



# 5 TIPS FOR BLACK HOMESCHOOL PARENTS

Building a Strong Foundation  
Through African-Centered  
Education

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### Chapter 1: Know the Laws, Your Rights, and Your Power

As you embark on the journey of homeschooling your children, it is essential to equip yourself with the knowledge of your rights, the laws governing homeschooling in your state, and the power you possess as a parent. According to [Census Bureau](#) data, the percentage of black families educating children at home grew fivefold in six months, from 3.3 percent in April 2020 to **16.1 percent** in October 2020. African-centered education is about empowering our children and our communities. Understanding your legal rights and responsibilities is an essential part of this empowerment.

Every state has different homeschooling regulations, so familiarize yourself with the laws in your area. Some states may require you to submit an intent to homeschool, standardized testing, or regular evaluations. Knowing these requirements will help you navigate the system with confidence and ensure that your child's education is in compliance with the law.

Stand strong in the knowledge that you have the right to choose the best education for your children, and that homeschooling is a viable and successful option. As more Black families turn to homeschooling, it is crucial to build a community that supports each other and shares resources. Engage with local homeschooling groups and networks, and utilize online platforms to connect with like-minded parents.

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By knowing the laws, understanding your rights, and exercising your power, you are making a statement that your child's education is your priority. You are taking control of your child's future and investing in their success.

### Chapter 2: Unschool Your Mind

Traditional educational systems often do not cater to the diverse needs of our children or the rich history and culture of the African diaspora. As Black homeschooling parents, it is essential to break away from these conventional structures and embrace a more flexible and holistic approach to learning.



Unschooling, an educational philosophy coined by John Holt, allows children to follow their interests, and learn through exploration, curiosity, and creativity. By allowing your child to drive their education, you create an environment where learning is a natural and enjoyable process, fostering a love for knowledge that can last a lifetime.

Challenge yourself to view education from an African-centered perspective, incorporating African and African American history, culture, and values into your child's learning experience. Encourage your children to explore their passions and to make connections to their heritage in their studies.



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### Chapter 3: Know Your Child, Build Your Lesson

A 2011 study from the Journal of Research in Innovative Teaching found that personalized learning significantly improved student achievement (Holland, 2011).

As parents, you possess invaluable knowledge about your child's strengths, weaknesses, interests, and learning styles. By leveraging this understanding, you can create a personalized and engaging curriculum that supports your child's growth and development.

Take the time to observe your child and identify their learning preferences. Are they visual learners, auditory learners, or kinesthetic learners? Do they thrive in a structured environment or need more flexibility? Use this insight to tailor your teaching methods and create lessons that resonate with your child.

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Incorporate African-centered content that speaks to your child's interests, whether it's through literature, art, music, or science. By doing so, you help build a strong foundation and a sense of pride in their cultural heritage.



### Chapter 4: The Power of Good Documentation

Organized and comprehensive record-keeping is essential to ensure the success of your homeschooling journey. Documentation not only provides legal protection but also facilitates a smooth transition to college or other educational institutions. According to the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), proper record-keeping can provide legal protection and help facilitate the transition to college or other educational institutions (HSLDA, n.d.).

Maintain detailed records of your child's academic progress, including grades, attendance, assessments, and any extracurricular activities. Create a portfolio showcasing your child's work and accomplishments, which can be beneficial when applying for scholarships or college admissions.

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By keeping thorough records, you demonstrate your commitment to your child's education and validate the hard work you both put into the homeschooling process.

### Chapter 5: Culture to Humans is Like Fish to Water

Culturally relevant education is a cornerstone of successful African-centered homeschooling. A 2010 study published in the Urban Education journal found that a culturally relevant pedagogy significantly improved academic outcomes for Black students (Ladson-Billings, 2010).

Teaching Black history and culture beyond the context of slavery is vital for building a strong sense of identity and pride in our children. Emphasizing the achievements, resilience, and strength of African and African American people throughout history is crucial for nurturing self-esteem and empowerment.

Incorporate African and African American history, literature, art, and music into your child's curriculum. Celebrate the accomplishments of Black scientists, inventors, entrepreneurs, and leaders from various fields. Teach your children about ancient African civilizations, such as Kemet (Egypt), Mali, and Nubia, and their contributions to the world. By doing so, you provide a well-rounded and accurate representation of Black history, which instills pride and inspires future generations.

Expose your children to different cultural practices and traditions from the African diaspora. This can include learning about traditional African drumming, dance, storytelling, and cuisine. These cultural experiences not only enrich your child's education but also help them appreciate the diversity and beauty of the global Black community.

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In conclusion, African-centered homeschooling empowers Black families to take control of their children's education and future. By understanding the laws, embracing unschooling, tailoring lessons to your child's interests, maintaining organized documentation, and providing culturally relevant education, you create an environment where your children can thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. As you embark on this journey, know that you are not alone—there is a vibrant and supportive community of Black homeschooling parents ready to share their experiences and resources with you. Together, we can uplift and empower our children and our communities.







*"Education is our passport to the future." – Malcolm X*

**Baba Amin Ojuok** is a passionate grassroots educator dedicated to empowering Black communities through African-centered education. With extensive experience developing African-centered programs across the United States and coaching homeschooling parents worldwide, Baba Amin brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the field of African-centered homeschooling.