

# Reaching Your Home School Population

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*PLS System Meeting*

# History of Homeschooling

- Became legal in all 50 states in early 1990's
- People didn't start talking about it as serious option until early 1960's
- John Holt "How Children Fail and How Children Learn" began advocating

# Statistics

- More than 1.5 million children homeschooled
- Growing population
- Heavy users of the library (78% use library as a source of learning materials)
- Have huge informational needs
- Homeschoolers are not all the same

# Reasons for Homeschooling

Top 3 reasons:

1. Can give child a better education at home (49%)
2. Desire to provide religious or moral instruction (38%)
3. Dissatisfied with public schools (26%)

...More than one reason!

# Why homeschoolers may not use library

- Don't trust a government-funded institution
- Some homeschoolers report feeling disliked or misunderstood by library staff
- Item limits, short borrowing periods, heavy overdue fines
- Don't have materials they need/want

# Connecting: Where do I start?

- Search name of your town with word “homeschool”
- Talk to patrons: start noticing when they visit library and strike up conversation
- Show interest!
- Parents/children asking for large amounts of materials on particular subject

# Home Schooling sites

- ([www.uuhomeschool.org](http://www.uuhomeschool.org))
- Simply Homeschooling (only homeschoolers can join list, but list owner is happy to post library info.)
- Home School Legal Defense Org. ([www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org)) maintains list of state and local homeschooling organizations
- [www.NYHEN.org](http://www.NYHEN.org) (NY Home Education Network)
- RAHA (Roch. Area Homeschool Association) [www.rochesterareahomeschoolers.org](http://www.rochesterareahomeschoolers.org)

# 5 Steps to become a Homeschool-friendly library

- 1.** Connect! Develop relationships with homeschoolers
- 2.** Find out what kind of homeschoolers they are
- 3.** Let them know what resources are available
- 4.** Educate staff (let them know homeschoolers use library)
- 5.** Examine policies & procedures. Are they “home school friendly?”



# Programs with Homeschoolers in Mind

- Orientations (tour of library/overview of resources)
- Basic Library Skills (fiction classification, Dewey Decimal, library catalog, evaluating websites, etc.)
- Curriculum Swaps (trade learning materials with other homeschoolers)
- College nights
- Displays: make space available to display homeschoolers' work

# Things to consider

- Ask are they interested in programs and what kinds?
- What day of the week and time works best?
- Tie into their curriculum
- Go the extra mile to find materials
- Don't hide collection in library

# Homeschool Feud

Can you guess the top 10 things your library can do to serve Homeschoolers?

# Top 10 Things Your Library Can Do to Serve Homeschoolers

1. Recognize and meet homeschoolers
2. Make sure people can find homeschooling materials
3. Learn about homeschooling groups active in your community
4. Allow and encourage homeschoolers to use library meeting rooms
5. Display projects created by homeschooled children and teens

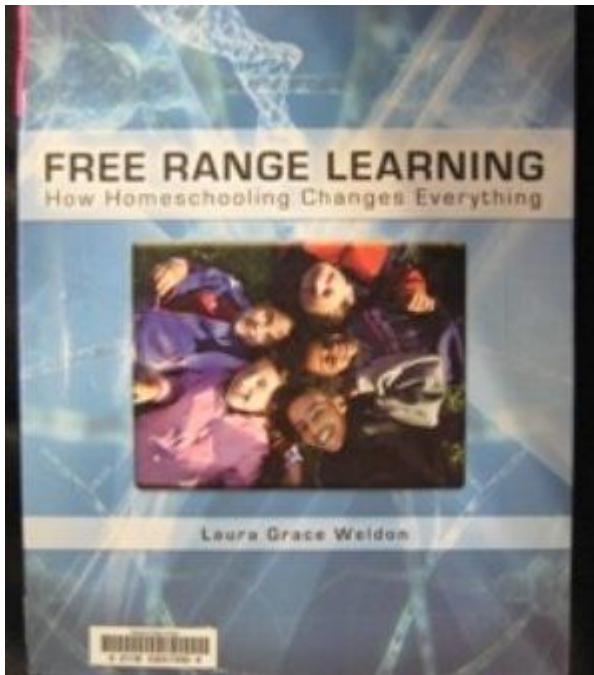
# Top 10 Things Your Library Can Do to Serve Homeschoolers

6. Create handouts that list your state's laws pertaining to homeschoolers
7. Maintain a file of catalogs that sell materials and supplies of interest to homeschoolers
8. Allow homeschoolers to apply for an extended loan period
9. Consider needs of homeschoolers when creating policies
10. Attend local homeschooling conferences, lectures and curriculum fairs

# Ideas

- Build your collection with homeschoolers in mind
- Host an open house for homeschool families at beginning of school year or term
- Send letters to parents with links to helpful information (i.e. state info., common core info. etc.)
- Host a writing group for homeschool teens
- Use homeschooled kids as library volunteers

# Resources at Geneva



1. Homeschool collection
2. Educational Board Games
3. Programming



# Online Resources

- Homeschooldiner.com (talks about different types of homeschooling) <http://www.homeschooldiner.com/>
- [www.p12.nysed](http://www.p12.nysed) (rules/regs for homeschoolers) i.e. they must do a library visit
- About.com Homeschooling
- National Home Education Research Institute (NHERI)



# Sources

Book: Helping Homeschoolers in the Library, Adrienne Furness (2008)

Blog: <http://homeschoolingandlibraries.wordpress.com>

Magazine:



# Questions??? or Comments

