

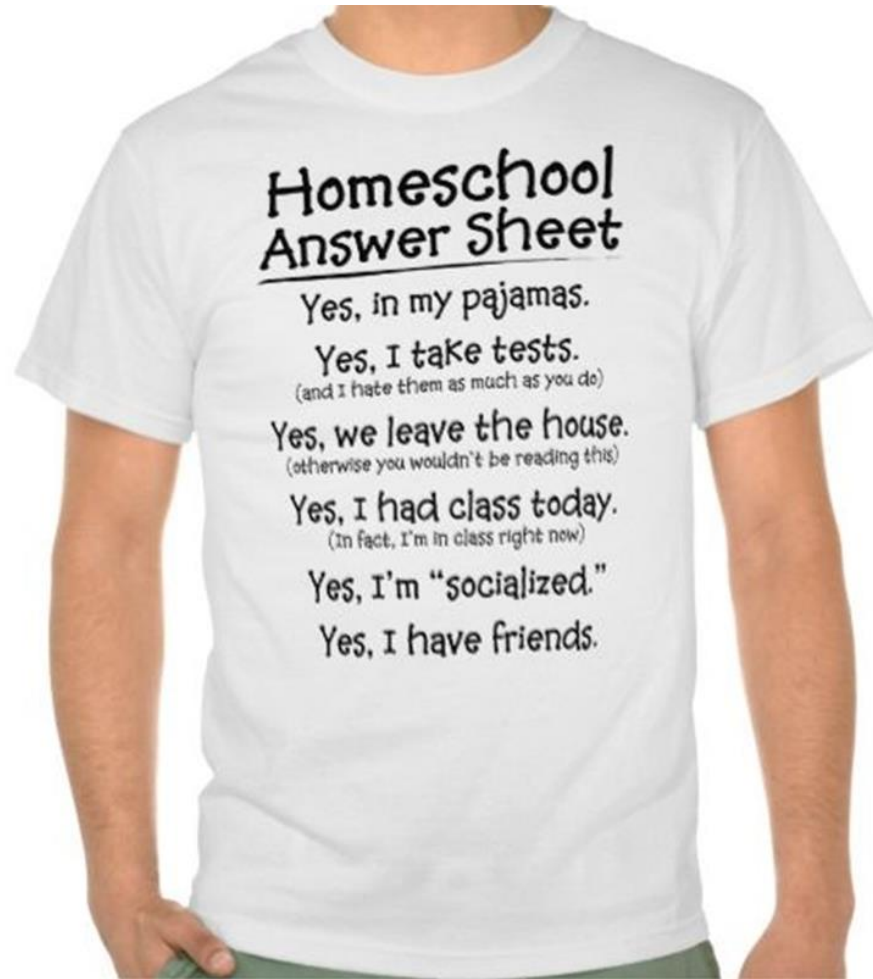
The Homeschooling - Library Connection

- **Diane Pamel**- Library Director Southworth Library and homeschool parent of 5 sons (now adults)
- **Anna Chappell** — *Library Assistant at Interlaken Library and current homeschool parent of 2?*
- **Gina Varrichio** — *Homeschool parent of 1 and library volunteer*

Homeschooling Today



Homeschooling in the mainstream



Why do families choose to homeschool?

1. Concern about the school environment
2. Ability to incorporate religious beliefs or world view into instruction
3. Special needs issues, food allergies
4. School curriculums, which parents/care givers perceive to have little relevance to life
5. Support development of special talents and interests
6. Disagreements with the Common Core Curriculum
7. Desire to provide a nontraditional approach to education
8. Children struggling in school

The Public Library is their school library and
their resource for physical materials and
digital resources

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10 ways to help Homeschoolers in the Library

1. Talk

Talk to homeschoolers who visit the library. Find out what the homeschoolers in your area are looking for in library services.

Make sure to offer library tours for them

2. Make a place for Homeschool materials

Make sure people can find homeschooling materials—they can't check out what they can't find. Make a special section for homeschooling materials, even if it has to start small, and make resources more visible.



3. Find your local homeschool groups and cooperatives



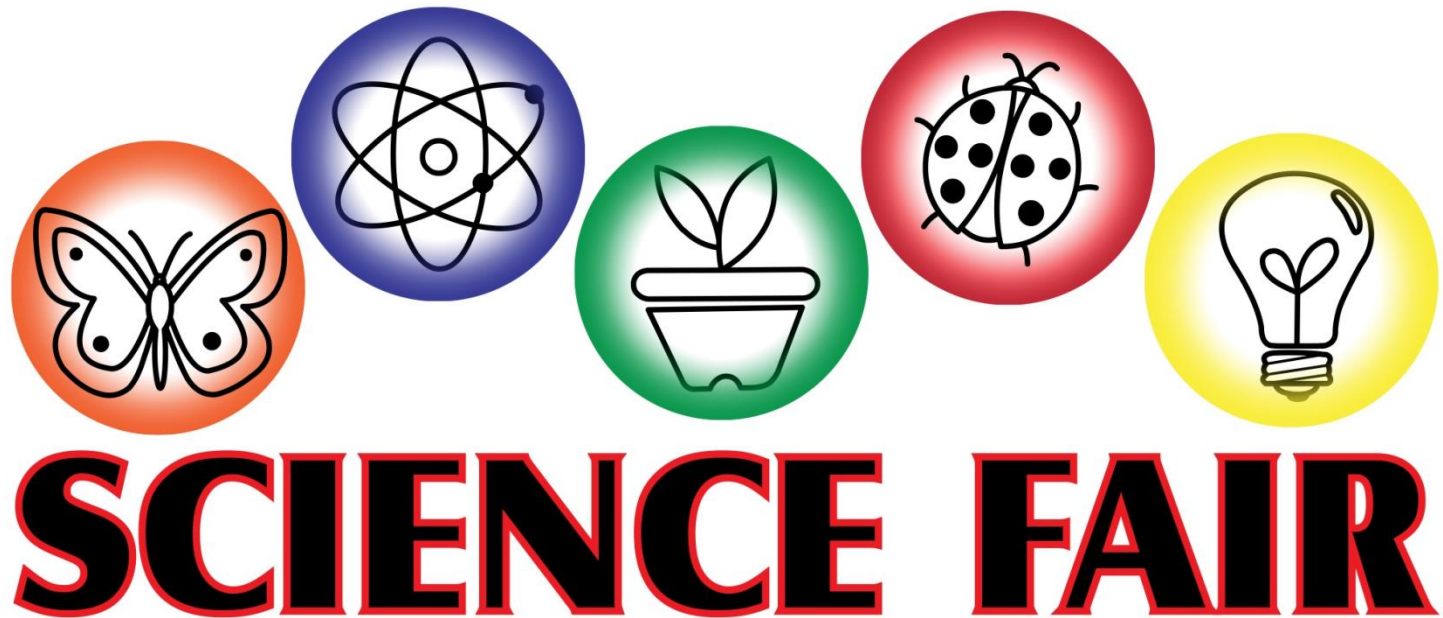
<http://www.home-school.com/groups/NY.php>

<https://www.hslda.org/orgs/Default.aspx?State=NY>

4. Provide some space

Allow homeschoolers to use your library space for meetings, studying, informal classes and play. Create a Bulletin Board for information exchange

5. Create opportunities for public display or presentations



6. Have copies of NY state laws and regulations pertaining to homeschoolers and sample forms



6. Provide curriculum & supply catalogs

- Maintain a file of catalogs from companies that sell materials and supplies of interest to homeschoolers.
- Consider purchasing popular curriculum for review

7. Homeschool programs

- Programs during regular school hours that are just for homeschooled students
- Programs that need group interaction
- Programs that require specific skill sets to teach
- Multi-age programs

9. Make homeschool friendly library policies

- Consider the needs of homeschoolers when creating library policies such as meeting rooms, loan periods, item limits, interlibrary loan fees, overdue fines/maximum fines, and volunteer programs.
- Give them teacher privileges such as extended due dates or increased limits

8. Volunteer & Social Opportunities

- Make a way for teens to volunteer to help
- Include them in teen advisory group
- Provide social engagement for children and teens

10. Create a resource request form

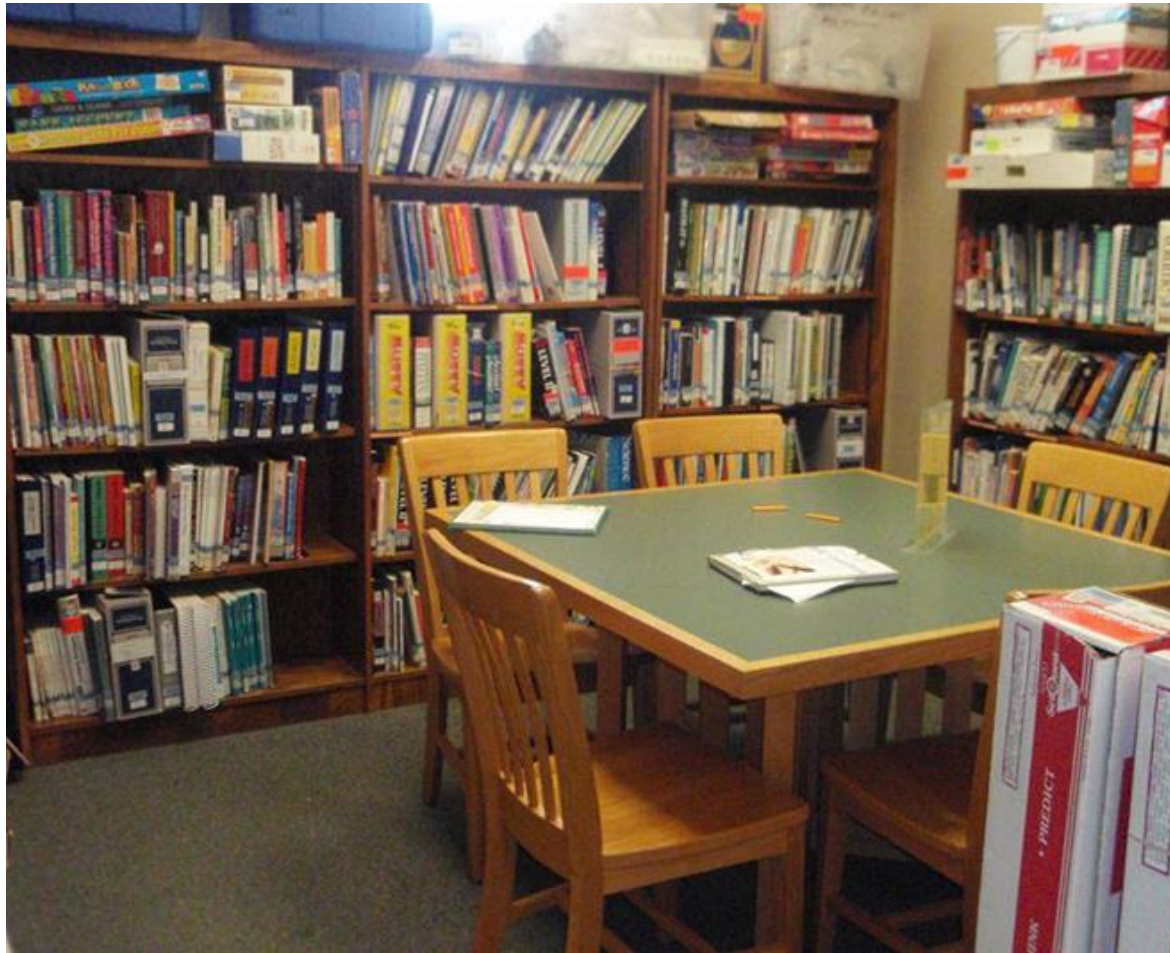
- Create a form for homeschool patrons to request items for purchase consideration
- Create a form for families to request collected materials for unit study, including the grade level and specific interests
- Provide specific information on the website
- Consider facilitating a curriculum swap or used curriculum sale

Libraries around the country are finding new ways to serve this population through physical spaces and creative programs catered to homeschooling families' needs

TCPL Homeschool Resource Fair



The Johnsburg Public Library converted a 12-by-12-foot study room into a Homeschool Resource Center stocked with circulating material.



The Homeschool Resource Center sells some of the donations it receives at the HRC Open House and Used Curriculum Flea Market.



The two-room Educational Resource Center at the Pikes Peak Library District houses kits, software, science equipment and toys for younger patrons to play with.



Thirty participants presented projects at the Pike's Peak annual Homeschool Science Fair last February.



The Nashville Public Library hosts its tween homeschooling club in "The Alley," a space dedicated to teens that houses a 3D printer.



Lovettsville Library, a branch of Loudoun County (VA) Public Library



Challenges for libraries

- Space for curriculum and resources
- Getting connected
- Cost of curriculum resources
- Staff time to manage it
- Creating multigenerational programs
- Time/staff to create pathfinders/resource guides

Going outside of the Box

- Whether online or in-person, through community centers or programs, these public libraries evolved to fit the needs of the growing homeschool population. For libraries that want to start offering homeschool resources, reach out to homeschool groups.
- Find out if you can attend a support group meeting or survey families. Ask them what their interests are, how you can support them and what timing works best for them

