

Home-education approaches

There's no "right" way. Most families blend several styles and change over time.

UK-wide

Reference

A4 · 1 page

Structured / "school at home"

A timetable and curriculum that mirrors school — reassuring for some families.

Charlotte Mason

Living books, narration, nature study and short, focused lessons.

Montessori

Child-led, hands-on learning in a carefully prepared environment.

Classical

The trivium (grammar, logic, rhetoric), great books and often Latin.

Unschooling / autonomous

Interest-led, with no set curriculum — fully legitimate under the law.

Eclectic

A mix-and-match of whatever works — the most common approach in practice.

Unit studies

One topic explored across many subjects at once.

Project-based

Deep, extended projects driven by the child's questions.

Reggio Emilia

An early-years approach where the environment is "the third teacher".