



Learn at Home

With Your Library

Welcome to the Bartholomew County Public Library! Our mission at BCPL is to act as the “community crossroads; connecting people, information, ideas, and experiences to empower everyone on their journey of lifelong learning.” We strive to support our nontraditional, homeschooling, and e-learning families in their work and play, providing not only a robust collection of books and materials, but a wide selection of learning resources, including digital materials, databases, meeting space, virtual and in-person programs, and more.

Learning and Curricular Needs

We have a wide variety of books and materials to offer, including a carefully curated special collection full of parenting, homeschooling, and education-related materials for caregivers. Better yet, we are constantly working to improve our collection to better meet your needs. We are happy to purchase items for our collection upon request, especially if those items will widely benefit other co-ops or families. We also have access to other libraries’ collections via Interlibrary Loan. Just submit your reading list to us, and we will our best to get you what you need. Please note that we are unable to purchase workbooks or other single-use materials, although we do accept donations of these kinds of materials.

Digital Resources

You can access a wide range of online resources for free using your BCPL library card. Overdrive/Libby and Hoopla are great platforms for downloading eBooks or audio books. Rosetta Stone and Mango Languages provide beginner-level world language and ESL instruction. Gale Courses offer access to 300+ online classes, taught by industry professionals in a wide range of subjects. More information is available on the Kids page of our website, and on our [Learning Resources](#) page.

Meeting Rooms

Does your co-op need a place to meet? At our branch in Columbus, we have five public meeting rooms and event spaces available for reservation. There are two smaller meeting rooms perfect for study sessions or project groups. The Conference Room and Red Room are ideal for larger classes, presentations, or graduations. You can reserve meeting rooms on our website and over the phone.

Programs & Events

Every month, we host at least 25 unique monthly programs, and that is just downstairs in the Children’s Department! While we do not currently have sessions exclusively for homeschool students, ALL of our programs are open to homeschoolers, and we are always open to suggestions for new programs or program times. We also host a semi-regular homeschooling meetup where families can share ideas and materials and generally socialize with one another in an inclusive environment. View a [program guide](#), visit the [events page](#) of our website, or ask at one of our service desks for more information about specific programs.

We always love to hear from you!

If you have any questions or suggestions for us, please feel free to contact us. You can reach us directly by speaking to us at the Children’s desk, using the form on our website, or by calling us during business hours at 812-379-1288.

We genuinely appreciate your feedback!



Homeschooling in Bartholomew County FAQ

I want to homeschool my children. Where do I start?

Congratulations on your decision to homeschool! We fully support your decision, and hope to do whatever we can to help you meet your family's educational needs.

As you get started, we first recommend you visit a few websites to learn more about legal and educational requirements. Broadly speaking, you will need to do four things:

1. Become familiar with Indiana home education laws
2. Withdraw your child(ren) from the school system.
3. Select or create a curriculum, and
4. Provide an "equivalent education" for your child.

The Indiana Association of Home Educators is an excellent resource for learning about all of these things and more, and we highly recommend you visit their website at www.iahe.net. You may also wish to explore the Indiana Foundation for Home Schooling (IFHS) website at www.indianahomeschooling.org and the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) website at www.hslda.org.

All of these resources and more are linked on the Homeschool Information and Services page of our website.

Cover your bases

Before you attempt to educate your child(ren) at home, you will need to know the law.

- Children must attend school for the same number of days as the local school corporation (usually around 180 days). This is a minimum.
- You must keep attendance records.
- You must provide instruction in English.
- Children must attend school from ages 7-17 (or until they graduate).
- Children must receive an equivalent education (what this means is open to interpretation, and we are librarians, not lawyers, so we encourage you to research this further yourself – the IAHE and HSLDA both explain it fully on their websites).

If you feel you can meet these requirements, the next step is to withdraw your child with your local school or school district with a formal letter of withdrawal (unless your child has never attended school, in which case you do not need to do anything but get started). The IAHE has a great tool for this on their website.

Choose a curriculum

Once you have committed to homeschooling, it's time to make a learning plan and (in most cases) select a curriculum. A curriculum is the set of lessons and materials used to reach specific learning goals; usually, a curriculum is based in a particular philosophy or approach to education (although many homeschooling families pick and choose from a variety of approaches and curricula to meet their individual needs).

Some of the most popular homeschooling approaches include

- Traditional
- Classical
- Literature-based (Charlotte Mason is a popular example)
- Unit Studies
- Unschooling

You can learn more about each of these approaches in our homeschooling binder, or on our website.

Connect with other homeschoolers

You may have noticed that there are a number of homeschooling groups in Indiana. Most of these are co-ops: groups of families who share in the task of educating their children, by sharing materials, costs, skills, space, and/or experiences. Others are more general support or social networks. These organizations are all based in Bartholomew County, and to the best of our knowledge are currently active.

Name	Affiliation	Membership Dues?	Find More Information
Classical Conversations	Secular	Yes	Classicalconversations.com Local representative: Amy Hart
P24 Ministries	Religious/ Church-based	Yes	Facebook: p24ministries@gmail.com Library homeschool binder Library website
Paideia Christian Homeschool Co-op	Religious/ Church-based	Unknown	Facebook
PEACE	Secular	Yes	https://columbussecularcoo.wixsite.com/peace

*If you are a member of a group not listed here, please reach out to the children's department manager with your information – we would love to include you!

Some of our neighboring counties are also home to homeschooling groups, so be sure to explore if you don't find a fit right away.

Where can I find books about homeschooling?

Within the library, you can find books related to homeschooling just about everywhere! The age of your children, the subject matter, and your specific needs are going to play a large part in where you want to look for instructional materials. Many of these materials can be found both downstairs in the Children's Department and in the adult non-fiction collection.

If you are looking for "how to" type materials or books on educational philosophy and pedagogy:

Educational philosophy and pedagogy – Nonfiction 371-373, both levels

Home education – Nonfiction 374

Curriculum – Nonfiction 375, mostly upstairs

Parenting & child-rearing – Nonfiction 649.1, both levels

Homeschool – Nonfiction 649.6, both levels

If you are looking for books related to specific subjects:

Grammar, phonics, language arts – Nonfiction 400s, both levels

Mathematics – Nonfiction 510-512, both levels

Sciences – Throughout nonfiction, but especially nonfiction 500s

Civics, law, and social sciences – Nonfiction 300s, both levels

Geography and world history – Nonfiction 912 and upward

You can also find materials online in Overdrive or in Hoopla (Hoopla has a much larger collection of homeschool-related material).

Library staff are always happy to assist you in finding what you need, so please do not hesitate to ask at the children's desk or the reference desk.

