

# 10 TIPS *to start*

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## UNSCHOOLING *Now*

*So happy we've found each other!!*

*You're about to start a fabulous journey full of learning, adventure and excitement with your child! Congratulations on making this brave choice!*

*Whether you like the term "unschooling," hate the term but love the ideas, or somewhere in between, this pdf will help you get started. Remember, no curriculum needed - focus on your child, their strengths/weaknesses, joys and fears. And learn as much as you can about how children learn and how much better life can be.  
I'm so excited for you all - you can do this!*

A stylized, cursive signature of the name 'Sue' in a pink color, with decorative flourishes at the end of the letters.

1. **Know the laws in your state.** In the USA, each state makes their own decisions about homeschoolers. Unschooling is a category of homeschooling, so that's the term you might see used most. If you have any questions at all about how to interpret the law, THE BEST people to ask are the unschoolers in your area. Local groups or individuals will tell you how things really get done in your neck of the woods. ;) Please do not do MORE than the law requires – why put more pressure on yourself? Use your energy elsewhere.

2. **Get with the locals.** Find the local unschooling groups in your area. Connecting with other families will help you in so many ways:

- Meet other families on the same path
- Make friends for your kids – field trips, group activities
- Listen to how they interpret the law
- Find out about community resources

3. **Get Philosophical for a minute or two.** Pause, and think about your Philosophy of Learning. We are so conditioned to believe learning = school and that's just not true! Maybe this entire concept kind of stumps you. You're not alone. Most of us who've been to school have been conditioned to leave this kind of thinking to The Experts. But guess what?? YOU are the Expert now. Don't let this scare you! Who knows more about your child than you do? Who knows what they like to do and what makes their heart sing? YOU DO! Now, all you have to do is think about how to fuel that!

4. **The answers to your biggest questions are right in front of you!**

Think about your children and their interests instead of curriculum. If you've been rushing around from school to soccer to piano lessons, you may have to regroup a little. You may have to create a little pause in your life so you can really get to know where your kid's head is these days. And, remember, just because you were totally tuned into them six months ago, does not mean they're in the same place today. Those little brains are growing and developing at rocket speed! Interests change all the time. You are in such an awesome position to be able to really know them and help them navigate their way as they grow up.

5. **What Community resources** are available to you?

- Non-homeschooling groups (Rec leagues, 4H, Scouts)
- Friends & Relatives – do you have a problem or an issue that maybe they could help with? Or maybe they have an awesome hobby or job that your child might find interesting. Would they share a little time with your child?
- Local classes – Museums, Nature Centers, Art Galleries often have classes for kids. If yours doesn't have something specific for homeschoolers you have a couple of options. You can jump into the weekend classes that they often offer to kids (who are otherwise occupied with school) or you can contact them and see if they'd offer a class during the week if you could gather a handful of homeschoolers who might be interested. Lots of places jump on this as they have a lot of down time while they wait for the hustle and bustle of everyone trying to fit into the weekend options.

6. **A shift in Parenting ...** Talk with your children about Life and Learning and Communication skills. This may be different from how you parented them before now. The Top Down structure is not required for children to learn – and no, you will not be creating a House of Anarchy. When children are treated respectfully, they respond respectfully. And if they don't, a simple conversation about how the situation could go differently is often all that's needed. Work on building a relationship full of trust, and you'll be surprised at how the “typical” problems with raising children begin to fade away.

7. **Grow your Unschooling Reading List** Gather inspiring websites and books to read. Some of these books are older, but their info is still good. Plus, they're often significantly discounted at Amazon.

- [The Unschooling Handbook](#)  
by Mary Griffith
- [Life Through The Lens of Unschooling](#)  
by Pam Larrichia
- [Sandra Dodd's Big Book of Unschooling](#)  
by Sandra Dodd
- [Parenting A Free Child: An Unschooling Life](#)  
by Rue Kream
- [The Teen-Age Liberation Handbook](#)  
by Grace Llewellyn
- [Dumbing us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling](#)  
by John Taylor Gatto
- [Learning All The Time](#) by John Holt
- [Homeschooled Teens](#) by Sue Patterson

8. **UnschoolingMom2Mom.com** website. This is a collection of the best unschooling advice out there. And after years of being involved in the homeschooling community, I know who to listen to and who not to! No need for you to reinvent the wheel – or follow some bad advice.

The homepage has many questions that are common when families are just starting out on a this new path. Pay special attention to the **“New to Unschooling”** page. It's set up specifically for YOU! There are some awesome first steps there.

<http://www.unschoolingmom2mom.com/new-to-unschooling-.html>

It's linked at the website, but be sure to subscribe to Pam Laricchia's free newsletter:

[Exploring Unschooling Email Series](#)

**9. What obstacles** do you think you have and how will you overcome each? I recommend creating a journal or notebook as these obstacles that seem huge in the beginning often get smaller with time. But fear not, others may pop up. ;) A clear look at you, your spouse and your child's strengths and weaknesses will help you in the long run.

<b>My Obstacles</b>	<b>Possible Solutions</b>
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<b>My Spouse's Obstacles</b>	<b>Possible Solutions</b>
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<b>My Child's Obstacles</b>	<b>Possible Solutions</b>
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Obviously, if you have more than one child, you'll need another worksheet! But this can be easily duplicated in a Word file or a journal.

**10. Social Media – Use it!** So many resources exist for the DIY type. ☺

**Facebook**

[Unschooling Mom2Mom Group](#) will connect you with experienced unschooling moms willing to answer questions you may have.

[Unschooling Mom2Mom](#) The facebook page will keep you inspired with resources and links.

**Pinterest**

Pinterest is an homeschooler's DREAM!! Let other people help you with the searching! Go to <https://www.pinterest.com/umom2mom/> and see what I have collected for you there!

**Instagram**

[UnschoolingMom2Mom](#) – we can stay connected through IG