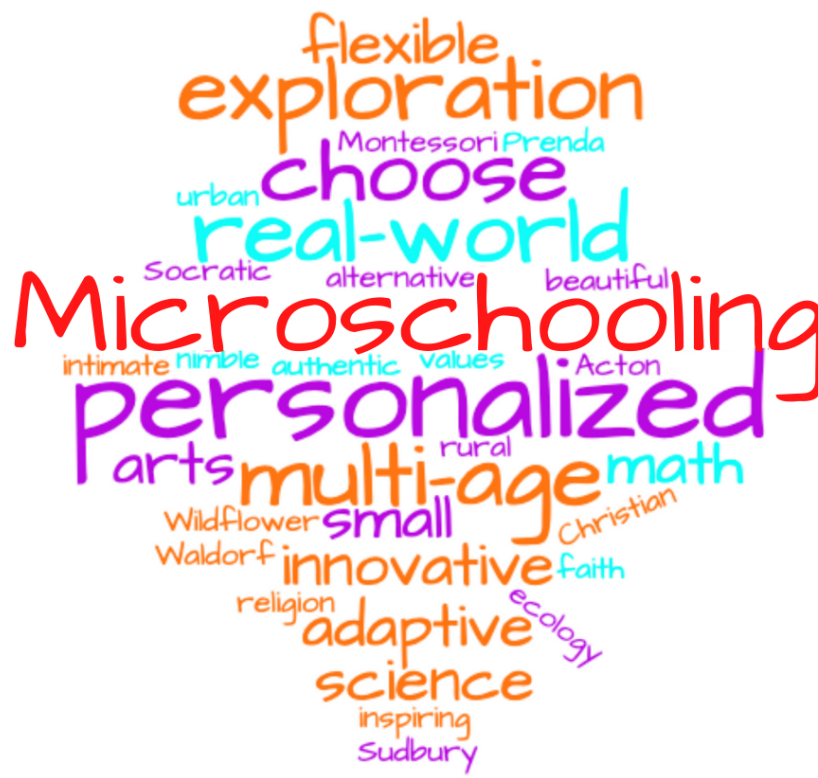


# ROADMAP TO SUCCESSFUL MICROSCHOOLING

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## OVERVIEW

Microschooling is an updated version of the one-room schoolhouses which dotted the American Frontier throughout the 19th century. It is not constrained by a strict set of definitions. However, there are some common characteristics that microschool setting share.

Typically, microschooling arrangements have around 10 children in a group. There may be multiple groups contained within one microschool. Microschooling is flexible; the needs of individual learners drives the decisions around both the content and approach. Microschooling can be a permanent or temporary solution.

## OBJECTIVE

MicroschoolingWV is working to create a community of microschooling environments in West Virginia.

These microschools will offer quality educational options for West Virginia's children. We strongly encourage microschools to be as equitable and measurably effective as possible to best meet the diverse needs of our families. Our aim is to support you during each step of your microschooling journey.

# WHY START A MICROSCHOOL?

At MicroschoolingWV, we believe the best answer comes from the learners in your life whose needs you want to meet.

Many see microschooling as a big part of the future of education - diverse, versatile and unique, with small environments to meet the needs of your learners in the most effective way possible.

## REASONS WE LOVE MICROSCHOOLS

1

### INDIVIDUAL LEARNERS' NEEDS

Microschooling's greatest strength may be that each microschool can, and should, be designed and built around the specific needs of individual learners. In this golden age of digital content, every choice of learning tools and methods can be made, and revisited, with each child in mind.

2

### FLEXIBILITY

Microschooling offers maximum flexibility for learners and educators alike. With a wide variety of curricula, hours, spaces, and other important factors, your microschool can be the exact solution your families need.

3

### FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

Microschooling builds upon the notion of multi-family homeschool collaboratives and allows you to serve your learners and build a schooling environment that best supports the needs of others in the community around you.

4

### DO WHAT YOU LOVE

Microschooling is an opportunity to realize your passion for educating young people in the ways that matter most. It allows you the opportunity to support the learning and growth of these children with methods that work best. You do not need teaching experience or an active teaching license to be a microschool leader.

# HOW CAN WE HELP?

We are foundation funded and can help you assess the needs of your particular learners and families as your unpaid consultants. We can also help you design your program around these needs. This includes everything from planning a schedule to selecting learning tools.

Working with us gives you access to receive cost-saving benefits, as well as world-class tools that we have tested and compared. Because we work with many microschoools, we can purchase these tools and curricula at a discount, which means these cost-savings can be passed on to your families.

## START-UP SUPPORT

Work with our team to make sure you're fully prepared to open your microschoool. We can assist with background checks, instructional options, planning initial assessments for learners, understanding student data, setting up space, and more.

## LEARNING OPTIONS

Collaborate with our team to gain a better understanding of the various learning options available for your microschoool. In addition to our suggestions, we can support you in identifying alternative options and making a selection that tailors to the specific needs of your learners.

## LEARNER INTAKE & BASELINE ASSESSMENT HELP

Partner with us to receive as-needed administrative support, including initial learner assessments and mastery-level placement decisions.

## COMMUNITY

Access our community of local microschoool leaders and families to share ideas and resources. We host in-person and online forums to facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices, as well as creating a space for community-driven question and answers.



# ROADMAP TO STARTING

- 1 INFORMATIONAL CALL**

Set-up an initial call or meeting with our microschoooling team. We'll talk more about what microschoooling is, align on your priorities for your microschoool, answer any questions you have, and clarify next steps.
- 2 SELECT LEARNING OPTIONS**

Review our suggestions, along with any others you think may be a good fit for your group, and make a decision about which one you'd like to offer your microschoool students. If you're stuck, just let us know!
- 3 CONSIDER LICENSING AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

If you will be operating a microschoool, it is important that you understand your obligations and rights as it relates to licensing, background checks, and other requirements. We review what you need to know so that you can make an informed decision that is right for you.
- 4 SHARE WITH FAMILIES**

In order to be an affiliated microschoool, you will need to serve more than just your own child(ren). We are happy to help you discuss marketing strategies, and we have plenty of interested families to share your microschoool information with.
- 5 PREPARE A SPACE**

Whether at home or elsewhere, you'll need to optimize your space for learning. Consider what supplies you'll need, what technology you will provide, and what kind of environment you'd like to create. For home-based microschoools, consider what parts of the house children will and will not have access to.
- 6 TRAINING THAT WORKS FOR YOU**

Considering each microschoool leader's unique situation, it's important to develop professional enrichment that works for you.
- 7 GOAL SETTING**

Getting goals right matters. Consider your goals and the goals of your learners. We can discuss goal setting strategies, including how to get children and family buy-in.

# LEARNING TOOLS

While your options are vast, the choices below are the curricula and learning tools that we have a high degree of confidence in.

A beautiful strength of microschooling is the ability to build a program to meet the academic needs of individual learners, to meet them "where they are." With that in mind, here are some of our favorite tools we are happy to work with you to integrate into your model, along with any others you might be considering:

## CADENCE LEARNING

Cadence Learning is a great choice for any microschool that will host same-age groups in grades 3-8. The model uses a variety of student-driven, personalized learning platforms, and also emphasizes daily, guide-led instructions and diverse activities like movement and mindfulness.



Spider Learning, Inc.

Our team is impressed with this middle school curriculum, for grades 6-8, for a variety of reasons, including its consistent structure and assessment strategy, and we think you will also.

## prenda

Prenda is well-suited for microschools that will host multi-age groups or early primary grades. Prenda focuses on student-centered goal-setting. The learning environment utilizes a combination of online platforms and guide-led enrichment activities each day.

## ZEARN

Zearn is a teacher-designed, child-likeable math learning tool and curriculum, built upon foundational learning practices, where kids learn independently in lively, self-paced lessons. Zearn also provides whole and small group lessons.



One of the fastest-growing and exciting new forces in American education, Outschool engages and inspires learning through a wide variety of classes and subjects so learners can dive deeper into their favorite interests.



Core Knowledge®

Core Knowledge provides comprehensive, content-rich learning materials based on the Core Knowledge Sequence. Student readers, teacher guides, activity books, and other materials are available for Language Arts, History and Geography, and Science. Also check out E.D. Hirsch's "What Your \_\_\_\_ Grader Needs to Know" series.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1

## DO I NEED TEACHING EXPERIENCE?

No! You don't need to be a licensed teacher or have teaching experience in order to open a microschool. Many high-quality microschools start with passionate parents.

2

## WHERE CAN I HOST A MICROSCHOOL?

Many microschools are home-based learning arrangements. Due to the multi-family nature, sometimes microschooling takes place across multiple homes. We can also help you find space if you are not looking to host in your home.

3

## DO MY OWN CHILDREN NEED TO ATTEND?

Not necessarily. You can host a microschool without enrolling your own children.

4

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Depending on the format and services provided by you to your learners, the cost for students will vary.



# CONTACT US

## ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

If you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to learn more, please reach out!



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