



Course Outline

Year 1

By Jo Lloyd and Michelle Morrow

My Homeschool Year 1 Overview

My Homeschool Course Outline – Year One

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Course Outline

Hello!

We're so glad that you are considering My Homeschool for your child's home education. This outline will hopefully answer some of your questions and help you understand the workings of this course. Let's begin!

This is a summary of our course for Year 1. Typically, a child in Year 1 is around 6 or 7.

The My Homeschool Graded Courses are based on the Australian Curriculum (including the NSW Syllabus and Western Australian Curriculum) content and outcome statements. It will comply with all the states and territories' requirements.

Charlotte Mason's literature rich approach to home education is our inspiration. However, we have also introduced a range of eclectic teaching ideas and resources that reflect a modern approach to the Australian Curriculum. An atmosphere of learning is encouraged in the home including taking advantage of natural learning opportunities. Delight directed learning is supported with children having the freedom to explore desired areas of interest.

We believe this course will satisfy your desire to give your child a wholesome living book education which will still comply with government obligations for home education registration.

Choice has also been built into this curriculum to give you the flexibility you need for teaching multiple ages and adapting to the special needs and interests of your child/children.

As the teaching parent, you are also learning how to teach your child at home. This course uses a few Charlotte Mason teaching strategies that need to be understood to follow this curriculum. If you are unfamiliar with any of these ideas then explanations are found in the complimentary **Homeschool Teaching 101** course provided when you subscribe.

Do We Need Kindergarten?

Unfortunately, kindergarten is sometimes dismissed as unnecessary, confused with preschool, melded into Year 1, or simply viewed through different education philosophies, such that the real wonder, meaning and purpose for kindergarten has been forgotten or cast aside.

Some home educators misunderstand kindergarten to only be a formal school construct and miss the opportunities that come for enjoying and exploring learning at this age.

Kindergarten is not only an important step in the life long journey of education, but a wonderful way to gently step into home education. It is not to be missed!

Please refer to our [Kindergarten Readiness Checklist](#) for a short checklist approach to developmental milestones most children will have achieved before commencing kindergarten.

We also have a [Kindergarten Completion Achievement List](#) so you can see if your child is ready for Year One.

Do I Need to Start at the Beginning of the Year?

No! This course has a flexible format that can be started at any time. If you wish to begin mid-term or mid-year you can still pick up the course from Week One.

Since math resources are purchased separately you can follow the level you were using prior to starting the course.

Secular or Christian

This curriculum aims to give parents confidence that they are educating their children with a world view that honours the values of Christian education however our resources are not exclusively Christian. We have attempted to choose great resources and often a secular resource was the best option. Specific Bible study resources have not been included in this course but you are encouraged to set up your own schedule for this and add it to your read aloud time if desired. Education of the whole child is important to us and parents are encouraged to nurture their children's spiritual, intellectual, emotional and social needs.

How Much Does This Course Cost?

Become a Member

- To enrol in our graded courses you must first [become a member](#).

Membership remains active as long as you stay subscribed. Membership gives you access to the My Homeschool Learning Platform, our *Homeschool Teaching 101* course, our *Homeschool Registration* course and our art and music enrichment courses. The membership can only be used for the family subscribed. The membership may not be used for non-family members.

- [Member's Only = \\$385 with no additional subscription. This is available via the Moodle website after you become a subscribed member.](#)

How Much is Online?

We use Moodle, a popular educational online learning platform to run our courses. In Year One this is mostly a resource for the parent. Your child will occasionally need access to the My Homeschool to complete watch video lessons. A laptop, tablet, or desktop computer will work well. Your smart phone can be used for a quick review, or on the go, but it's not the best long-term option for online reading and watching videos.

Our courses are set out in three sections:

- Before You Start – This has the files that you will need to help you get going with our course. (This is for the parent)
- The Virtual Cupboard – stores all the lesson resources. (This is for the parent)
- Weekly Topics – This section is set out into the 36 weeks of the semester. It includes all the online links, and videos needed for that week in one handy place. No need to surf the internet looking for information, or find a PDF to open, because we've conveniently set it all up for you, so you can go straight to the place we recommend.

Our online platform in Year One is a tool for helping parents get organized and prepared for teaching their child. Most of our lessons require reading from a real book or a paper-based resource. Our notebooking activities use pen and paper.

Additional time online will be included if your mathematics resource is online. [Here is a video showing how it works.](#)

How Much Time Will This Involve?

My Homeschool follows the Charlotte Mason practice of shorter lessons so there is time for the student to follow other interests. Approximately three to four days per week is allocated to group study and reading aloud. Your day will usually include consistent lesson time in the mornings, leaving afternoons free for natural learning and play. You can also get some of your jobs done or go visiting!

Assessment and Record Keeping

A 36 week schedule is provided which has been split into 4 terms. 8 weeks are set topics and the 9th week is an assessment and review week that often includes a project.

Each week has its own checklist available online or as a downloadable PDF.

Registration is made simple with our Yearly Planning Template and detailed scope and sequence. We also provide certificates and portfolio prompts that will make documentation and continued registration a cinch.

At the end of each term there is a downloadable report of work achieved over the term. Parents add comments and assessments of their child's progress in each area of learning.

There are no formal tests in Year 1.

Subject Outline

English

Our literature based approach includes many living books.

Spelling, grammar and punctuation are taught using sentences and Dolch word lists. Classic literature is used for copywork and handwriting practice. Comprehension lessons are done using narration and conversation. Children are encouraged to explain what they are seeing as a pre-writing skill.

They will be developing their reading skills but progress is very individual. Reading together is still required.

Math

We don't provide a math curriculum but we do give suggestions.

History and Geography

While a chronological approach to history is taught from Year 2, Year 1 is a gentle introduction to history, comparing daily life today with that from previous generations.

Beginner mapping exercises, characteristics of places and world geography are covered in Year 1.

Civics and Citizenship

Governance and civics are viewed through living books and an exploration of how this works in your local neighbourhood.

Science & Nature, Technology & Design

We study chemistry and physics, including some simple experiments to do at home to understand the scientific process. Using a literature based unit study we also examine building materials across the world. Relevant information is provided through our resources and websites.

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Four themes for Nature Study are offered, including coastal environments, seasonal change, weeds and Australian flora.

Creative Arts

Creative and Practical Arts are taught with other subjects including: nature journaling, literature based unit studies, picture study and music appreciation.

Dramatic presentations are practiced during poetry recital and acting out stories.

Personal Health & Development

This commonsense subject is taught through the activities of daily living and participation in local sports and community events. Healthy Conversations checklists are provided for each stage of the syllabus so you can teach respectful relationships and personal growth as you deem appropriate.

Note: We have not included a structured devotion time into this course. If this is your practice we encourage you to do so and count it as part of your child's personal development.

Foreign Languages – Optional

Teaching a foreign language is not a compulsory subject in Australian except in Victoria. So we have left it as an optional subject in My Homeschool. However, language study is part of the broad educational feast that can be offered to children. Although we haven't set any lessons for teaching this subject (as there are so many ways to do it) we have given a few suggestions.

Note: It is possible to apply for an exemption in this subject when applying for registration in Victoria. From Year Three language study is also part of the Western Australian Curriculum.

What's Included

These are provided in an electronic file format and found in the resource section of your course.

- Year One Course Introduction
- Year One Guide: 36 weeks of lesson plans.
- Registration Pack: Yearly plan with scope and sequence.
- Primary Language Lessons Year 1
- Beatrix Potter Classic Copywork
- Mother Goose Classic Copywork
- My First Science Conversations – Kitchen Chemistry and Physical World
- Humanities and Social Sciences Units Year 1
- Nature Study in Year 1
- Healthy Conversations Foundation to Year 2
- Book Log: Birds or Frogs

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Learnbook Panel' for a user named Michelle Morrow. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Learnbook Panel:** A sidebar on the left with a user profile picture and name, and a list of navigation buttons: Home, My Dashboard, Courses, Calendar, My Certificates, My Team, Administration, Analytics, Reporting, and Administration.
- Before You Start:** A section with a 'Your progress' indicator and a list of five items, each with a checkbox: Course Introduction (checked), 36weekplan-year2 (checked), Student-RegistrationLearningPlan (checked), Year2-Scope-Sequence (unchecked), and Year-2-Resource-checklist (checked).
- Virtual Cupboard:** A section with a list of resources, each with a checkbox: History Makers-Year2 (checked), Y2-ancienthistorytimeline-draft (unchecked), PoetryforKids-Year2-Classic (checked), Aesops Fables Italics largeprint (checked), scripture-copywork-italics (checked), primary-language-lessons-Year2-2017 (checked), Earth-science-conversations (checked), Australian-Book-Traveller-Earth-Science (checked), MaryMacKillop-lapbook-template pages (unchecked), MaryMacKillop-teacher-instructions (checked), Healthy-Conversations-Year F2 (checked), booklogs birds (checked), and booklogs frog (unchecked).

Additional Books and Resources

These items are not provided but are needed for the course. It is estimated these will cost approximately \$200.

- Own choice math curriculum
- [Marguerite Makes a Book by Bruce Robertson](#)
- *Peter's Old House* by Elsa Beskow
- [If You Lived Here: Houses of the World by Giles Laroche](#)
- [The Day of Ahmed's Secret by Florence Parry Heide and Judith Heide Gilliland](#)
- [Caribbean Dream by Rachel Isadora](#)
- [Magic Beach by Alison Lester](#) (stocked by many libraries)
- [Hello from Nowhere by Raewyn Caisley and Karen Blair](#) (stocked by many libraries)
- [Desert Lake: The Story of Kati Thanda – Lake Eyre by Pamela Freeman and Liz Anelli](#) (stocked by many libraries)
- [The Man Who Walked Between the Towers by Mordicai Gerstein](#) (stocked by a number of libraries)
- [The Third Gift by Linda Sue Park](#) (stocked by a number of libraries)
- [Optional: The Wonderland of Nature](#) by Nuri Mass. This is used as a reference in My First Science Conversations – Kitchen Chemistry and Physical World and is only available for purchase by members. (Used Years 1 & 3)
- Stationary supplies.

Sample Week Two:

Family Time and Read Alouds

- ❖ Own Choice scripture and family devotional
- ❖ Own Choice Novel – (Pick a book for the family if teaching multiple children)
- ❖ Poetry: [The Curlew Song](#) by Henry Kendall
- ❖ [Composer Study](#)
- ❖ [Picture Study Rotation](#) (AM)

On Your Own Subjects

- ❖ Own choice reading instruction
- ❖ Handwriting: [Beatrix Potter Classic Copywork](#): pages 6 - 8 (EBK)
- ❖ Own Choice Math Curriculum (\$)
- ❖ [Primary Language Lessons 1: Lessons 1 - 3](#)
- ❖ [Science Video](#)

Notebooking Activities

- ❖ [Kitchen Chemistry – Lesson 2](#)
- ❖ Humanities & Social Science - [History with Marguerite – Lesson 2](#)
- ❖ [Nature Study Year 1](#)

Enrichment Activities

- ❖ Classic read aloud
- ❖ Free reading / library visit
- ❖ Nature walk
- ❖ Sports activity
- ❖ Music lesson practice
- ❖ Listen to term composer
- ❖ Handicrafts
- ❖ Nature Study Readings