

An Introduction to Homeschooling



With a focus on Self-Directed
Individualized Education

From the Professionals at:

Deep Root Center



An Introduction to Homeschooling

For a Self-Directed Individualized Education

Welcome! You are likely here for one of two reasons:

A. Public School has not worked out for your family, and you are ready to leave because you know your child can succeed in the right environment.

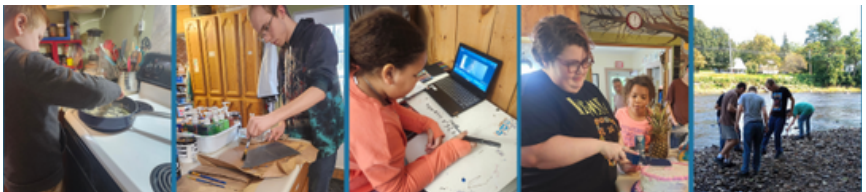
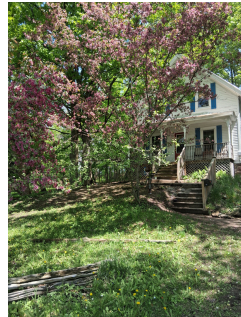
B. Your family is dedicated to unschooling (free-range or self-directed learning)

In either case, Deep Root Center can help.

Deep Root Center Provides Two Services

1. In Person - Deep Root Center facility at 48 Riverside Drive, Canton

- Open 4 days each week
- non-coercive - we don't tell kids what to do
- we do support young people to follow their interests and goals
- hands-on, interactive, life skills
- supplies and materials available for any child
- ages 5-19
- all-inclusive - we accept everyone who wants to join us



2. Consultation Services -

- We guide you through the legal process (NYS required Documents) and offer support in seeking out resources.
- The DRC Executive Director schedules consultation appointments to help families navigate the process.
- You can begin homeschooling at any time during the academic year. You do not have to wait until September.

The Consultation Process



- Maria meets via phone call (usually) with families to discuss homeschooling as an option.
- She schedules a time to talk with the child (via phone) so she can write their IHIP (plan)
- These conversations take between 15 min. to an hour. Maria engages with the young people to draw them out so she knows what they like and what they want to explore. When a child is unsure or indecisive, she offers ideas and suggestions that the child can say “yes” or “no” to.
- She then writes the IHIP & LOI based on everything the child wants to do and sends it to the family in an email that they then send to their school district
- This is crucial. The school needs both the LOI & IHIP. If they do not receive it families are in violation.

We are Here to Support You & Your Child

- Whichever service you choose, we offer expertise in writing homeschooling documentation and general support to find resources, set goals, and pursue a self-directed education. This process is totally individualized for each child and family.
- **Self-directed learning is a completely different educational paradigm** than most have ever experienced. We invite parents and guardians to travel along this unique journey with their kids to explore the world on a whole new level that celebrates each individual, their interests, and aspirations.
- Every individual is a brilliant natural learner with strengths, challenges, interests, and an internal timeline, which means the artificial developmental schedule based on age and grade level makes zero sense. **No child can be behind - only on their very own schedule.**
- Follow your Child's Lead by allowing them the Freedom to explore their Interests and Goals

An Overview of Homeschool Requirements

Three Documents:

- **Letter of Intent (LOI)** - This is a letter that informs the school that you are homeschooling your child. It is usually sent to the school with the IHIP. Occasionally, it is sent before the IHIP.
- **Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP)** - This is your child's plan submitted to your school district. It includes all subjects per NYS requirements, with a narrative description of what your child will explore in each, and resources listed.

- **Quarterly Progress Reports** (four per year - the dates of submission are listed on the IHIP) - These are narratives of what your child has done for each subject over the previous ten weeks. (Some districts require a chart with progress grades - S, U, F. We know which ones.) At the end of the year there are also annual assessments that we can guide you through.
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Finishing High School - three documents that show compliance for high school completion - provided by DRC as part of our homeschool completion package.

- Home-school diploma - blank template - completed by parents.
- Transcript - includes classes, projects, & activities as a home-schooler and high school classes completed at a previous school - with credits - no grades or GPA.
- Letter to the District Superintendent asking them to write a letter of completion, including the statement: this is a certification of compliance in accordance with New York State home-school regulations Section 100.10. This letter is not pertinent unless the student is applying directly to college.

The Question We Hear Most Frequently is,
“When do we start?”

The answer is always, **“Now!”**

You don't need anything fancy or purchased.

The world is literally wide open to your child's exploration.

We want kids to understand that learning is fun and based on curiosity, creativity, exploration, and discovery - not rote memorization.

Hence, there is no specific curriculum for this approach. We don't recommend purchasing a curriculum-based program. We do suggest getting a library card for your child. **Your local library is an invaluable resource.**



What We Mean When We Say: "Everything Counts"

This list of projects and activities is not exhaustive. Your child's can literally include anything they are interested in. It doesn't have to be labeled "educational" to be a valid learning activity. Play is the best way to learn!

Workbooks and free apps or websites (such as Khan Academy, CK-12, or Universal Class) that are grade-level based can be used - non-linearly - they can jump around from one concept (one grade level) to another. Or, if they want to take a specific class from beginning to end, they can do that, too.

Always follow the child's lead.

The World is Wide Open for Exploration Hands on Activities can Include:

Playing Games (gaming or traditional), using learning apps such as Khan Academy, PBS Kids, or CK-12, watching YouTube video tutorials, reading (books, comics, or graphic novels), drawing, painting, crafting, developing story-lines for computer games and then creating them, writing fan fiction stories based on their favorite series, cooking, baking, researching a hyper-fixation (animals, trains, world cultures, etc), building with Lego (Manga-tiles, Lincoln logs, etc.), nature studies, erecting cardboard cities, playing with toy cars and trucks, racing, running, and chasing around the yard (hide & seek or tag), stick play, tearing apart a computer, car, or ... and putting them back together - this list of projects and activities can literally include anything the child is interested in. It doesn't have to be labeled "educational" to be a valid learning activity. Everything counts!

The General Benefits of Self-Directed Learning

- Kids are generally happier (more content and less anxious)
- They are more creative and are motivated to follow their ideas to their natural conclusions.
- They feel empowered to make decisions and will learn that the simple act of making choices will always have consequences (beneficial, neutral, or harmful)
- Kids are less fearful of change or new ideas.
- They understand that life can get messy and that making mistakes is a natural part of learning.
- They have a profound understanding of who they are and what they like.
- They are not afraid to go after something they think will be good for them or their community.
- They recognize that learning is a fun, lifelong process.

Trust that your child knows exactly what they need. Let them explore the world and follow their curiosity. They will show you what they are good at and what they are interested in learning about. And then, just try to keep up with all the awesomeness that will transpire.

Have Fun!

Fees



The graphic features a blue background with a white tree root illustration. The text 'Deep Root Center' is at the top, followed by 'Pop-Ups & Consultation Fee Schedule' in a cursive font. Below this is a table with five columns, each representing a different fee category.

Drop-in Fee	IHIP & Letter of Intent Package	Quarterly Reports	Additional Home-school Support	High School Completion Package
\$8/day each child	\$60	\$50/ea	1st 1/4 hr. free then \$50/hr	\$75

Resources:

Learning apps:

Khan Academy - <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

CK12 - <https://www.ck12.org/student/>

PBS Kids - <https://pbskids.org>

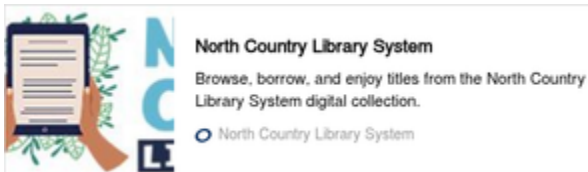
Math Games - <https://www.mathgames.com>

Crash Course - <https://thecrashcourse.com>

Resources available through North Country Library System - all you need is a library card



<https://www.kanopy.com/en/login>



Libby (from OverDrive) provides downloadable eBooks and Audiobooks. You can read and listen right in your browser or download the Libby app to get started!

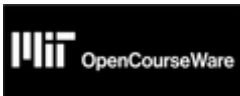
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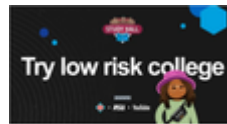
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YouTube is an amazing resource. Your child can find anything they want to learn about.

Don't forget - traditional books are always a great resource for pleasure or research.

Google searches are also a valid way to explore ideas or seek out specific information..

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