

# abekamazing

HOMESCHOOL | *We make it easy so you can make it amazing.*



Calling All **5**  
**HOMESCHOOL DADS**

FALL/WINTER 2017  
ISSUE 2  
VOLUME 1

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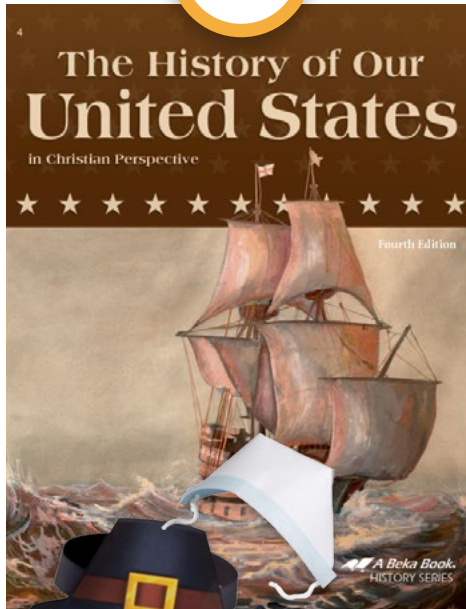
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8



Pilgrim hats from Art Projects K5 book

10

Tucker's ROUTINE CHART		M	TU	W	TH	F
WAKE-UP ROUTINE	Personal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Feed Buddy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Arrange shoes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SNACK ROUTINE	Arithmetic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Grammar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Spelling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LUNCH ROUTINE	Science	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	History/Reading	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Set Table	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AFTERNOON ROUTINE	Spelling/Penmanship	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	"Homework"	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Re-set Learning Areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SUPPER ROUTINE	Weekly Task	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Finish re-set	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EVENING ROUTINE	Practice piano	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Study	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Shower	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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## COVER STORY

*Meet the Nagle family from Dubai and*

## PREPARE TO BE AMAZED

Abekamazing is a service of Abeka, Pensacola, Florida. Our mission is to support and equip students, teachers, and parents by providing amazing Pre-K through Grade 12 academic resources based upon biblical values.

**Senior Editor:** Tabby Hershberger | **Editor:** Dr. Phyllis Rand  
**Contributing Writers:** Renee Bryant, Kim Gowans, Judy Howe, Emily Pintar, Elizabeth Shertzer, Kim Smith, Katie Wigggett

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# Letter from Abeka

## DEAR FRIENDS,

A friend once asked me, "Why homeschool when it's easier just to send the kids to school?"

For me, the answer came written on a napkin.

My youngest son and I were eating lunch in separate locations several years ago when he was 8 years old.

Because I was rushed that morning, I asked him to make my lunch. My brown bag held a lopsided PB&J, an apple, and a napkin containing a note. It read: *I love you Tabby* in his precious, 8-year-old scrawl. Later, I asked why he had written *Tabby* rather than *Mommy*.

"I wanted other moms to know I meant you;" he whispered, "I wanted to be pacific."

"I think you mean specific," I said with a smile while I thought about his answer.

At eight, his love for me was *all-encompassing*. He held nothing back; it was as wide as the Pacific. The realization of this froze the moment in my mind. I knew that he would soon grow up. Other love would come, but just then, his tender testimony was teaching me.

*All-encompassing love makes any sacrifice worth it.*

For those whom God taps on the shoulder to homeschool, hours of personal sacrifice, wavering confidence, and definite struggles are ahead. Sometimes the temptation to quit is overwhelming.

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*All-encompassing love makes any sacrifice worth it.*

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Why homeschool when it's easier just to send the kids to school? For many, I think it's because we want to love the Lord with *all* our heart, *all* our soul, and *all* our might (Deut. 6:5). This love fuels an *all-encompassing* love for our children.

At Abeka, it also fuels our desire to be more than just a book company. We want to come alongside your homeschool and equip and encourage you!

*Abekamazing* is our note scrawled to you.

We wrote it with love, and it's meant to be *pacific!*

*Tabby*

**Tabby Hershberger**

Senior Editor

[amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com)



Tabby homeschooled for two decades. She is also a former elementary school teacher and newspaper editor. She has four kids and has been married to her husband, Dan, for 30 years.

# Distinct LEARNER

Children learn differently. Are any of these traits present in your distinct learner?

## DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

## DEVELOP YOUR CHILD'S SKILLS

## TRY THIS FOR FUN

### BUILDER

Has a good memory, notices emerging patterns, and can apply basic principles to new material.

**Favorites:** brain teasers, word games, step-by-step explanations, strategizing

**Learns by forming patterns** and connecting concrete facts to abstract ideas.

Help your builder strategize by encouraging him to consider all the options during work or play:

- "What other ways could you answer that question? Is that the best way? The easiest way?"
- "Did you see that? I almost won. Why?"
- "How did you win/lose that game?"

### POPSICLE EXPLOSION

- Arrange wide popsicle sticks in this pattern.
- Hold lead stick down.
- Release lead stick when ready.



### VISIONARY

Has a busy, creative mind that thrives when creating new ideas.

**Favorites:** "talking it out," reading, making up stories, brainstorming to pull ideas together

**Learns by imagining,** acting, asking questions, learning interesting facts, collaborating.

Help your visionary focus with these ideas:

- Using signals—a hand on a shoulder or pointing to the book can help clear away school-time distractions.
- Dividing work/projects into steps that can be crossed off a list or accomplished before a timer goes off
- Breaking between tasks for exercise or a snack

### SHADOW THEATER

- Cut bottom out of box; use flaps to decorate.
- Tape tissue paper over bottom cut.
- Use cut outs glued to dowel rods and a flashlight for shadows.



### INVENTOR

Has the persistence and confidence to try things differently, teaching himself as he goes.

**Favorites:** LEGOs, experiments, problem solving, learning challenging things

**Learns by doing** and is willing to fail in order to reach success.

Help your inventor think logically by inviting solutions.

- "What would happen if . . ."
- "Let's find a Bible verse to help."
- "How could you have avoided that problem?"
- "Tell me your plan for . . ."

Inventors learn by watching how their parents solve problems!

### HOMEMADE HOVER CRAFT

- Use a thumb tack to punch holes in the top of a plastic bottle cap lid.
- (Parents) Hot glue lid to the middle of an old CD.
- Inflate balloon; pinch to retain air before placing balloon mouth over bottle cap.





## HOMESCHOOL House CALLING ALL HOMESCHOOL DADS!

*Dads play a significant role in building the family's homeschool. Here are three techniques men can use to encourage their wives and protect the family from becoming overwhelmed.*

### ① DIRECT & DECIDE

*Define your focus.* Talk about expectations. What are yours? Does it go beyond test scores and evaluations and include character training and life skills? From your standpoint, does your wife's success involve home management such as laundry and meals? Discuss what you both think is important and write down measurable goals.

*Create a game plan.* Pair your goals with a detailed plan. Offer to get involved in the process. Would it help if you purchased all the books this year, taught a subject, graded certain tests? Could you be part of the "substitute" plan when your wife gets sick? Perhaps just by listening and giving advice, you will provide the safety net your family needs.

### ② CRUSH BURNOUT

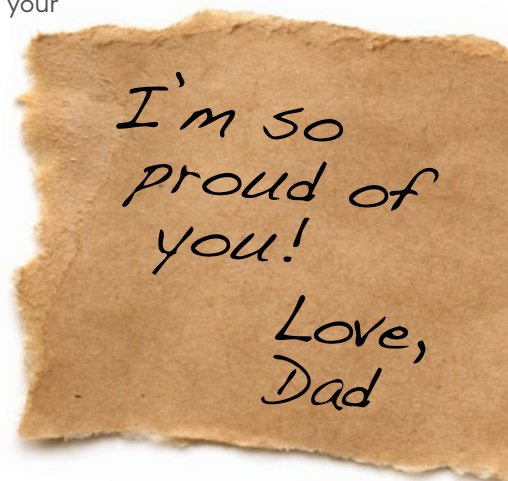
*Create financial perks.* Create a budget. Take a portion of what you would have spent for Christian school and prepare a homeschool budget. Include a small paycheck for your wife! Perhaps this "paycheck" will come in the form of reoccurring date nights, mom's night out, or extra money for entertaining the family.

*Institute incentives.* Find areas of potential weakness for the kids and attach incentives. Work done well might equal a special hour with Dad. Higher grades could mean more video/tv/computer time. Meeting weekly goals might correspond with Dad doing chores. Working ahead could translate into taking a day off!

### ③ STAY UPDATED

*Have a daily (or at least weekly) discussion* with your wife and kids about everyone's progress and struggles. Discuss your kids' tests with them. Routinely write each family member a personalized note of encouragement.

*Pick an annual evaluation time* when you and your wife consider the past year. What went especially well and why? Where could your family improve? Find out what your wife needs to make next year even better; try to help her achieve it.



## Date Night for Two

**Babysitter:** check

**Dinner at favorite restaurant:** check

**Attendance at Materials Display or Online Event:\*** check

**Wife's encouraged smile:** priceless!

\*(see [abeka.com/MaterialsDisplay](http://abeka.com/MaterialsDisplay))



# your PRESCHOOLER

During the beautiful autumn weather, the great outdoors is the ideal classroom for your preschooler.

We can't wait to take our preschoolers outside to get some exercise. Two-year-olds are gaining enough balance to pick up leaves from the ground. That comes in handy when it's time to pick up toys in the playroom! Incorporate a teaching moment by counting the leaves or by identifying their colors. Your 3-year-old will enjoy collecting leaves as well, but encourage him to reach up and pluck them off lower branches to strengthen his balance and coordination for jumping. Get older siblings involved by having them rake leaves into number shapes for your preschooler to identify.

Time outside is the perfect opportunity to work on the skill of coming when called. Build a strong foundation in listening skills for your child by giving

simple 1- or 2-step instructions. Teaching a child to stop what he is doing to come and get a hug from Mom makes the practice fun and gives confidence for success. It also lays the groundwork for more complex tasks.

After playing outside, your preschooler will be ready for a snack. Try this applesauce recipe for a tasty activity to build hand strength. Squeezing is a valuable pre-writing exercise that will develop strength for holding a crayon or pencil. Children also use hand strength for success in independent dressing. Pulling clothes off and on is something a 2-year-old can learn after developing confidence and the necessary strength and coordination.

Complete the applesauce activity by saying an apple poem or reviewing the A-apple phonics card. It takes about

15 seconds to say "Way Up High in the Apple Tree" (Abeka *Fun Poems and Finger Plays*).



Renee Bryant taught 4-year-olds for 11 years. She has been a nursery director for the past 10 years, and has four children of her own.



## Fun Poems and Finger Plays

For more info see [abeka.com/PoemsPlays](http://abeka.com/PoemsPlays).



Match the leaf number with your child's age for a cute picture.



### Toddler-Friendly Applesauce

Recipe yields about 4 cups.

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
6 apples 1/4 cup water 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon 1/3 cup brown sugar	Peel, core, and slice apples. Place in a microwave-safe bowl with water. Cook on high for 6-8 minutes; cool. Place cooled apples in a gallon-size zip lock bag with cinnamon and sugar. Allow your child to "mash" the bag—making his own applesauce.
<p><b>MAKE IT EASIER</b>—Use a potato masher to start the process.</p> <p><b>MAKE IT HARDER</b>—Allow your child to measure sugar/spices.</p>	



# your KINDERGARTENER



Emily Pintar is an Abeka Academy video teacher and mother of two.

Winter and the holidays are approaching. How can we balance our kindergartener's developing muscles and inquisitive nature with inclement weather and a milelong to-do list? Start with the laundry.

by Emily Pintar

## KINDERGARTENERS AND LAUNDRY ARE THE PERFECT MATCH

The laundry struggle is real. Kindergarteners can help! When a child learns to fold the clothes, he learns to follow a process. Being able to think sequentially is a worthwhile skill used during a kindergartener's independent seatwork. This skill later broadens when applied to writing book reports and research papers.

**Make it easier:** Start with matching socks according to size and color. Make a pattern of a sock, wash cloth, and shirt; have your child repeat the next item in the pattern.

**Make it harder:** After folding clothes, further stack the sequence by having your child put the clothes away. Fold any item in half and teach symmetry.



**Make it fun:** Put empty laundry baskets across the room. Have your child shoot balled socks to make a basket. This helps hand-eye coordination.



## HOLIDAY GARLANDS ARE MORE THAN A DECORATION

BLESSED banner can be downloaded for free at [abeka.com/BlessedBanner](http://abeka.com/BlessedBanner)

Stringing popcorn and cranberries is a great way to bring the family closer. Using a child's needle (plastic needle with large eye) encourages the fine motor skills needed for writing.

**Make it easier:**

Try a bobby pin "needle" and thicker thread such as yarn or dental floss. Trace cookie cutter patterns onto card stock or construction paper.



Write a consonant or vowel and punch a hole through each card; your child can string them together to make words.

**Make it harder:** Have your kindergartener make several 2- to 3-inch, mini garlands using dental floss for string and colored cereal. Lay these over vowels to mark silent, long, or short sounds.



**Make it fun:** String chocolate pretzels and marshmallows as a snack garland. Warm a winter night by adding hot chocolate and a favorite read-aloud book. Reading as a family gives children a sense of security and safety.



Rosa

For more info see [abeka.com/Rosa](http://abeka.com/Rosa).



# 8

# THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

*That Include Everyone*



What's the secret ingredient for the best Thanksgiving plan ever? Get everyone involved! For this holiday, family members gather in a variety of ages, so you'll need creative ideas to get everyone to participate.

## 1 MAINTAIN A BLESSING BOOK.

Have everyone write one thing for which he is thankful beside the date and sign his name. (The precious handwriting of young family members and those who've passed on will become a treasure.) Have someone read last year's entries and those from 5 or 10 years ago.

## 2 INVOLVE THE MEN AND BOYS.

Dads and lads are great at dishes. Hide money for a ballgame or a gift card in hand towels or under dishwashing liquid or a plate. Blow a horn or ring a bell to announce this year's winning dad/lad team.



## 3 RECITE IN COSTUME.

Abeka's K5 Art book has Pilgrim hats and Indian headdresses in K5. Students have poetry selections and historical documents for memorization in 1st-8th. Use these or Scripture selections recently learned.

### Art Projects K5

37 Projects  
For more info see [abeka.com/K5Art](http://abeka.com/K5Art).



These art projects make great Thanksgiving costumes.

### The History of Our United States

For more info see [abeka.com/4thGradeHistory](http://abeka.com/4thGradeHistory).



Historical documents in the back of this book are easily memorized and ready for recitation.

## 4 CREATE AN ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT-BREAKFAST BAR.

Give everyone an apron and an assignment. Make the menu, copies of the recipes, and purchase the ingredients in advance. Divvy up the cooking assignments the night before.



### HOMEMADE CHEF'S HAT

- Cut a 4" poster board strip.
- Staple tissue paper onto strip.
- Tape where needed.

## 5 VIDEO CHAT/FACETIME THOSE MISSING.

Consider synchronizing meal times so the entire family can pray together online. Even family living across the country or overseas can now be a part of this special holiday.

## 6 PLAY AN ANNUAL BOARD GAME.

Choose a couple board games appropriate for various age groups. The winner of each game gets to write the date and his name inside the box lid. He (or she) has bragging rights all year.

## 7 TAKE FAMILY PICTURES

Decide on a couple pictures you'll take the same way each year. Maybe it's all the kids in front of the fireplace or everyone at the table. These become more meaningful as the years go by.

## 8 HAVE A HOT CHOCOLATE WALK.

After dinner, bundle everyone up and go for a walk around the neighborhood. Give a cup of hot chocolate to each person and fill a thermos for refills. Distribute bags of homemade cookies to neighbors. Older family members and babies can follow in a car filled with extra cookies and hot chocolate.



Cut shapes out of marshmallows with small cookie cutters for creative hot chocolate.



/AbekaHomeschool 

@AbekaHomeschool 

Need answers? Maybe we can help. Send homeschool questions to [amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com). Put JOIN THE CONVERSATION in the subject line. Connect with other Abeka families by becoming part of the Abeka community on Facebook.

# JOIN THE conversation

**Q** *How can I make Abeka work for my 1st grader? She has a hard time with the intensity and remembering and focusing.* —Marie

**A** If she struggles with intensity, don't be afraid to slow down. Lower the intensity by making your own pacing option. Have her do just the odd numbers or only the first 5 of each exercise. Use the even numbers or unused work to give more days of practice. Memory and focus are skills that can be built. Exercise and strengthen these skills by stacking directions (give her two or three things to do at once). Something like put on your pj's, brush your teeth, and give me a hug. See if she can do all three in that order.

**Q** *How do you suggest we juggle high school lectures with discussion time?* —Arlene

**A** It is a balancing act, but both should be included. The bulk of the time generally goes to the lecture, but some discussion at the beginning or end of class is very beneficial. You may also find that discussion is happening naturally throughout the day. As your teen learns, he's establishing his biblical worldview and this discussion time is essential to his growth.

**Q** *How do homeschool kids fit in socially?* —Jennifer

**A** Homeschooling often allows children to learn with people from other age groups. Homeschooled kids typically have the skills necessary to communicate with those older and younger than themselves. This is socially beneficial. Learning to think outside the box is another social advantage of homeschooling. Children in a regular school setting tend to think as a group, but homeschooled children frequently think for themselves.

**Q** *With students that struggle with arithmetic, what steps can you take to help them?* —Ivan

**A** Uncovering the root issue is the secret. Does your child understand the foundational principles? Things such as the 5 steps of division and the process of converting measures? If not, review those concrete, foundational concepts. Abeka is built on a concrete-to-abstract spiral approach. That means that the old, concrete concept is used to teach the new, abstract one.

## HOW CAN I TRANSITION FROM MOM TO TEACHER?

**Katie Wiggett's** answer was to start her own homeschool story time.

- Begin with a four- to six-week schedule, meeting once a week.
- Advertise by word of mouth, neighborhood-approved signs, MOPS groups, homeschool co-ops, and Facebook.
- Meet in your home, at local parks, or at a church.
- Differ your program according to the age group; younger children need a shorter, more repetitive program.
- Repetition is key. Keep the sequence the same; just change the books and songs to fit the week's theme.

- Include *opportunities for movement* found in action rhymes, finger plays, and action songs. Have kids play with shaky eggs (plastic Easter eggs, dried beans, electrical tape), ribbons, scarves (cut up old ones) or bean bags (felt squares, hot glue, and rice).

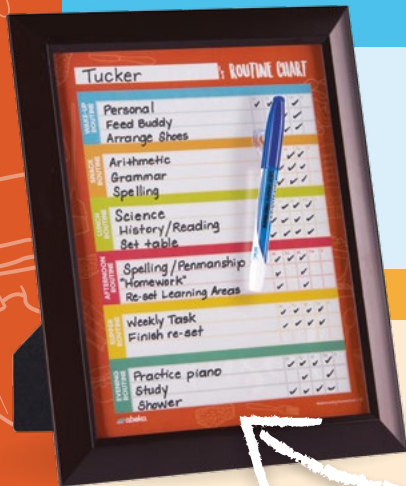
## HOW IT HELPED OUR HOMESCHOOL

- Leading story time made it possible for me to choose songs, rhymes, and books that reinforce our values.
- Testing the program each week added thirty minutes of fun, meaningful activity to my children's school day.
- I naturally transitioned from my sons' mother to their teacher.



# HOW TO MAKE AN ERASABLE ROUTINE CHART

- DIRECTIONS:** 1 Cut out Routine Chart on opposite page. 2 Insert chart into a picture frame. 3 Attach a command adhesive hook and dry erase marker. 4 Use marker to write routines from our colored blocks or use your own. 5 Have your child mark the correct day and erase at the end of the week.



Download additional copies at [abeka.com/RoutineChart](http://abeka.com/RoutineChart).

## WAKE-UP ROUTINE CHOICES (completed before breakfast)

**Personal:** Make bed, brush teeth, wash face, comb hair, get dressed, have devotions, do exercise.

**Chores Divided Among Family:** Set table, help with breakfast, feed animals, tidy a bathroom, arrange shoes, make snacks, prep lunch/supper, start load of clothes.

## SNACK ROUTINE CHOICES (completed before snack)

**Kids:** Do two least favorite subjects (at least one core subject—arithmetic/grammar), plus spelling or penmanship setup.

**Mom:** Teach new material and review for two least favorite subjects per child.

*Place in 8" x 10" frame.  
This is what it looks like finished.*

## LUNCH ROUTINE CHOICES (completed before lunch)

**Kids:** Finish core subjects/reading subjects (science, history, reading). Work on spelling/penmanship while waiting for Mom.

**Mom:** Teach new material/review for two remaining subjects per child.

**Chores Divided Among Family:** Set table, finish lunch prep, do dishes, put clothes in dryer, sweep porch, empty trash, re-set learning areas for children who are finished.

## AFTERNOON ROUTINE CHOICES (completed before snack/recess midafternoon)

**Mom:** Teach spelling/penmanship.

**Kids:** Complete spelling/penmanship, all "homework."

**Chores Divided Among Family:** Fold clothes, put them away, complete supper prep, set table, read for an hour, reset all learning areas for tomorrow.

## SUPPER ROUTINE CHOICES (completed before supper)

**Chores Divided Among Family:** Reset and check individual learning areas, check today's schoolwork, do weekly task (M—clean car/change sheets, T—dust house, W—vacuum house/groceries, Th—clean bathrooms, F—wash floors).

## EVENING ROUTINE CHOICES (completed before dessert)

**Kids:** Sports/music practice, pjs, showers, family time.

**Chores Divided Among Family:** Sweep kitchen, study for tests, defrost food, collect laundry, set out/make breakfast.

# 's ROUTINE CHART

WAKE-UP  
ROUTINE

	M	TU	W	TH	F

SNACK  
ROUTINE

	M	TU	W	TH	F

LUNCH  
ROUTINE

	M	TU	W	TH	F

AFTERNOON  
ROUTINE

	M	TU	W	TH	F

SUPPER  
ROUTINE

	M	TU	W	TH	F

EVENING  
ROUTINE

	M	TU	W	TH	F

frame  
stone  
pleat  
fried  
flute



# your ELEMENTARY CHILD

While learning gaps do occur, it is easier to overcome them when your child is in elementary school.

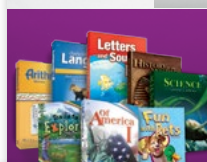
## CLOSING LEARNING GAPS

*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. –Gal. 6:9*

Don't let your child's learning gaps overwhelm you. Help close them with these 9 steps.

- 1 Create a positive environment.** Be patient; keep your tone calm and your praise generous. Praise progress, not perfection. Use high fives, thumbs up, stickers, hugs, etc.
- 2 Identify specific gaps.** Use the *Scope and Sequence* and *Handbook for Reading* to help analyze areas needing attention.

Homeschool  
Scope & Sequence  
Prerequisite Grade 12  
2017-2018



### Scope and Sequence

For more info see [abeka.com/HomeschoolSS](http://abeka.com/HomeschoolSS).

**FREE DOWNLOAD**

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abeka



### Handbook for Reading Phonics Textbook

For more info see [abeka.com/HandbookforReading](http://abeka.com/HandbookforReading).

- 3 Make a written plan.** Focus on key concepts and ample practice. Allow your child to set the pace of mastery.
- 4 Set measurable, attainable goals** inspired by your child's progress. Have him compete with his own best scores and times.
- 5 Fill in the confidence gap** by associating the known with the unknown. Review with concrete pictures of understood concepts. This will promote an increase in speed and accuracy. The more he executes correctly, the sooner the gap will close completely.
- 6 Promote engagement** by promoting activity. Encourage your child to hear, see, and do the concept. Have your child hop, skip, or walk backward to the correct flashcard or answer. Have him sing the answer or write it in the air.
- 7 Get creative.** Hide flashcards between pillows; build a pillow tower for each correct answer. Put facts on cards above entry ways or on the refrigerator. Facts must be recited before walking through or getting something to eat.
- 8 Check comprehension** by varying the types of questions: who, what, when, where, why, and how did you know. Checking these varying perspectives helps you see if academic connections are being made.
- 9 Ask for help.** Pray that the Lord will help you activate the listening and attention skills your child needs while giving you the determination to praise even the smallest steps of progress.



*Kim Smith is a former teacher and Abeka consultant. She has one son and a daughter on the way.*



# your MIDDLE SCHOOLER

Much of middle school math success lies in two areas: attitude and focus.



*Judy Howe is an Abeka Academy video teacher and the mother of two grown children.*

## FOCUS ON MATH

by Judy Howe

**O**rdery, clear thinking is a valuable life-skill. God's gift of math trains the mind and helps produce orderly thinking. The acronym FOCUS will help your middle school child find success in math.

**F**inding a quiet place with all the necessary equipment for your child to work is the place to start. Middle school students should not need a calculator.

**O**pening your child's mind to success makes all the difference. One of the main reasons for failure is an "I-can't-do-this attitude."

**C**alm environments paired with supportive attitudes make confident students. Don't become frustrated when new concepts are not immediately learned. Review is the key to learning math.

**U**nderstanding new concepts can be strengthened by checking your child's work for steps and correct answers. Discover together what's wrong with incorrect answers. Often more can be learned from a wrong answer than a right one.

**S**haring aloud specific problems will increase your child's mathematical ability. Have him explain a problem by using correct terminology and giving any rules that apply.

### FIVE HANDS-ON MATH APPLICATIONS.

- 1. Budget Builders:** Help your middle schooler research the beginning earnings for a career that interests him. Help him budget his approximate net income for expenses.
- 2. Supermarket Surprise:** Take your child to the supermarket after collecting coupons. Compare unit pricing to determine the best size to buy. Use the grocery receipt to compute the total savings.
- 3. Credit Card Comparison:** Discuss the pros and cons of credit card use before having your middle schooler charge an imaginary \$1,000. Determine interest for one year. Use a 24% annual rate and a minimum payment of \$25. Discuss saving money for purchases or spending money on interest.
- 4. Room Remodel:** Have your child find the surface area of his bedroom walls to determine paint needed or analyze the area and perimeter of his floor for new carpeting.
- 5. Recipe Remake:** Double or triple a favorite cookie recipe. Share the extra cookies with friends and neighbors by including the cookie recipe on one side of a card and God's plan of salvation on the other.





Kayleigh at home in Dubai

Abeka families in the Middle East? Absolutely! Meet the Nagles, an incredible family from Dubai, and...

Prepare to be

# AMAZED

## THE NAGLE FAMILY


Sharing luqaimat in the desert is not your typical homeschool activity. But for the Nagle family—Christopher, Trina, and kids Kayleigh (18), Keianna (16), Karrington (12), Kaleb (10), and Khloe (7)—life in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) couldn't be better.

## HOW DID WE END UP IN DUBAI?

Trina explains, "An opportunity of a lifetime came to us in 2013. My husband, Christopher, was selected along with other highly qualified educators to assist the UAE in creating and implementing educational reform."



Nagle family at Abeka Academy graduation in Pensacola, Florida.



### Luqaimat (Arabic Sweet Dumpling)

INGREDIENTS	DIRECTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 cup all-purpose flour</li> <li>1/2 tsp dry yeast</li> <li>1 1/4 tsp sugar</li> <li>1/4 tsp salt</li> <li>2 1/2 tsp corn flour</li> <li>1/4 tsp cardamom powder</li> <li>1/8 tsp saffron</li> <li>9 1/2 oz. of warm water</li> <li>2 1/2 tsp of sesame seeds (optional)</li> <li>1/2 tsp of date syrup or honey</li> <li>8 1/2 oz. of oil for deep frying</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add saffron and cardamom to 3 1/2 oz. of warm water; set aside.</li> <li>Sift flour with salt; set aside.</li> <li>Add sugar and yeast to 6 oz. of warm water; set aside for 5 min.</li> <li>Mix flours, saffron and cardamom mixture; stir.</li> <li>Gradually add the yeast mixture and keep stirring until it looks like cake batter.</li> <li>Leave the batter to double (30-40 min.). It should have bubbles and be somewhat bouncy.</li> <li>Heat oil. Check the oil's temperature by taking a teaspoon of batter and dropping it in the oil; if it floats quickly, the oil is too hot.</li> <li>Scoop 1/2 tablespoon of batter into the oil. Use a wooden spoon to cook until light brown.</li> <li>Remove from oil before pouring syrup/honey on top and sprinkling with sesame seeds.</li> </ul>

Of course, the question of their own kids' education loomed. "We did a lot of research and decided to homeschool while living abroad. I remembered Abeka being an outstanding program from when my girls were in preschool. I attended a local display, and shortly after, we had 15 boxes of books spread amongst our suitcases!"

## LIFE IN THE UAE

When they arrived, the Nagles were greeted with all the exotic flavors, sights, and sounds of the Middle Eastern culture including an Arabic expression that expresses joy and thankfulness for children. "The more children you have, the bigger the smile you receive from the locals," Trina said.



## KNOW AN INSPIRING HOMESCHOOL FAMILY?

Tell us about them at [amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com) using the subject: **PREPARE TO BE AMAZED**. Include high resolution photos (>1.5Mb) if you have them.

There were a few adjustments the family had to make, like getting used to the intense heat (upwards of 120° F.), as well as the change in diet—no bacon here!—and learning cultural roles. It's not commonly known, but "women are treated with the utmost respect in this country," Trina said.

### HOMESCHOOLING IN DUBAI

Despite the cultural differences, homeschooling in the UAE is similar to homeschooling in the States. The Nagles stick to a schedule to complete assignments and are also involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Trina and daughter Kayleigh chartered the first National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter in the Middle East. The Nagle kids are also heavily involved in sports.

### MAKING IT WORK

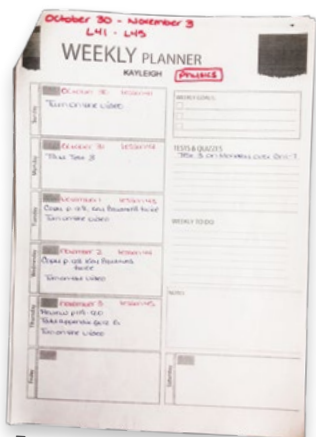
Christopher and Trina function as a team to get things done, especially now that Trina is teaching at the same school where her husband works. While Trina preps meals for the week, her husband cooks dinner for the

family. The couple also works together when it comes to their kids' education. "My husband is extremely supportive and involved when it comes to homeschooling," Trina said. "He assists the children with questions they may have had during the day while I check homework."

### TIME TO GRADUATE

In May, the family flew to the States, and Kayleigh marched in Abeka Academy's 29th graduation. They enjoyed the opportunity to visit family—and feast on bacon.

Saying goodbye to friends and family in the U.S. is always difficult, but the Nagles are excited to return home. "Living in Dubai has been an amazing experience," Trina said. "This is our home." And they know the mailman will soon arrive with boxes from the States— some marked Abeka!

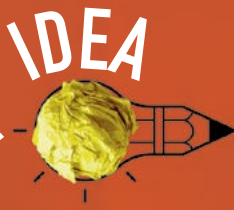


*Trina makes a weekly agenda for each of her children to follow.*



*Abeka delivers to Dubai!*

# YOUR *great*



Homeschooling parents are clever, creative, and resourceful. Here are a few of the ideas we've collected from moms just like you.

## GOT A GREAT IDEA?

Send a high resolution photo (>1.5Mb) of your idea, along with an explanation, to [amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com) using the subject: **MY GREAT IDEA.**

## HOW CAN I SAVE TIME

*in lesson preparation?*

**M**y mom planned our lessons by the year. Every summer she spread out books for eight children around our huge dining room table. During that week, we ate in the kitchen, didn't ask many questions, and didn't touch her work! Here are four ways to do lesson plans.

- a. Plan by the week**—This allows flexibility to accommodate weekly activities, but requires more time to pull out the books repeatedly.
- b. Plan by the quarter**—Do nine weeks of school then take a week off. During the week off, plan some fun and the next nine weeks.
- c. Plan by the semester**—For this method, pull out books only in August and December.
- d. Plan by the year**—Is this possible? Plans in pencil are easily changed. Set aside a week of your summer; spread out the books and get busy!



*Elizabeth*

Elizabeth Shertzer is a homeschool graduate, former Abeka consultant, and teacher. She has two littles of her own.

## NOT TODAY HARVEY, TEXAS

Abeka sisters, Adessa (3rd grade) and Avalynn Green (1st grade) raised money for Hurricane Harvey victims and made the local news with their *Not Today Harvey* lemonade stand. Great idea girls! We're sending you a \$100 Visa Gift Card.



## WORKSHEET WIN, KENTUCKY

Kathy Brown keeps her daughters' quizzes, tests, and worksheets in file folders labeled Days 1-170. "It takes several hours during the summer to tear everything out and file," she says, "but both girls can grab their folder and get started even if I'm detained."



## LESSON PLAN LOVE, PENNSYLVANIA

Denise Thompson prepares her lesson plans in an excel document. "I keep the lesson plans short and simple for my kids," Denise says. "I don't want to give away all my secrets."



## MOM SKILLS, MASSACHUSETTS

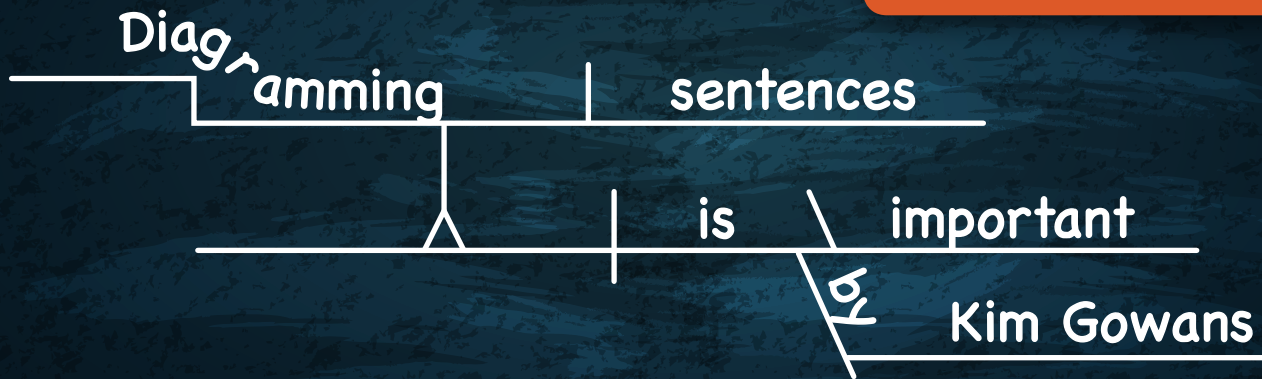
Marion and Jimmy's mom, Cindy Browning, produced a great yearbook from her phone for under \$10. "I waited for an online special at Shutterfly. It took 2-3 hours, and included sections such as Field Trips



**MOM'S AWESOME YEARBOOK**

and Family Time. I'm not a designer; I just used my mom skills."





**D**iagramming supports high-level analysis skills as students evaluate the English sentence. For the visual learner, diagramming provides a needed *illustration*. As a student progresses, diagramming becomes a concrete tool for organizing the sentence. In addition, diagramming expands a student's *ability to write*. My son, now in seminary, even credited diagramming for an easier time *translating* English sentences into Greek.

#### HOW I TAUGHT DIAGRAMMING:

- Analyze the sentence. Find the main parts of the sentence first: verbs, subjects, complements.
- Now look for modifiers and joining words (conjunctions, prepositional phrases).
- Use a pencil with a BIG eraser.
- Any time I noticed a student about to diagram a fragment or run-on, I had him do so on a scrap piece of paper. I didn't have to explain the error; my student would always "discover" it for himself.



*Kim Gowans is a former teacher and homeschool mother of four. She is currently an Abeka editor.*

#### FOUR FUN DIAGRAMMING IDEAS:

When Mom is enthusiastic about diagramming, her children are more apt to understand and love it, too. My students (7th–12th graders) begged for diagramming so much that I had to restrict our diagramming activities to Fridays.

- 1** Use dry erase markers to diagram sentences on windows or mirrors.



- 3** Encourage diagramming on your driveway with colored chalk.



- 2** Give a diagram as extra credit. I've used the pledge to the American flag or the preamble to the Constitution.



- 4** Allow your children to diagram your pastor's key verse while listening in church. This will often open a deeper level of understanding as emphasis is realized.



**CHASE THRONSON**  
Castle Rock, Colorado

Chase graduated in May 2017, at the Abeka Academy graduation ceremony in Pensacola.

**Now that you've graduated from high school, what's next?**

I'm joining the Marines. After that, fall 2018, I'm going to PCC as a criminal justice major. I'm going to join the reserves, get my college out of the way, and then do active duty.

**How did homeschooling prepare you for your future?**

I definitely had to be more self-disciplined. Because of homeschooling, I've had a flexible schedule. I was able to join the Explorer program. They train you to be a police officer.



**JOEL BROWN**  
Ithaca, New York

Joel was always homeschooled. After getting his bachelor's and then master's in biology, he is now in his last year as a doctoral student at Cornell University. As parents of four children, he and his wife are homeschooling their oldest in first grade using Abeka.

**What are some benefits of homeschooling for a family?**

I think homeschooling tends to build a very strong, close-knit family. A lot of times homeschooled siblings tutor and assist younger siblings. It really becomes a cooperative effort where the entire family is working together.

**What do you enjoy about homeschooling your kids with Abeka?**

I really value how organized Abeka is. My wife and I know we're covering all the bases and laying a strong foundation for our children's education.



**MEREDITH HAMMER**  
Arlington, Virginia

Meredith Hammer is a 2006 homeschool grad, wife of a Harvard law student, mom to four littles, and a successful entrepreneur.



**What was the best part of your homeschool experience?**

My parents are very entrepreneurial so I was able to pursue several small businesses while growing up. When I was seventeen, my mom drove four hours roundtrip to the closest real estate school so I could earn my broker's license. I was 19 when I had enough money saved to purchase my first property.





**What did you find most helpful about homeschooling with Abeka Academy?**

The Bible classes with Pastor McBride and Mr. Smith. I can't tell you how much both of them have taught me. They laid it out and made it personal!

**What did your parents teach you beyond the schoolbooks?**

They helped me with time management and self-discipline. They've been great about making sure I'm focusing on my priorities.

**What are your plans after your doctoral degree?**

I'm currently looking at universities where I will be able to do lab research in developmental biology. I'm also very interested in having an impact for Christ in the secular environment.



**What are some of the other businesses you've been involved in?**

My husband's in law school so I try to find ways that I can contribute financially. I've done photography and sold cards with the pictures on it. I've had several kitchens inspected so I could sell restaurant-grade cheesecakes. I sell my kids' clothes online when they outgrow them.

**Will you homeschool your own children?**

We're homeschooling our oldest daughter now. As a mother, I hope my own children will also have the freedom to think outside the box in developing their interests. In my opinion, that's one of the greatest beauties of home education: the freedom to wholeheartedly explore interests without time constraints or pressure to conform.



**WOULD YOUR STORY ENCOURAGE OTHERS?**

*Were you homeschooled? Is one of your homeschooled children doing something amazing? Send your story to [amazinghomeschool@abeka.com](mailto:amazinghomeschool@abeka.com) using the subject: YOUR GRADUATES. Be sure to attach a high resolution photo (>1.5Mb).*

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