

# CT Homeschool Network presents a Guide to Homeschool Co-teaching

*Bringing families together*

[cthomeschoolnetwork.org](http://cthomeschoolnetwork.org)



# Coral Explains Co-teaching



This is not to be confused with a traditional homeschool co-op where there may be many families involved. Depending on individual situations, there may be a small co-op format required.

Coral and her sister developed a system to enable us to work outside or inside the home. We can complete household tasks and projects. It can also serve as a backup plan if one of us becomes ill or have independent emergencies where typically a traditional public or private school set up could provide relief.



# Who Helps to Co-teach?

Co-teaching can be done with an assortment of adults in your child's life: grandparents, husband, wife, aunt, uncle, even older siblings. Co-teaching can mean just the adult helps you by working with your children or can be facilitated by swapping. Coral and her sister alternate homeschooling days where each of us has all the children together (my 3 and her 2). Please note there are laws in Connecticut surrounding the care of other people's children regularly in your home. Close family relatives are generally exempt from holding a home daycare license to care for relative children. Please do research those laws before creating a co-teaching co-operative with non-relative children.



# Freedom is Your Advantage

Some ideas that stem from traditional public or private school that can hold us back when developing a program.

- \* School takes place M-F between 8-3
- \* You make your own homeschool schedule! 365/7
- \* Public school: children are in classes by age, and each age group has a specific level of curriculum in school.
- \* Homeschool: combine where you can, there are advantages of multiple ages working together on projects or topics.





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# Planning Tip #1

- 1. Get organized. Find a planner or calendar to set up your schedule.
- 1. Decide if your kids are going to see Grandma 1 hour a week for a specific class or are you switching daily or every 2 days with your co-teacher.
- 2. Set up a schedule that works for you and your family
- 3. Do allow gaps for review weeks, vacation weeks, etc. do you want extra time off at Christmas? Are you an account and need extra time off during tax season? Schedule it in



# Planning Tips #2 & #3

- *Choose your curriculum. This is best done together. Discuss your opinions and feelings about the choices and create a teaching plan.*
- 1. Do have co-teachers teach subjects that are in their wheelhouse. Is your father a history buff? Is your husband a musician? Have your co-teacher take the lead on something they have expertise in. Put your aces in their places.
- 2. If teaching multiple ages combine where you can. Usually, math and reading/LA are individual, but history, science, nature, etc. can often be combined even with large age gaps. The work expectation will vary.
- *Plan in the curriculum choices into your planner.*
- 1. How many weeks will each curriculum choice take?
- 2. How many days per week will you be teaching each subject? For example, math may be every day but grammar may be 1-2 time per week
- 3. Make copies ahead of time, weekly or monthly, etc.



# Supplies: Be Prepared

*What materials might have to be passed back and forth or the children need daily.*

1. Make a supply list and stock up, just like in traditional school.

1. Backpack

2. Pencil box

3. Pens/pencils

4. Markers/crayons

5. Paper/notebook

6. Special project supplies

7. Art supplies

8. Teacher bag for teacher manuals and schedules.





# Pulling it All Together

## *Communication*

- Once you put your program together and get started communicate with your co-teacher. Even the best-laid plans may need to flex or be altered on the fly. This happens. It's normal just remember to work together and adjust the plan as needed.

## *Have Fun Learning & Growing*

- Have fun! Home instruction shouldn't be a dreaded laborious task but a lifestyle that brings the joy of learning into your home. Watch your children grow and grow with them.



# Resources: Homeschool Planner Organizers

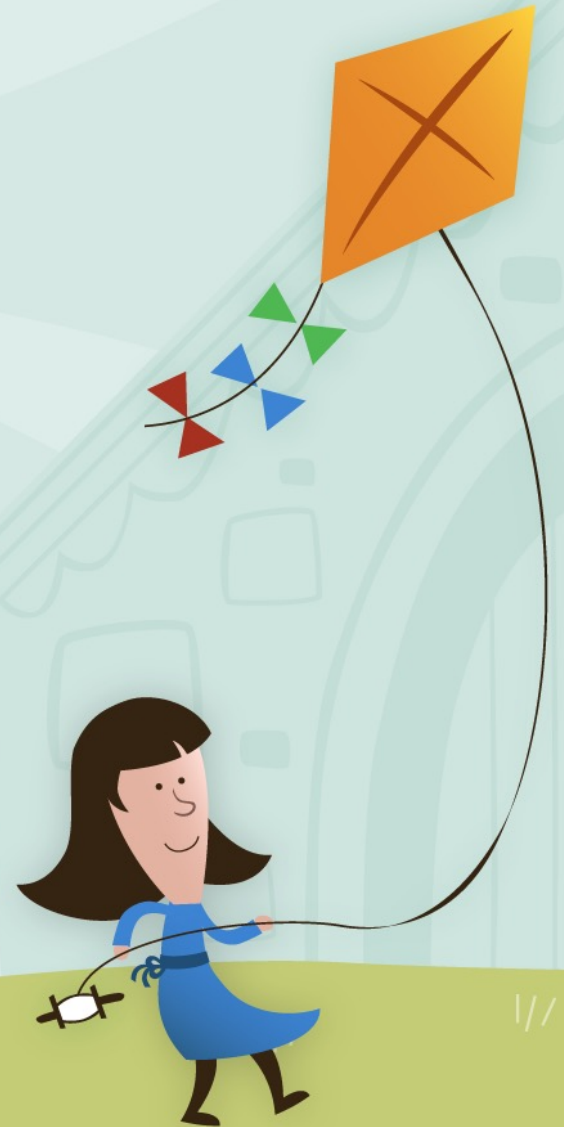
When sharing homeschooling with another family, you'll need to keep your planning and progress organized. Here are some planners that can help you document your lessons before and after completion. You might want to use these to inspire you to create your own documents for planning and remaining organized while co-teaching. Design it and make it work to meet your needs.

<https://www.benandme.com/top-five-homeschool-planners/>

<https://classicallyhomeschooling.com/paper-homeschool-planners/>

<https://pambarnhill.com/homeschool-planner/>

cthomeschoolnetwork.org



# Connecting on Social Media

The CT Homeschool Network Board of Directors wishes your family a wonderful, rich homeschool experience in freedom!

*Visit us on FB & connect with tens of thousands of families statewide.*

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**(CHN) Parents Seeking Homeschool Info**

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