

THE SONLIGHT DIFFERENCE



*"Sonlight has helped us to give our daughters the education we dreamed of giving them: grounded in the Word and aware of the world around them."
-Guy L. of Montreal, Canada*

Find a curriculum comparison checklist on back page.



What kind of people do you want your children to become?

Few parents hope their kids will:

- just get by in life
- be tossed to and fro by their environment
- face limited career options
- go with the flow of modern culture

You probably pray your children will:

- develop confidence to work hard and face challenges
- become strong believers who influence others
- be equipped to do whatever God calls them to do
- become world-changers

If that is indeed your prayer, you need curriculum that gives you the tools to raise such confident and competent children.

Sonlight Curriculum Philosophy

Sonlight is extraordinary curriculum. It is a literature-rich, liberal arts, Christian worldview approach to home education.

Sonlight families read the very best classics (from Aesop's fables to *Romeo and Juliet*) and gripping modern books (like *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and the *Story of the World* series). These books introduce the people, places, events and ideas your children need to understand ... even the controversial ones. Curriculum centered on these books leads to meaningful discussions about issues like honesty, politics and faith.

Many Americans from Christian homes walk away from their faith in college and young adulthood. One study reports that "a majority of twentysomethings – 61% of today's young adults – had been churched at one point during their teen years but they are now spiritually disengaged."¹ We suspect most didn't face the tough questions of faith and modern culture until college. Since they hadn't been prepared to navigate these issues from a Christian perspective, they reached an intellectual or emotional impasse and walked away.

As a parent, you have the opportunity to help your children gain sure footing before they head out into the world. Sonlight helps you do it.


¹ "Most Twentysomethings Put Christianity on the Shelf Following Spiritually Active Teen Years," Sep. 2006. Accessed at www.barna.org in April 2010.

How does Sonlight equip me to raise children who follow Christ?

Parents who frequently engage their children in natural conversations about diverse issues gain true influence in their children's lives.

With Sonlight you are equipped to be the central influence in your children's lives. Your flexible Instructor's Guides help you discuss what you read as you share gripping, worthwhile books with your children. The Bible, faith and a global perspective weave seamlessly throughout the curriculum. So you enjoy formative, natural conversations with your kids about God, faith, history and character. These discussions let you train your children in the way of Christ.

On top of that, the Instructor's Guides let you spend your time teaching and enjoying your children instead of researching and planning lessons.



"Sonlight has inspired us to get involved with our children's learning and has helped us bond as a family. With my husband being in the military and traveling a lot, Sonlight makes it easy for him to just jump right in and not feel overwhelmed. Before Sonlight, we would read books, but not really get into the stories. With the excellent books Sonlight uses, you are guaranteed to be involved in the stories and create lasting memories with your children."

-Erin S of Germany

How does Sonlight prepare my children for their academic future?

In college and life, students will confront huge amounts of information from vastly different viewpoints. To survive with their faith (and GPA) intact, they'll need to interpret that information and produce coherent responses from a Christ-centered worldview.

Sonlight prepares students to do exactly this. How? Students interact with and discuss top-notch books from diverse viewpoints. When they graduate, your kids will be able to discuss (with their heart and mind) tricky topics like evolution and design, postmodernism and absolute truth, politics, and reasons for their faith. They'll be able to write well and will have the well-rounded education that comes from a rigorous literature-rich approach.

With the preparation Sonlight provides, graduates are now:

- engineers
- missionaries
- entrepreneurs
- pastors
- musicians
- doctors
- homeschoolers
- elected officials
- farmers & more!

Visit sonlight.com/scholarship-winners-2010 to meet recent grads.

Why does Sonlight provide so many books?

Reading helps kids develop the cultural literacy, vocabulary and language skills they need to succeed in everything from SATs and college to relationships. Plus, a large home library helps children succeed academically.

Books—the really good ones—help students interact with history, geography and faith. Children form emotional connections with characters, so they actually remember what they read. They gain the context they need to understand the flow of world history. As they read a lot and work hard, students learn they can face challenges. You just can't get these benefits from a few books each year.

But why should you *own* these great books? An extensive new study shows that “A child from a family rich in books is 19 percentage points more likely to complete university than a comparable child growing up without a home library.”² In fact, the size of a home library greatly affects educational attainment, “even adjusting for parents' education.” Being surrounded by books lets your kids read their favorites again and again, and fosters a love of reading and learning.

² “Home Libraries Provide Huge Educational Advantage,” April 2010. Accessed at www.miller-mccune.com in April 2010.

The SONLIGHT difference

Important decisions about your children's education deserve thoughtfulness and prayer. Whether you're at an exciting homeschool convention or at home in your living room, there's no need to risk your children's learning on an impulse buy.

Take time to prayerfully consider what's best for your unique family. Use this checklist to help you compare curriculum options:

	Sonlight	Option B	Option C
Package Content			
How many items do I get in my package?			
Will I discuss controversial issues with my children, taking various sides into account?	<i>yes</i>		
Will I need to find additional books?	<i>no</i>		
Will I have to do my own research in order to teach?	<i>no</i>		
Will this curriculum challenge my children?	<i>yes</i>		
Prep Time			
Are the weekly activities laid out in a clear schedule?	<i>yes</i>		
Do the teacher guides include study guides for each book?	<i>yes</i>		
Are the teacher guides flexible and easily manipulated?	<i>yes</i>		
Do the hands-on activities require lots of parent prep work?	<i>no</i>		
Practical Issues			
Can I return my curriculum package if I use it for a few weeks or months and decide it's not a good fit for my family?	<i>yes</i>		
Can I teach multiple children with one program?	<i>yes</i>		
Can I reuse curriculum with younger siblings?	<i>yes</i>		
Is there a payment plan option?	<i>yes</i>		
Can I contact a Curriculum Advisor (for free) whenever I have questions?	<i>yes</i>		

Questions? Visit www.sonlight.com/SCA to speak with an experienced Sonlight Curriculum Advisor.



"We have been a Sonlight family for a dozen years. We are so grateful for the richness and depth of our sons' education. But more importantly, we are thankful that they are best friends and that they share memories of learning together that will last the rest of their lives. Thank you Sonlight."
-Antoinette S of Zachary, LA

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www.facebook.com/sonlight

With Sonlight, 17-year-old Oliver and 15-year-old Samuel (pictured above) have grown into true scholars with a deep desire to learn. Head to sonlight.com/scholarship-winners-2010 for a glimpse into Oliver's homeschool experience and future plans.

Want help?

Contact a Sonlight Curriculum Advisor (for free):



(303) 730-6292

Phone



Chat

www.sonlight.com/SCA



Email

advisor@sonlight.com

An experienced Sonlight mom would love to answer your questions about homeschooling or choosing/using Sonlight materials.