Helping Homeschoolers in the Library
Part 2

Adrienne Furness
adrienne.furness@gmail.com
www.watat.com
Who am I?
Today’s Agenda

- Policies and services
- Programming
- Collections
Why Working with Homeschoolers Will Work for YOU

• Often, it’s just a matter of target marketing programs and services you’re already offering.
• A little bit of effort goes a long way.
• Homeschoolers will help.
• Programs, materials, and services for homeschoolers will appeal to other groups (parents, teachers, tutors, students, heavy borrowers, etc.).
What Homeschoolers Have to Say About How Libraries Can Improve Their Services to Homeschoolers...

- Space to meet
- Increase borrowing limits
- Extended loans
- Reduce fees (ILLs, holds, overdues)
- “Teacher Cards”
What Library Programs Do

• Welcome homeschoolers
• Increase their investment
• Increase their independence
• Increase your knowledge
Before You Start

- WHO am I targeting?
- WHAT do they want to learn?
- WHERE should I have the program (in-house vs. outreach)?
Before You Start

• WHEN is the best time for homeschoolers?
• WHY am I doing this?
• HOW will I implement this program?
Planning Successful Programs for Homeschoolers

- Wide age ranges/family programs
- Afternoons
- Partner with local organizations
- Recruit volunteers
- Focus on the library
Homeschool Open House

• Excellent program if you’re just starting out
• Simple or elaborate
• Showcase collections, databases, programs, and other services
• Survey
• Informally network
Other Programs to Consider

- Library skills
- Computer skills
- Book groups
- College/scholarship information
More Program Ideas

• Pinterest: http://pinterest.com/search/boards/?q=homeschooling
• Library Success wiki: http://www.libsuccess.org/index.php?title=Library_Services_for_Homeschoolers
• Abby the Librarian blog: http://www.abbythelibrarian.com/search/label/homeschool
Developing Collections for Homeschoolers
Who Uses Homeschooling Collections?

• Homeschooling families
• Non-homeschooling families
• Teachers
• Tutors
• College students
Why Starting a Homeschooling Collection is a Challenging Task

• Homeschooling materials not widely reviewed
• Many are published by small presses or are self-published
Why Starting a Homeschooling Collection is a Challenging Task

- Some aren’t available through jobbers
- Some have a blatantly religious slant
- Almost all are biased in some way
Collection Development
Resources

- Homeschooling periodicals
- Websites and blogs
- Amazon.com
Collection Development Resources

• Books already in your collection
• Patron recommendations
• Core collection in *Helping Homeschoolers in the Library*
Curriculum Resources

- *Core Knowledge Series* by E.D. Hirsch Jr. (*What Your Kindergartener Needs to Know*, etc.)


- Cathy Duffy Homeschool Curriculum Reviews: [cathyduffyreviews.com](http://cathyduffyreviews.com)
Don’t Hide the Homeschooling Materials

- Separate collection
- Signage
- Spine labels
- Brochures, bookmarks, and fliers
Curriculum Kits
Johnsburg Public Library
District's Homeschool Resource Center (HRC)
Adrienne Furness
adrienne.furness@gmail.com
watat.com

www.alastore.ala.org/detail.aspx?ID=2353