



Waldorf Homeschool



The **Step-by-Step Course** to Understanding & Creating a Waldorf-Inspired Homeschool

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF WALDORF PHILOSOPHY (THE WHY'S)

### **Waiting for Academics**

Steiner felt that academics should not be taught until the change of teeth. A child is born with a set of teeth, but now that he is making something of his own (permanent teeth), he becomes a more grownup human being. Children need to finish learning through their bodies and mastering gross and fine motor skills before they start academic thinking.

### **Natural Toys & Materials:**

Waldorf encourages natural materials and beautiful surroundings. Wooden toys, silks, pine cones, acorns and other items from nature are preferred for a child to get the feel of real materials.

Art & school supplies are also high quality to give the best and truest experience. While these may cost more up front, the quality and value of these items is well worth it. We still have crayons from when my girls were 4! The materials last and the wooden toys can be fixed instead of discarded. And they feel and look amazing.

### **Limited (or no) Media**

Especially in the 7 and under age. Real connections need to be made through actual playing, talking and relationships. Media can foster being entertained, short attention span and a sedentary lifestyle. Children need to experience life through their own imagination and not the way things look on tv/movies. They will only imagine what they can at the developmental stage they are in, but outside influence can give more than a child can handle.

### **Learning through Stories**

Waldorf's lack of pre-made textbooks doesn't mean your child will not get a full rich dose of literature. Children create Main Lesson Books to document their progress through drawing, painting, writing and form drawing. Storytelling is a lost art these days, but brings life back into teaching in this method. The ability for you to look into your child's eyes and gauge their feelings and reactions by watching is amazing! It brings part of you into the mix and that is the key to all Waldorf homeschooling.

### **Why the in-breath & out-breath? Rhythm**

This goes back to polarities and balance. Whether it is harmony in the rhythm of your day or the activities you plan during your lessons, balancing the in and out is important. You can't let a child run all day without resting or keep them sitting still too long without getting antsy. Let children experience the opposites or polarities help balance them.