

HOW TO BEGIN

# HOME SCHOOLING



## NO DOUBT

No doubt you're nervous about stepping into home schooling. There's no need to fear. All you need is the right advice. Home schooling starts with taking that first brave step out of the mainstream. And it never really ends because your child will be transformed into a lifelong learner. Their uniqueness is your starting point. If you're ready to take that first step, getting some sound advice will dispel your fears and doubts. It's time to start.

# UNDERSTANDING TERMS

Understanding terminology can seem rather daunting when you're new to home schooling. Here are the basics:

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

The 'Australian Curriculum' is a set of educational goals for each age group that apply right across the nation.

## STATE SYLLABUSES

Each state or territory puts the Australian Curriculum into practice using their own plan - called a 'syllabus'. Syllabuses are different in each state but all align with the Australian Curriculum. Our programs fulfil the newest versions of the NSW syllabuses.

## NESA'S AUTHORISED PERSONS

NESA is the NSW Education Standards Authority in Coach House's home state. They appoint Authorised Persons as inspectors. These folk are very supportive of home schoolers, and their job is to ensure that your home school program complies with legal requirements. In 2024, they are conducting inspections in person.



# LEARNING OUTCOMES

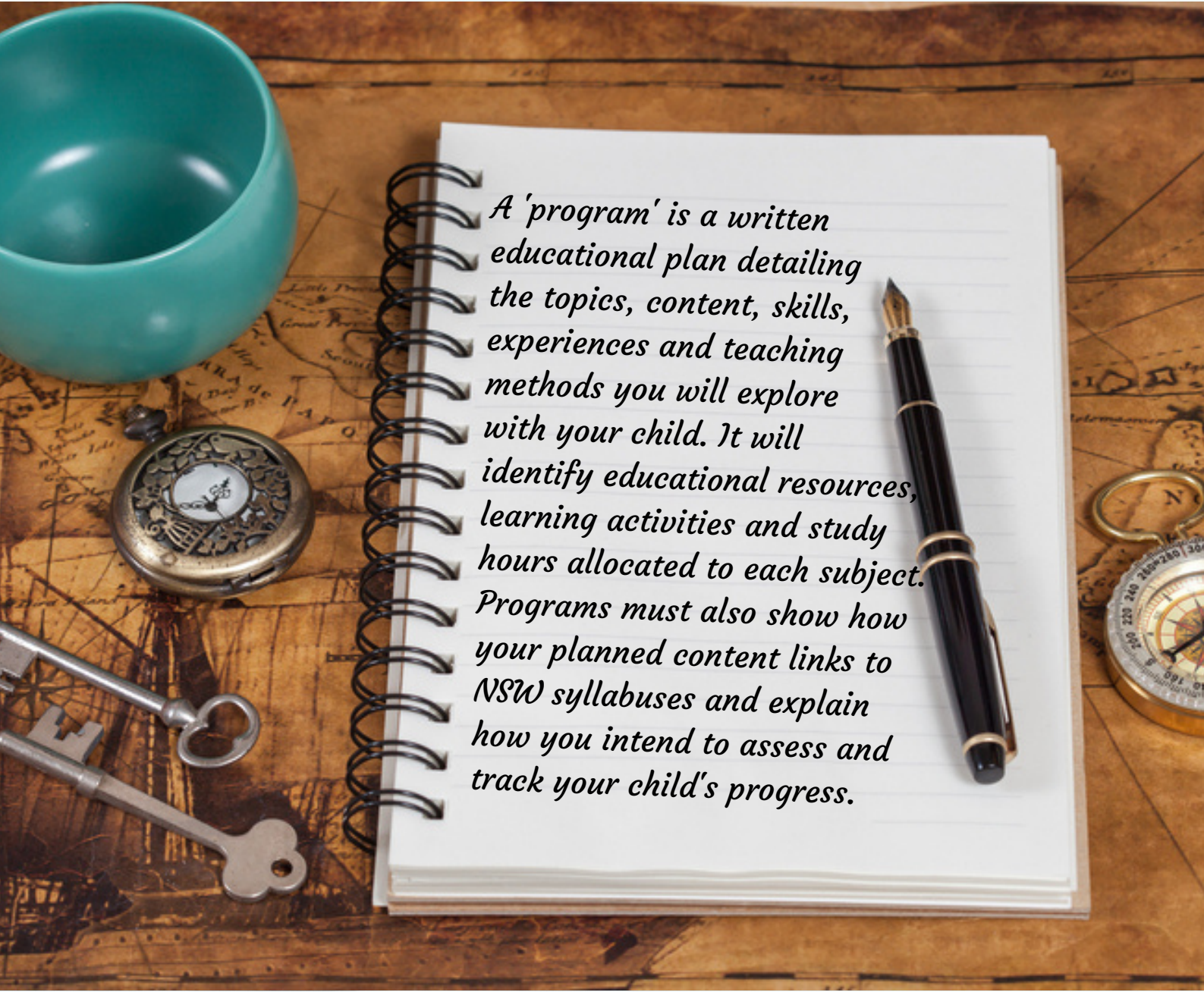
Learning outcomes (or 'syllabus outcomes') are the specific results a program is aimed to achieve. Outcomes are listed and given codes in the Australian Curriculum. State syllabuses also have their own coded sets of outcomes. For example, the New South Wales English syllabus (version 9.0) requires students in Stage 4 to:

- create personal, creative and critical texts for a range of audiences by using linguistic and stylistic conventions of language to express ideas (EN4-ECA-01)
- use processes of planning, monitoring, revising and reflecting to support and develop composition of texts (EN4-ECB-01)



# THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

The most important thing to get right is to **find a home school program your child will love**. Creating your own program can be daunting, time-consuming and costly, so you may wish to outsource this task. But it can be rewarding to pull a program together yourself, so don't be put off if you want to go it alone. You do not need special experience or qualifications to develop a suitable program but there is a learning curve involved, since your program must meet the specific curriculum requirements of the education department that governs your home state.



*A 'program' is a written educational plan detailing the topics, content, skills, experiences and teaching methods you will explore with your child. It will identify educational resources, learning activities and study hours allocated to each subject. Programs must also show how your planned content links to NSW syllabuses and explain how you intend to assess and track your child's progress.*

# THE FIRST STEP

The first step is to **seek registration** to become a home schooling family. 'NESA' is the NSW Education Standards Authority. They oversee all public and private education across the state and are responsible for issuing home schooling approvals. Australia's education authorities have certain legal requirements, so applicants must ensure that their home school program complies with those in their home state or territory.

Use this live link to visit [NESA's Home Schooling Online portal](#). You will need to set up a free account with log in details.

The application form includes a declaration that you have

- obtained a suitable home school program
- planned a timetable and sequence for the learning plan
- developed an assessment plan to track and record progress

Please be advised - this is a legal document, and you don't want to be misleading a government department. The simple solution is ... don't report that you have a program already if you do not. You will be required to produce it at an interview scheduled by NESA's Authorised Person. You need to have everything ready before applying for registration. But don't worry - we create all these documents for you as part of your home school program package.

NOTE: We recommend contacting us before you set up a meeting date with NESA.

# SAYING GOODBYE TO SCHOOL

Saying goodbye to your child's school is very straightforward. Just send the school principal a letter notifying them of your intentions to start home schooling. Include the date you wish their enrolment to end and ask for their name to be removed from the school roll. While you don't need the school's permission, ensure that you follow their guidelines about giving advance notice. It is a legal requirement that your child remains in school until your NESAs registration has been approved and a certificate has been issued. This will smooth the de-enrolment process considerably.

- Be polite.  
*Preserve a good relationship with the school if possible.*
- Be reasonable.  
*Advance notice of de-enrolment is always appreciated.*
- Be grateful.  
*The school has had an important role in your child's life.*
- Begone.



# A GOOD PROGRAM SHOULD GIVE YOU . . .

- a registrable document mapped specifically to NESA's syllabus outcomes
- a full year's worth of engaging learning content and activities
- a weekly timetable
- a scope and sequence plan for the whole year
- an assessment plan and tracking and reporting system
- personal consultations, with guidance on implementation
- assessment of your child's literacy and numeracy skills
- consideration of your child's favourite topics and activities
- comprehensive coursebooks and student workbooks
- high interest reading material and illustrated reference books
- tasks that enable immersive project-based learning
- assessment checklists
- multi-media options to support reluctant learners



# COMMON CONCERNS

Home schooling families tell us they tend to struggle in a few key areas. We know from personal experience that home schooling can be wildly successful, so let's address these problem areas that might be freaking you out unnecessarily.

- **Feeling incapable of teaching every school subject?**

This issue is solved simply - find a program that is achievable. It needs to be fine-tuned to your child's current skill level, and slightly stretch them so that classroom-style lessons are unnecessary. Most home schoolers need only basic support, such as answering their questions about what a task requires them to do, which parents and caregivers can manage. So, if you can read, write in English and do basic arithmetic, you're all set.

- **Worrying about motivating your child to do their work?**

Again, it all comes down to your choice of program. It should be configured to appeal to the specific and unique interests of your child. We've met many hard-to-motivate kids over the years, and we always manage to find topics and projects that light up even the most disinterested students. When kids find work achievable, because it is carefully matched to their skill level, they find it easy to remain motivated.



## • **Dealing with learning difficulties or behavioural problems?**

You need to find a program provider who believes that all students can learn and improve, regardless of learning difficulties. A person's right to reach their potential should always be nurtured. The key to successful learning is to first enthuse kids about the topics they will be studying. This is especially important among children who struggle with autistic spectrum disorders, sensory processing issues, inattention and behavioural problems.

To program optimally for struggling students, look for these features in a home school program:

- synthetic phonics
- explicit instruction
- structured inquiry
- scaffolded assessment tasks
- specialty typefaces and printing styles for dyslexic students
- patient, methodical revision
- project-based, immersive learning experiences
- mastery learning - which involves repetition that builds confidence without boring the learner

At Coach House, we have solid experience teaching students with learning disabilities, physical and intellectual disabilities, attention disorders, medical conditions that affect their learning and various other special needs. Every one of our programs is different because each learner is unique. Personal customisation is a winning formula that we have seen deliver strong results for students who had previously 'fallen through the cracks' of the school system.

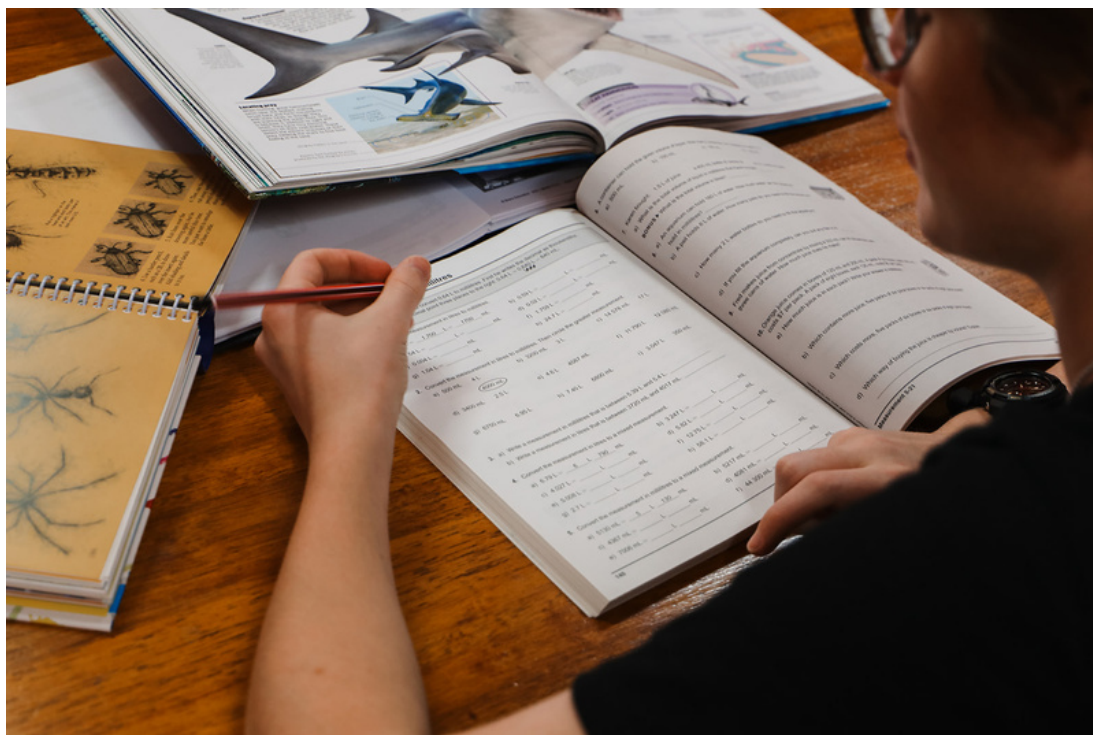
# MAPPING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

You will need an accurate assessment of your child's current capabilities in language and literacy (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation). You will need to know how well your child can comprehend what they're reading. And you will need to have their numeracy skills evaluated as well. When you're looking for an educational program, these skills should be assessed by experienced, professional educators to accurately determine the best path forward for your child as a unique individual.



# STAYING ON TRACK

A quality program should allow you to stay on track and easily manage your home schooling paperwork. Parents and caregivers don't have the time to fiddle around with complicated D-I-Y templates. It can be a hassle to pull together all the resources yourself. Look for a program that provides everything you need to keep your child on track. It should also include a motivating merit system and a way of recording your child's achievements.



## PRO TIP

*Consider hiring a private tutor or professional teacher to mark your child's book work and major projects and provide expert feedback.*

# ASSESSMENT TRACKING & REPORTING

We provide a simple assessment tracking system so parents and caregivers can indicate when and to what level NSW syllabus outcomes have been achieved in each subject area. Recording assessment achievements is a powerful motivating force and an excellent organising tool. We encourage you to give constructive feedback on assessment tasks and to write short reports. The reports and comments you generate for your child can also be used as evidence of learning at inspection time.

# **SOCIALISATION**

We recommend connecting with other home school families both in person and online as a great start in addressing this issue. Unfortunately, many paper-based home school programs keep children so busy working that there's little time left for relaxation and socialising. Others keep children permanently online and on a tight schedule. These are very strong downsides to generic programming. That's why you need to select a program with great flexibility built in. It will free your child to take opportunities to socialise as they arise.

# **HSC & PATHWAYS TO TERTIARY STUDY**

There are multiple pathways from Year Ten to tertiary study. Some families wish to pursue their state's highest school credential (in New South Wales, it's the HSC - Higher School Certificate). Others prefer to attend a tertiary institution such as TAFE (Tertiary and Further Education) to obtain the same credential, or to complete job-specific certificate courses. The pathway offered by Open University is set to revolutionise education in this country. Students can begin Open University at 13 years old, giving higher achievers a significant head start on their mainstream schooled peers. Open University offers entry to a variety of degree and diploma courses without the requirement of an HSC or equivalent. And yes, it is open to home schoolers.

# USEFUL LINKS

## **NSW – NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority)**

<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/regulation/home-schooling/home-schooling-registration>

Wherever you are in Australia, use the links below to access application documents for home schooling.

VIC – <https://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au/home/Pages/homeeducation.aspx>

QLD – <https://education.qld.gov.au/schools-educators/other-education/home-education>

TAS – <https://oer.tas.gov.au/home-education/>

SA – <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/schools/alternative-schooling/home-education>

WA – <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/home-schooling>

NT – <https://nt.gov.au/learning/primary-and-secondary-students/home-education>

ACT – <https://www.education.act.gov.au/schooling/home-education>

Coach House's Personalised Home School Programs are available for students in:

Years 3-4 (Stage 2)

Years 5-6 (Stage 3)

Years 7-8 (Stage 4)

Years 9-10 (Stage 5)



At Coach House, your child's uniqueness is our starting point. If you're ready to take that first step, why not make an online appointment? We'll answer all your questions and put your mind at ease.

For international students or previously home schooled children who have not worked through the Australian school grades, we recommend our programs for students aged 8 years and older.

Our programs are aligned with NSW syllabuses (NESA). If you live in a different state or territory, contact us to be put in touch with others who can help you in your home school journey.

**Call us** on 0437 155 338

**Email** [allychumley@msn.com](mailto:allychumley@msn.com)

**Visit us online** at [www.coachhousehomeschool.com](http://www.coachhousehomeschool.com)