

10 Homeschool Math Programs

What each one is really like · check the publisher's site for current prices and samples

PROGRAM	LEVELS	APPROACH	WHO DOES THE TEACHING	FEEL OF IT
Math-U-See Primer → Calculus	K-12	Mastery, one concept per level	Video lesson, then you work it with the blocks	Hands-on and slow on purpose
Saxon Math Math 5/4 → Calculus	4-12	Incremental spiral, review never stops	Child reads the lesson, you check the work	Repetitive, thorough, long problem sets
Teaching Textbooks Math 3 → Pre-Calculus	3-12	Spiral, with hints on every problem	The app teaches and grades everything	Gentle, independent, low parent load
Dimensions Math Singapore Math Inc.	PreK-8	Mastery, bar models, deep number sense	You teach from the guide, every day	Strong conceptually, needs a present parent
Beast Academy Art of Problem Solving	Ages 6-13	Problem solving, mastery not memorization	The child reads the comics and works alone	Hard, playful, for kids who like puzzles
Math Mammoth Light Blue series	K-8	Mastery, mental math and number sense	Written to the child, nearly self-teaching	Plain, efficient, PDF or print
RightStart Cotter abacus	Elementary & middle	Visualize, group in 5s and 10s, little counting	You teach every lesson from the lesson book	Very hands-on, no app doing the explaining
CTCMath	K-12	Short video lessons, then practice	The app teaches and marks automatically	Quick lessons, self-paced, subscription
Horizons Alpha Omega, Christian	K-8 + Algebra	Spiral, bright consumable workbooks	You deliver each lesson from the teacher guide	Colorful, fast-moving, faith-based
Khan Academy	K-12+	Video plus practice, mastery tracking	Self-paced, nobody assigns anything	Free, best as a support, not a spine

Mastery or spiral?

Mastery stays on one topic until it is solid, then moves on. Good when a skill sticks once it clicks.

Spiral introduces a little and keeps re-practising everything before it. Good when skills fade without constant review.

Who teaches it?

Parent-led means you open a guide and teach the lesson. Deepest, and the most of your time.

Self-teaching means the book or the app does the explaining. Less of your time, but you still have to look at the work.

Read this chart with one child in mind.

There is no best program on this page. There is the one that matches how your child learns and how much time you can sit beside them. Turn the page and work that out before you spend anything.

Which Math Program Fits?

Answer for one child · the notes under each question point you at a type, not a brand

Child: _____

Grade: _____

Date: _____

1. How does this child understand a new idea?

- ☐ Needs to see it and touch it ☐ Reads it once and goes ☐ Needs it explained out loud

Touch → manipulative-based. Reads → worktext. Out loud → video-based.

2. What happens when you stop reviewing an old skill?

- ☐ It disappears within a month ☐ It sticks once it clicks

Disappears → a spiral program. Sticks → a mastery program.

3. How much time can you sit beside this child for math?

- ☐ Under 10 minutes ☐ 15 to 25 minutes ☐ 30 minutes or more

Under 10 → the program has to teach and grade. 30+ → parent-led is open to you.

4. Who should grade the work?

- ☐ The program, automatically ☐ I will, it tells me what to reteach

Auto-grading saves real time. Grading by hand shows you the mistake pattern.

5. Does this child need to be pushed or protected?

- ☐ Bored, wants harder ☐ Anxious, needs small steps ☐ Somewhere in between

Bored → a problem-solving program. Anxious → incremental steps and plenty of review.

6. Do you want the content faith-based or secular?

- ☐ Faith-based ☐ Secular ☐ Does not matter

My shortlist of three

Never shortlist more than three. You will not compare four honestly.

Placement tests

Program & level it placed into

Place by the test, never by last year's grade.

Money and reuse

What I can spend on math this year

Children who will use it after this one

Consumables I must rebuy each child

Free trial or return deadline

A reusable hardback that three children work through is often cheaper than one year of a subscription.

Check, Then Try for 30 Days

Six checks that prevent the expensive mistake, and a log for the first month

Six checks before you pay

- ☐ Took the publisher's free placement test
- ☐ Worked one full sample lesson with the child, not just read it
- ☐ Listed what is consumable and must be rebought per child
- ☐ Checked whether it is reusable for the next child
- ☐ Read the return window and what voids it
- ☐ Added up the full year, including manipulatives and the teacher guide

If it is not working

- ☐ Cut the daily lesson in half before you cut the program
- ☐ Drop back a level for two weeks and rebuild the gap
- ☐ Change the time of day you do math
- ☐ Only then change the curriculum, and finish the term first if you can

Most "wrong curriculum" is a wrong placement or a lesson that is too long.

First 30 days — what we noticed

WEEK	GOING WELL	CHANGE FOR NEXT WEEK
Week 1		
Week 2		
Week 3		
Week 4		

Our decision after 30 days

- ☐ Keep it ☐ Keep it, shorter lessons ☐ Switch

What we would tell a friend

One program at a time.

Running two math curricula at once doubles the work and hides which one is actually teaching your child.