



Class 3: Your Tailored Curriculum & Homeschool Space

Weekly Agenda:

Notebook- You may find it easier to print the PDF lessons and house them in a 3-ring binder or notebook for easy reference and highlighting.

Lesson Availability- You can download your weekly lessons by accessing the webpage above. The material will be available up to 60 days after the end of the course to make sure you have had time to get everything. I recommend downloading as we go and participating to get the most from this class.

Participate- Ask questions, share ideas and make friends with the others in the course for best experience. You can ask questions under comments on each weekly lesson. I will try to answer as specific as I can, but since this is a group class we may not be able to cover specifics to every situation. If you need further help, email me for private guidance at donnaashton@thewaldorfconnection.com.

Table of Contents

Weekly Agenda	1
Week 3 Overview	3
Class 3: Your Tailored Curriculum & Homeschool Space	3
What does homeschooling look like & how do I get there from here?	4
Our Day	5
What Type of Curriculum	7
Setting Up Your Homeschool Space	8
Nature Table	10
Basic Supplies	11

Week 3 Overview

I will give you a look inside what homeschooling really looks like. We will discuss your homeschooling space, ideas to set it up, what types of curriculums could work for you and how to choose.

Class 3: Your Tailored Curriculum & Homeschool Space



What does homeschooling look like and how do I get there from here?

You may be wondering what homeschooling looks like and how to integrate that into your days. It can seem a scary or intimidating “unknown” thing to begin, but I am here to tell you it is no such thing. I remember my first 2 weeks of first grade, being so nervous and unsure.

Then, I realized that it was just my girls and me and our activities were very similar to what we had been doing in our 2 years of kindergarten.

Having a solid foundation was a **BIG KEY** to having this easy transition, so please take the time to delve into Lesson 2 where we covered Rhythm. I cannot stress the importance of having those pillars in place.

So, what does a homeschooling day really look like? You may be surprised to learn that it looks a lot like life and regular day-to-day activities. If you have been bringing waldorf-inspired ideas like baking, singing, circle time, storytime, painting, etc.. than it will feel comparable.

For the early grades (K, 1st, 2nd) the time it takes to complete Main Lesson, Circle Time and any other additional supporting classes like handwork, foreign language, etc. will not take more than 2 hours.

Homeschooling means just that, you are schooling while living your life. That includes the chores, feeding baby, naps, errands, telephone calls that go on. It becomes a part of your day. (Again, strong rhythm plays a big part here).

Picking a firm time to begin school will help keep your morning flow going (and fend off time wasters like checking emails). It is so nice not to have to get up and get your child off to school early so you can decide what fits your life and schedule best as far as when to begin your school day. You may also want to turn your phone ringer off to keep distractions down.



Our Day:

We usually begin school around 9 am, giving time for morning chores and breakfast and our morning walk. Circle time is how we start and this can last anywhere from 20-45 minutes depending on what we include. In earlier grades, circle time was much shorter and has only increased with more math & spelling practice. First grade circle time was probably 10-15 minutes at most.

Main lesson can last an hour or longer depending on grade and lesson block, but in earlier grades it could be 30 minutes. Try not to judge the effectiveness of the lesson based on time, but on the quality of what is being taught and how the child is understanding it.

After main lesson, it is usually close to lunch time. My girls have “free play” while I get things ready. (In the earlier days, we had a snack in between circle & main lesson)

During the afternoon, we get together again around 3 or 4 for another “school” activity like handwork, painting, crafts, baking, etc.. This helps with the in and out flow of the rhythm of the day. I like to connect with them again after working or doing something by myself. When they were younger, this in and out was more frequent adding in a story time or drawing. Think short bursts of being together and then they play, back and forth.

The rest of the day and in-between consists of your average homemaker and mom-pren-
eur’s tasks or working, laundry, meal prep and errands.

So, you can see that it is really a lot of life with some homeschooling mixed in.

You can start this again by setting up your rhythm and working slowly to put these pieces in place. This took years for me to establish and get “right” for our family. You will need to experiment with what works best for YOU and your family. Try something different if it isn’t working right. Keep tweaking.

What types of curriculum are right for you?

This is a big topic and one most want to figure out right away.

Let's start with a few questions to help you narrow things down. There are many options out there for you in Waldorf-inspired curricula.



1.) Time: *How much time do you have to devote to planning our daily/weekly lessons?* Be honest here. If you only have 1 child, you may have time to create your own curriculum and dive deep, but if you have 3, it may be a different story. Are you working part time or own your own business? Take into consideration all your regular responsibilities.

2) Your temperament/personality: Are you an organized person? Go with the flow? If you like details and planning and controlling, then a curriculum that has just the basic ideas may be for you. Otherwise, something that has daily lessons plans may be more of your liking.

3) Cost: This may also be a factor depending on how many grades you need to

purchase. Some are reasonable, others are much more of an investment. You can always check the used curriculum & supplies yahoo group for used books and curriculum. And you can sell yours back when you are through. (please check rules for the forum as well as for your curriculum).

I believe answering these questions will lead you in the right direction to finding a curriculum that fits.

You can also create your own lesson plans without buying a ‘done for you’ curriculum. I did a bit of that in the early grades and then realized I was just too busy to keep going in that direction, even though I enjoy it.

Example: You could get a few fairy tale books from the library and some nature stories and basically teach the letters. The 4 processes are taught through stories about the math gnomes or some use squirrels, etc.. All very doable without purchasing a curriculum!

I will include some audio interviews with homeschooling moms doing reviews on the major waldorf-inspired curricula so you can hear from them directly what each one is like.

Setting Up Your Homeschool Space



We transformed our previous rarely used dining room into our “Homeschool/Craft Room” space.

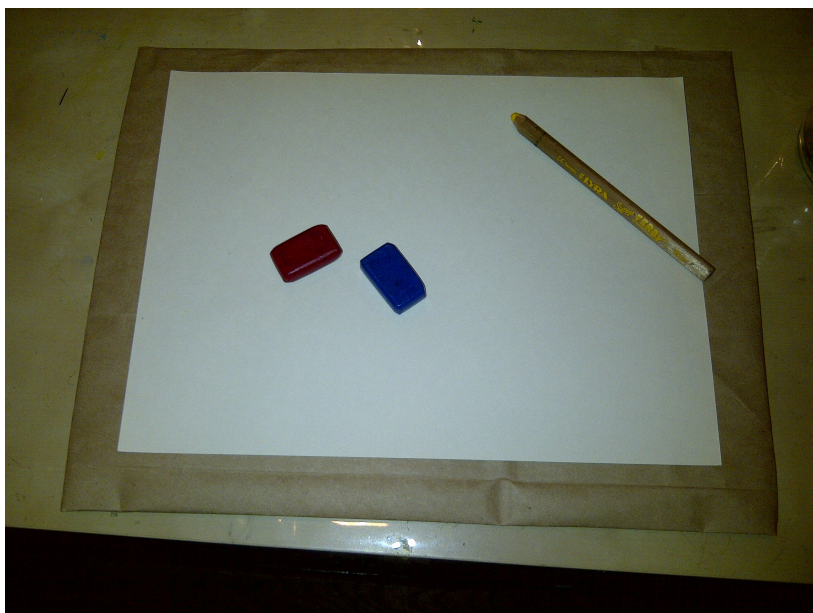
We love it! We have a large table with adjustable legs (Ikea). Here you see stools, now we have small adjustable chairs (adjust for height). The cabinets in the back house all our supplies like painting stuff, wool roving, yarn, craft supplies, extra paper, etc..

If you don’t have a specified room to use, you can simply use a kitchen or dining room table. Or just a desk or coffee table! You can make your school room or space look anyway you like.

It is beneficial to have a cabinet or shelf to store your supplies and have them all in one spot. I store crayons on baskets and colored pencils in glass jars.

I do have a chalkboard on the wall I use for the chalkboard drawings and teaching in general. You can use a moveable one or even a smaller slate. The girls have smaller slates as well to practice form drawings and math. They also have white art or painting boards (I bought these years ago, so they are a great investment) and we made the drawing pads out of brown grocery bags and newspaper.

[\(Link here to tutorial on my blog\)](#)





Nature table

You may use a small table or shelf (we use the end of those cabinets) to create a Nature or Seasonal Table space.

You can decorate with items from nature, back yard as well as wooden animals, felted or craft items, beeswax models and really anything you like. I use a silk as the base in a color that reflects the season and add to it. So, for March

We may change to a light green silk and add a few daffodils in a glass jar along with our felted sing maiden. Then in April, we might add new flowers blooming or baby animals or Easter eggs, etc. May we may switch to a sunny yellow silk and a May Day bouquet. You can change it or leave it the same for the season- it is up to you.

I like to make the supplies accessible to my girls but it is important that they take care of their materials and also learn to clean up after each use. Storing the tools in the proper way will ensure many years of use and will help them with confidence they can do something themselves. (and help you as the mom!)



Some basic supplies:

yellow, blue, red block crayons
yellow, blue, red stockmar paint
1" paint brush
painting board (white)
main lesson book (s)
beeswax for modeling
colored silks

*Don't forget a set of all of the above for YOU as the teacher as you will be modeling it for them while they watch.

