

Open-and-Go Curriculum

checklist

Created by TheHomeschoolGraduate.com

Values

- Does this curriculum match my family's values?
 - Secular
 - Christian
 - Faith neutral
 - Other religion

Credentials

- Is this produce produced by an individual or a publishing company?
 - If produced by a publishing company, who is the specific author of the material you are selecting?
- What are the author's qualifications?
- Does the author have formal education in the content?
- Does the author have formal education in curriculum design?
Does the author have formal education in differentiating for unique children's needs? (Special Ed, Gifted and Talented, etc)
- Do I need curriculum that is aligned with my government's educational standards? If so, is this product aligned with those standards?
- Has this product won any accolades that aren't based on sales or ratings? (I.E. Awards related to merit and content rather than popularity)
- Read the testimonials for the product on their homepage. Keep in mind that these will be all positive. To find unbiased reviews, search for the product name inside homeschool Facebook groups.

Parent Help

- What kind of support is offered to parents who purchase this curriculum?
 - Scripted lesson plans
 - Customizable lesson plans
 - Teacher/Parent guide
 - Videos or lessons for parents
 - Resource lists

Delivery

- Is this product completely digital?
- Do you receive anything in the mail?
- Do you need to print materials at home?
- Do they collaborate with a printing company?
- How many printing licenses are you allowed with your purchase?

Developmental Stages

- Is it important to me that a curriculum is designed *specifically* for my child's age, developmental stage, and interests?
- OR** am I OK with a curriculum that is geared towards a wide range of ages with limited emphasis on developmental stage or interest?
- Does the author have any experience working with children of the specific age to which the product is designed?
- Does the author *specifically* address the effectiveness of the product for children with unique needs (Special Ed, Gifted and Talented, twice exceptional, etc.)



Additional Financial Investments

- Does this curriculum contain all the subjects I need or will I need to supplement subjects?
- Does this curriculum come with required materials or will I need to purchase them?
- If this curriculum has a recommended reading list, are there alternative recommendations in case my library doesn't have them?
- Are any required material lists composed of common household items or will I have to purchase a lot of items? Are the required materials expensive or less than a few dollars?

Math

- Does this product contain math or will I need to purchase another product?
- Do I prefer a rigorously academic math curriculum, or am I OK with a gentle, exploration based math curriculum?
- Is the math curriculum interactive (hands on)?

Language Arts

- Does this product contain language arts or will I need to purchase another product?
- Am I looking for explicit reading lessons (phonics, grammar, spelling) or am I OK with a learn-by-exposure approach?
- Are writing activities engaging, age-appropriate, and customizable?

History

- Does this product refer to years in BCE (before common era) or BC (before Christ?)
- Is the content inclusive of all peoples or does it ignore BIPOC and/or emphasize western European cultures?
- Is content about BIPOC written by a BIPOC author or is there at least evidence of collaboration where the author was fairly compensated?
- Is content about Indigenous tribes written by an Indigenous author of the particular tribe or is there at least evidence of collaboration where the author was fairly compensated?
- Does the content sugarcoat or completely bypass historical events involving oppression or violence caused by a dominate group?

Science

- Does this product contain science or will I need to purchase another product?
- If I am a secular homeschooler, does the science curriculum address evolution, the age of the Earth and Universe (billions), climate change, and The Big Bang?
- If I am a Christian homeschooler or faith neutral homeschooler, does the science curriculum teach according to my values?
- Does it provide hands on activities?
- Are there labs included?
- Are there videos?
- Is there a non-fiction book list?

Other Considerations

- Do I need a program that includes exams?
- Do I want a program that provides teacher-parent collaboration, outside grading and feedback, online social meet-ups, or other adds-ons?
- Is it important to me that I purchase curriculum created by BIPOC?
- If there is a booklist, are the books inclusive of all people?
- If there is a booklist, does it contain books that are harmful to BIPOC?
- Is this curriculum product within my budget?