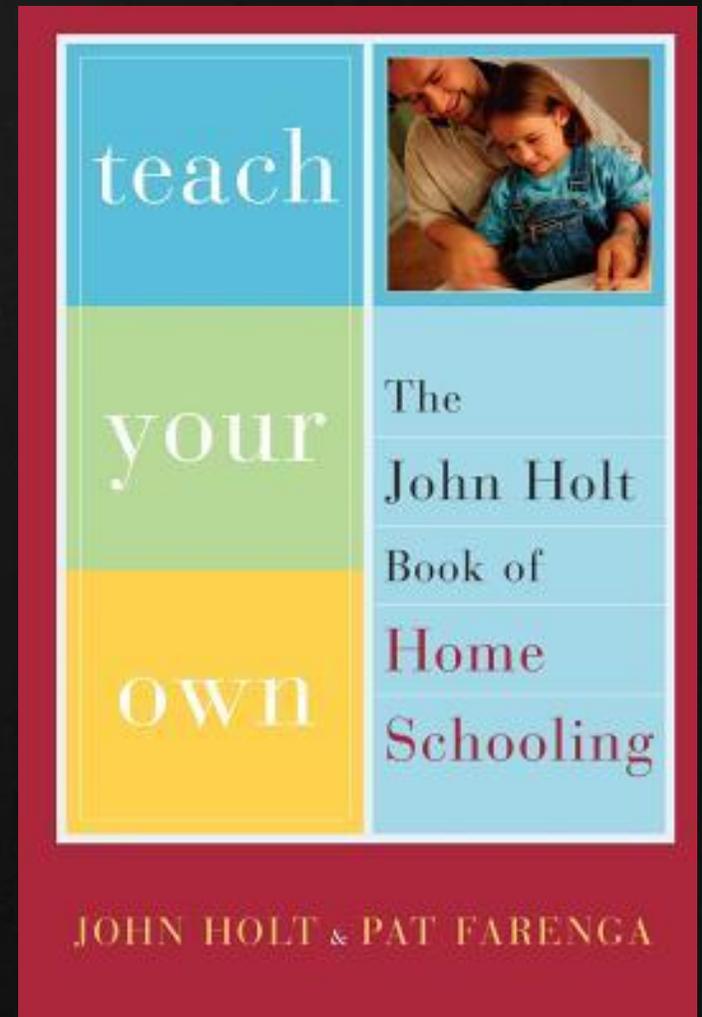
Why People Homeschool



From *Homeschooling in the United States: 2003*
by Daniel Princiotta and Stacey Bielick
<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/homeschool/>

John Holt and the Unschooling Movement

- *How Children Fail* (1964)
- *How Children Learn* (1967)
- *Growing Without Schooling* (1977)
- Child-led learning
- Experiential
- Real work



Conservative Protestants Homeschooling

- Raymond and Dorothy Moore in the late 1970s
- James Dobson and the *Focus on the Family* radio show in the early 1980s
- Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA)

Foreword by Michael Farris President of Patrick Henry College

Mary Pride's

Complete
Guide to
Getting Started in
Homeschooling



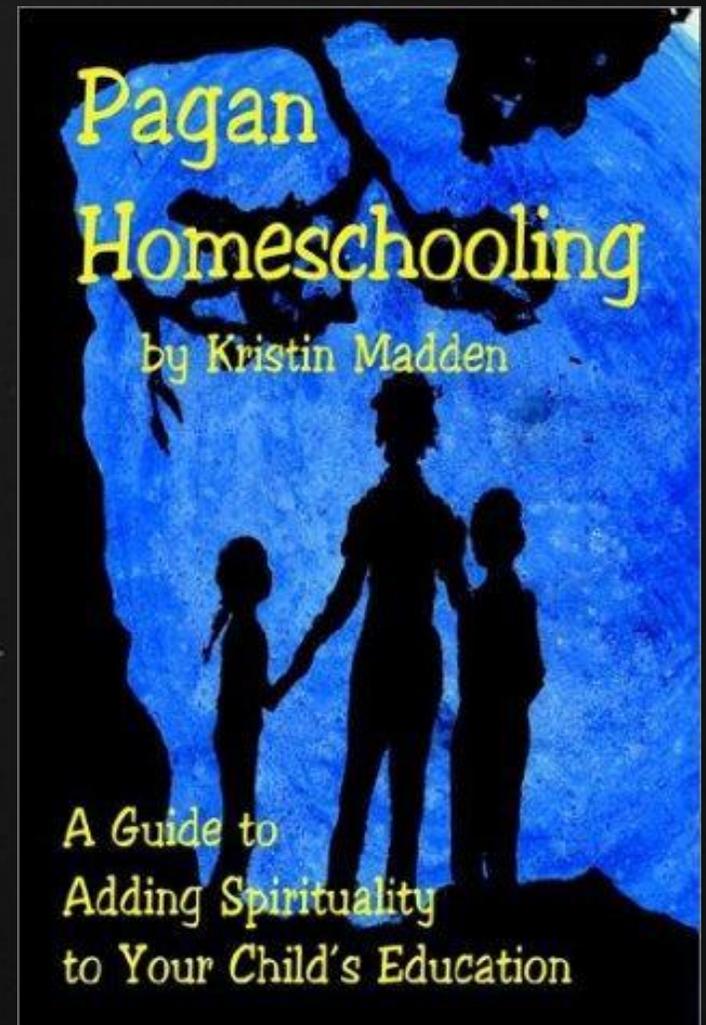
A Practical Homeschooling® Book

Not Just for Christians Anymore

- Conservative Protestants are a large percentage of the homeschooling population, but even they don't necessarily share the same beliefs.
- Catholic homeschoolers are probably the fastest-growing segment of the homeschooling community.

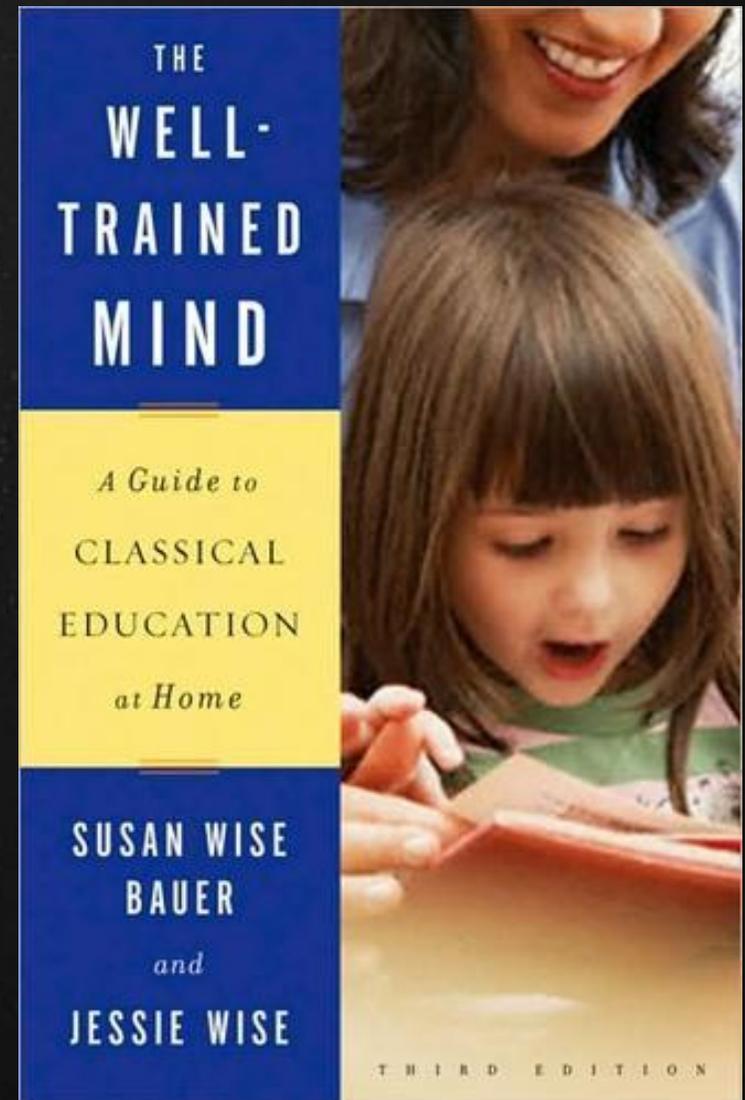
Not Just for Christians Anymore

- Other religious groups with significant homeschooling populations include Pagans, Jews, and Muslims.
- Just because a family is religious does not mean religion is a major reason they homeschool.



Other Philosophies and Trends

- Children who have special needs
- Classical homeschoolers (*The Well-Trained Mind*)
- Charlotte Mason homeschoolers



Other Philosophies and Trends

- Objectivist homeschoolers
- Military homeschoolers
- Artist homeschoolers
- Eclectic homeschoolers



homeschooldiner.com

Homeschooling Laws

- Education laws are governed by states
- Homeschooling is legal in all 50 states, but regulations vary widely



Homeschooling in NJ

- FAQs from NJ State Department of Ed:
http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/faq_homeschool.htm
- Never quote law, always refer

Homeschooling in NJ

- NJ regulations are not cumbersome
- Parents must notify school board that they are homeschooling
- The school board isn't required to supervise or assist, except to provide services to students with special needs

Curriculum Options

- No curriculum
- NJ curriculum
- Packaged curriculum
- Online/correspondence courses

Curriculum Options

- Unit studies
- Create-your-own curriculum
- Enrichment or community college classes
- We'll discuss this more in the second session when we talk about collections

The Homeschooling Year

- NJ doesn't require a particular schedule or number of hours of "seat time"
- Follow the school calendar
- Homeschool year-round

The Homeschooling Year

- Create a calendar based on family needs
 - religious considerations
 - medical needs
 - travel or special projects
 - Business
- Some follow no calendar at all

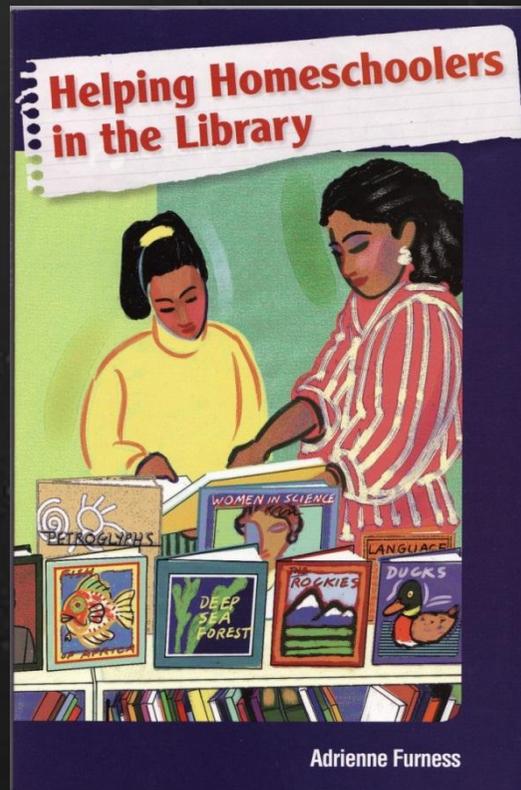
Daily Homeschooling Schedules

- Schoolwork in the morning/outings in the afternoon
- Chores in the morning/schoolwork in the late morning and early afternoon
- Schoolwork in the evenings or at night
- Some do no organized “seat work”

Finding Support Groups

- ENOCH (Education Network of Christian Homeschoolers of New Jersey):
www.enochnj.org
- CHNJ (Catholic Homeschoolers of New Jersey):
groups.yahoo.com/group/CHNJ/
- Homeschool World: www.homeschool.com/groups/NJ.html
- Try Google (town or county + homeschool)

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