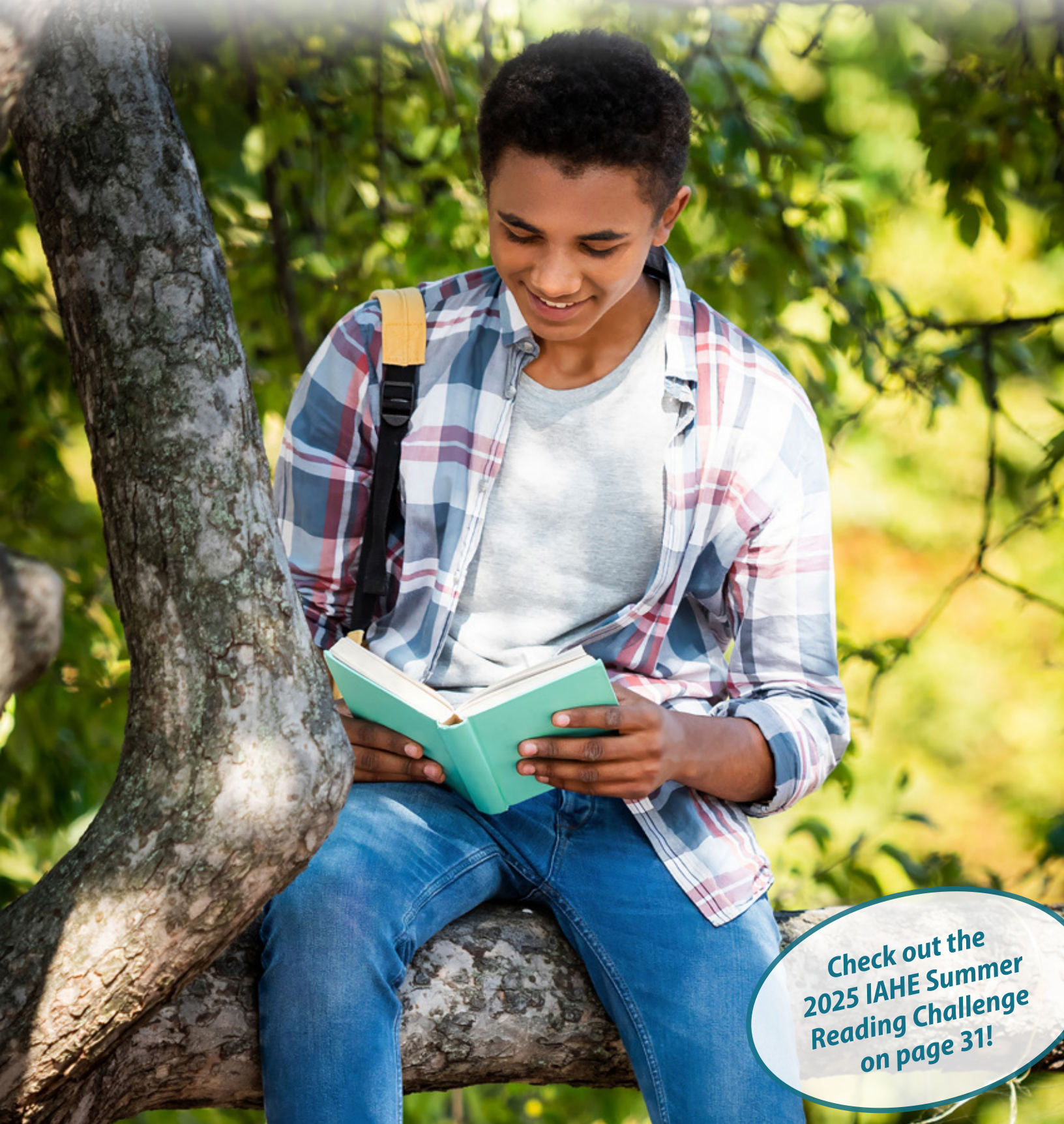


HOMESCHOOL

Spring 2025

Indiana



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Welcome

The sunshine is back, and with it comes that special energy we find in the longer days. After months of indoor routines, there's something refreshing about opening the windows, taking the family outside, and seeing everything begin to bloom again.

Spring and summer offer us the perfect reminder: growth doesn't always happen where we can see it. Often, it's slow and hidden—much like the homeschool journey. We plant seeds of knowledge and character in our children daily. In time, we begin to see little signs—curiosity, compassion, confidence—that remind us we're on the right path.

This issue is packed with ways to make the most of this vibrant season. Whether you're gardening, traveling, reading under a tree, or exploring your local parks, you can turn everyday experiences into learning moments.

You'll also find updates from our Government Affairs Team, who work year-round to protect homeschool freedoms in Indiana. Their commitment is another reminder that growth and progress take steady, faithful work—often behind the scenes.

As always, thank you for being part of the IAHE family. Your support and prayers make all of this possible. Enjoy the sunshine—and the adventure!



Tara Bentley

Executive Director, IAHE

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The Indiana Association of Home Educators (IAHE) is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1983 for the purpose of serving the Lord Jesus Christ by supporting and encouraging families interested in home education. We define home education as parent-directed, home-based, privately-funded education.

Contact us! IAHE PO Box 217 Stilesville, IN 46180 | 317-467-6244 | iahe@iahe.net



2025 LEGISLATIVE WATCH

We're heading to the end of the 124th General Assembly. This is a budget year and it's referred to as a "long session." It is slated to end no later than April 29th.

Our all-volunteer team has been hard at work. Here are the stats thus far:

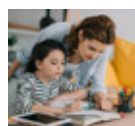
- More than 6,000 documents indexed
- 680 bills reviewed and classified
- At the start of session, closely following 60 bills.
Currently, 13

Our custom state-of-the-art software allows us to index and run more than 100 searches over every new document within 30 seconds of its publication. All bills are indexed regardless of any classifying our team has done. We're on the lookout for any amendments that may pop up. It's been a very active session for us at the statehouse. Below, you'll find our most recent updates on the Legislative Watches we've put out this session.



State Budget HB 1001 (Rep. Jeffrey Thompson)

The state budget is monitored closely every year for any changes to Indiana homeschool freedoms with regard to state funding.



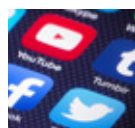
Nonaccredited Nonpublic Schools HB 1348 (Rep. Timothy Wesco)

We first reported on HB 1348 on January 21, 2025. It passed out of committee 9:4 on January 27th. On January 29th, it passed its second reading. It received its third reading on January 30th and passed out of the House with a 62:29 vote.

The bill headed to the Senate, where Senator Raatz and Senator Freeman were co-sponsors. It passed out of committee 9:4 on March 20th. On March 25th, it passed out of the Senate with a 32:15 vote. It returned to the House without amendments and was signed by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore. On April 3rd, it was signed by the President of the Senate. It now awaits the Governor's signature.

Indiana's two homeschool graduate legislators (Rep. Wesco and Rep. Lawson) and three homeschooling-parent legislators (Rep. Cash, Rep. Hostettler, and Sen. Freeman) are in support of this bill. Senator Raatz is a long-time supporter of Indiana homeschoolers and their chosen independence.

IAHE and IAHE Action continue to support HB 1348 and thank Rep. Wesco, Rep. Cash, Rep. Lawson, Rep. Hostettler, Senator Raatz, and Senator Freeman for their work on behalf of the homeschool community.



Minor Access and Use of Social Media SB 11 (Sen. Mike Bohacek, Sen. Liz Brown, & Sen. Chris Garten)

This bill would require social media platforms to first obtain a parents' verifiable consent for social media access of minors less than 16 years of age.

SB 11 passed out of committee on January 15th with an 11:1 vote and passed out of the Senate on January 23rd with a vote of 42:7. It was referred to the House on January 24th and assigned to the House Judiciary committee. It has yet to receive a committee hearing.



Parental Rights Bill

SB 143 (Sen. Liz Brown, Sen. Scott Alexander, & Sen. Brett Clark)

We first reported on SB 143 on January 13, 2025. The bill passed out of committee amend do pass on January 16th and received its second reading on January 23rd. On January 27th, it passed its 3rd reading with a 44:5 vote.

The bill headed to the House, where Representative Lindauer, Representative Matt Commons, Representative J.D. Prescott, and Representative Timothy Wesco were co-sponsors. The bill passed out of committee, received its third reading, and passed with a 69:24 vote. It was returned to the Senate with amendments, and a motion to concur was filed on April 8th. This means the Senate accepted the House amendments. This bill is expected to be signed by Governor Braun.



Absenteeism

SB 482 (Sen. Stacey Donato & Sen. Linda Rogers)

SB 482 works to force the Indiana Department of Education to distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; this definition currently varies amongst school districts and requires IDOE to collect demographic-based data on all public and charter schools and present a report by July 1 of each year to the legislative council. It requires the state attendance officer to prepare a report of conversations held with the school attendance officers across the state, and it suggests that the prosecuting attorney may hold one or more attendance intervention meetings to address a student's truancy and work to improve attendance.

It passed out of committee on January 13th with a 13:0 vote and passed out of the Senate on February 2 with a 49:0 vote. It moved to the House and received its committee hearing, where it passed out of committee with an 11:1 vote.

We continue to monitor this bill as it could be a potential place for Lazarus language from SB 483 to be placed. HB 1201 is a companion bill to this in many ways and is also being watched closely.



Regulation of Homeschooling

SB 483 (Sen. Jeff Raatz)

We first reported on SB 483 on January 14, 2025. This bill did not receive a committee hearing, but portions of the language may be brought as an amendment to another bill.

IAHE Action has continued to work closely with state leaders and lawmakers regarding chronic absenteeism occurring in publicly funded schools. We are thankful for the conversations that have been had and are glad to report this bill is dead.

We are watching. We are listening. We are working. ■

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Volunteering: A Call to Stewardship

— Amy Sager



Incorporating volunteer work into your homeschool

can be a life-changing experience, both for your children and your family as a whole. Throughout Scripture, God calls us to serve one another, using our time, talents, and resources for His glory. Volunteering is not just an act of kindness—it is a reflection of our relationship with God and His call to stewardship. By teaching your children to serve, you cultivate a heart of generosity and responsibility that aligns with His will.

Whether through donating time, money, or materials, small acts of service can have a lasting impact on the people we serve. Children who are raised in a comfortable environment may struggle to understand the needs of others, but service provides a practical way to teach them about gratitude, generosity, and the love of Jesus. Consider picking one or two ideas to pursue this summer.

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Here's a list of practical volunteering ideas for homeschoolers:

1. Visit and Bless a Local Nursing Home

Schedule regular visits to read aloud, sing hymns, or simply spend time talking with residents. Younger kids could make homemade cards and deliver them.

2. Participate in a Seasonal Clothing Drive

Collect hats, gloves, scarves, socks, and gently used coats to donate to local homeless shelters or ministries. Involve your children in sorting, packing, and delivering items.

3. Assemble Care Kits for Foster Children

Pack backpacks with personal hygiene items, small toys, and comfort items for kids entering the foster system.

4. Serve at a Soup Kitchen or Food Pantry

Older children and teens can help prepare and serve meals, stock shelves, or organize donations. This gives them real-life perspective on community needs.

5. Support Military Service Members

Write letters or pack care packages for deployed troops through organizations like Soldier's Angels or Operation Gratitude. It's a meaningful way to teach gratitude and patriotism.

6. Volunteer with Animals

Help walk dogs or care for animals at a local shelter. Younger kids can assist with donation drives for pet food, toys, and supplies.

7. Lead or Help with VBS or Story Hours

Use your gifts to lead songs, crafts, or Bible stories at Vacation Bible School this summer or at outreach events in low-income neighborhoods.

8. Host a Blanket-Making Day

Make no-sew fleece blankets to donate to children's hospitals or shelters. It's creative, cozy, and a great group or co-op activity.

Volunteering as a family not only blesses others—it also shapes the hearts and minds of your children, planting seeds of compassion, humility, and purpose. As homeschoolers, we have the unique gift of flexibility and time. Let's use that gift to answer God's call to serve others and steward the resources He has given us. Every act of service, no matter how small, can be a powerful expression of Christ's love to a world in need. ■



Amy Sager is a passionate advocate of Christ-centered home discipleship. She regularly counsels parents on creating transcripts, making dual enrollment a part of student's high school education, and nurturing God-given strengths and gifts in our students.

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Guiding Questions

The Secret Ingredient to Playschooling

— Amanda Owens

"Mom, why are elbows pointy?" Children's questions can exhaust us, but what if I told you that questions are actually a powerful tool for teaching through play? At the IAHE 2025 Conference, where I spoke on playschooling, participants were most intrigued by how simple guiding questions can transform extraordinary ordinary play into even richer learning experiences. Let me share how the right questions can initiate, facilitate, and expand meaningful play in your homeschool.

The Connective Nature of Play Development

Play is crucial for whole body and brain development, but children learn to play partly from their environment. Some behaviors are innate—I've seen every child collect random pocket treasures like a human magpie—but without interaction, play development can become disordered. In my occupation, I've encountered rescued children deprived of human interaction, and I can attest firsthand to the importance of connection with attentive adults during play for play to fill its full scope. It's not a happy thing, but it serves as a reminder for me to be interactive with my children's play, because I know connection during play means a lot.

The Range of Questions

This connection often comes through guided questions. I like to say that questions are good parenting, varying in complexity and function. They can be simple "yes/no" or significantly more complex in both structure and purpose. They might offer choices: "I heard a roar. Are you a dinosaur or a lion?" They can encourage: "Wow! Did you think of that?" or redirect: "Are we allowed to use that?" They can position the child as an expert while showing new directions to explore.

What Makes a Guiding Question Guiding?

Guiding questions are inherent in play and learning. A child filling a bucket with sand is implicitly asking: how many scoops, how will it look when filled, how does sand move? We can use questions to bridge play and academics: "How much water do plants need to grow?" suddenly transforms garden play into a science experiment. A question about "how many blocks tall" turns tower-building into mathematical thinking.

The key is that guiding questions are open-ended, position the child as the primary investigator, and ideally inspire more questions as you go.

Initiate

Yesterday my children were rotating between forbidden activities after being stuck inside for days. I took two items they were misusing (striking each other with a net and a balloon on a stick) and asked, "What if the couch was a boat? What if we went fishing?"

Seeing they needed more prompts to take the lead, I added questions like "Do we need bait?" and "What can we use as a pole?" Soon, my wee monkeys were happily embarking on their play journey.

Facilitate

Now, my 5 and 6-year-olds had been competitive all morning, and they were heading toward a fishing tournament with predictable arguments: "My fish is bigger!" "No, mine is!" So, I posed a question to guide them toward collaboration: "What do we do if the fish is too big to get on the boat?" The boy with the net lit up.

With that simple guided question, they engaged in teamwork with a clear script: the little lady catches the big fish, the little man rescues with the net, they work together to get the bass on the boat, repeat.

Expand

The play truly blossomed when my 10-year-old joined in. I simply added a pretend donut to my daughter's fishing line "by mistake," and we discovered the answer to the implied question, "What can you catch with a donut?" The answer was so much fun that all four children were still playing even after dinner, wondering what funny animal they would catch next with various "bait."

Play Today, Learn for Life

As you navigate your homeschool journey, remember that playschooling isn't just about making learning fun—it's about creating a foundation for lifelong curiosity. When we use guiding questions to initiate, facilitate, and expand play, we're not just entertaining our children; we're teaching them how to think critically, solve problems creatively, and find joy in discovery.

Try observing what guiding questions already exist in your child's play. Then see how you can add your own questions to deepen the experience. Your thoughtful participation in play isn't just building sandcastles or fishing off couch-boats—it's building minds and relationships that will last a lifetime. ■



Amanda Owens, CCC-SLP equips homeschool parents so they can teach their children how to talk clearly and confidently through speech therapy at home. A homeschool graduate and mom, she builds practical tools for parents, teaches how speech therapy works, and supports a growing community of parents. Find her at illuminatecommunicate.com.

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A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair and a black shirt, smiling and looking at three children in a garden. The children are wearing red baseball caps. One child is holding a green magnifying glass over a jar, while another child is holding the jar. A third child is also visible, looking at the jar. The background is a lush green garden.

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Cultivating Sibling *Friendships*

— Connie Albers

All parents typically have a desire for their children to get along.

However, they often want more than that: they want their children to be life-long friends, always present to love and support each other. But how can that happen when children struggle with sharing or rarely think of others before themselves? Sometimes parents feel they should be wearing a referee jersey as they continually mediate arguments and constantly stop the bickering. Yet, although there are many resources available for understanding children's strengths, encouraging learning, and even building character, what can we do to help our children develop sibling friendships?

As a mother of five adult children, I also have years of experience working with students of all ages. I understand the importance of sibling relationships and the challenges that come with trying to teach siblings to be for each other while avoiding the comparison trap.

The truth is that siblings have the potential to be lifelong friends, confidants, and support systems. However, it is not uncommon for sibling rivalry to surface, causing tension and conflict within the family dynamic. And while rivalry does happen, it does not have to sabotage their relationships.

So how do we get siblings to get along and become friends? It starts with a foundation.

All relationships begin with a foundation — something to unite and connect us. When it comes to building sibling closeness, then your children need to understand why they need to build a relationship with their sibling and what it takes to foster a closeness that will withstand the challenges of growing up.

There are five fundamental principles that you can implement to foster healthy sibling relationships while reducing rivalry. After all, the last thing we parents want is for our kids to grow up, go their own way, and to only talk at family gatherings, weddings, or funerals. We want them to enjoy doing life together!

Develop Trust

One of the first components of a strong friendship is to build a foundation of trust. As parents navigate the day-to-day issues that

arise between their children, they need to learn practical ways to build mutual trust between each other. When we encourage an atmosphere of vulnerability where siblings can learn to confide in one another, they start to feel safe sharing their hearts. Naturally, this is best learned when we model these behaviors, too. Siblings need to learn the importance of being consistent and reliable. As they see the blessings of this mutual trust, siblings will gain greater confidence in sharing their hopes, fears, and dreams.

Encourage Communication

Like trust, communication is a cornerstone of any healthy relationship, and the sibling bond is no exception. Parents play a crucial role in facilitating open and effective communication between siblings. Encourage your children to express their thoughts, feelings, and concerns to one another. We can do this by teaching them active listening skills, such as maintaining eye contact, paraphrasing, and empathizing. By creating an environment where communication is valued, you empower siblings to develop a deeper understanding of each other.

Create Shared Experiences

Shared experiences are powerful bonding opportunities for siblings. Encourage activities that allow siblings to collaborate, problem-solve, and have fun together. Engage them in projects that require teamwork, such as building a fort, preparing a meal, or organizing a family game night. These shared experiences not only create lasting memories but also foster a sense of unity and cooperation. Through these collaborative efforts, the siblings learn to rely on each other's strengths, building a sense of trust and camaraderie.

Teach Conflict Resolution

Conflict is inevitable in any relationship, including sibling relationships. Teaching children how to resolve conflicts in a healthy and respectful manner is essential for building strong bonds. Teach them techniques such as active listening, healthy compromising, and finding ways where both sides can feel heard and affirmed. Encourage them to express their feelings assertively while they avoid resorting to aggression or manipulation. When conflicts arise, give children the skills they need like stepping back, taking deep



breaths, talking about their feelings calmly, and managing their emotions. The goal is to gain understanding between each other and come up with beneficial solutions for all involved, not winning an argument.

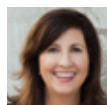
Celebrate Differences

Every child is unique, with their own set of strengths, interests, and talents. Encouraging siblings to celebrate each other's differences can help create an atmosphere of acceptance and mutual respect. Instead of comparing siblings to one another, focus on highlighting their individual qualities in a positive manner. Encourage them to appreciate and learn from each other's strengths, fostering a sense of admiration and support. When siblings understand they are uniquely made in the image of God and each has different strengths, they can learn to appreciate their differences.

Believe in One Another

A key element of cultivating lasting friendships is knowing your sibling believes in and supports you. I like to tell my kids, "You are for each other." When children want the best for their brothers and sisters, they give each other the benefit of the doubt when there are misunderstandings. And, unfortunately, misunderstandings do happen. We can help our children see past each others' offenses by understanding that they are not competing against each other. Siblings who learn to repent, confess, and forgive can instead become for one another.

It is important to help your children stay focused on building friendships within their family. Remind them throughout the days and months that God has a purpose in giving them the brothers and sisters they have. Each child has a role to play within the family. It requires intentionality and effort on your part, but looking back I can honestly tell you the rewards are immeasurable. As adults, they know their siblings will always be there for them. By developing trust, encouraging communication, celebrating differences, providing shared experiences, resolving conflict, and believing in each other, your children will have the tools they need to enjoy rich relationships that can stand the test of time. I hope these principles will help you teach your children how to build close sibling relationships. ■



Connie Albers is the author of *Parenting Beyond the Rules* and host of the "Equipped To Be with Connie Albers" podcast. Readers can find her at conniealbers.com.

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THREATS TO HOMESCHOOL FREEDOM

A CONCISE ANALYSIS

— Kylene Varner

Homeschooling represents one of the last bastions

of educational freedom in the United States. Unlike government-funded education, homeschooling families, particularly in Indiana, function without government oversight, curriculum standards, or state standardized testing. This freedom stems from two constitutional pillars: religious liberty under the First Amendment (*Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 1972) and parental rights implied in the Fourteenth Amendment (*Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 1925), which established that "the child is not the mere creature of the state."

However, homeschool freedom faces increasing challenges. This article identifies and analyzes these threats, using recent developments in Indiana as a case study while examining broader national trends that could fundamentally alter home education in America.

CURRENT THREATS TO HOMESCHOOL FREEDOM

Legislative Challenges

Recent legislative sessions have witnessed attempts to increase regulation of homeschooling. In Indiana, Senate Bill 483, titled "Regulation of Homeschooling," ostensibly addressed public school absenteeism but targeted parents who withdraw children to homeschool.

More alarming is the proposed "Make Homeschool Safe Act," which would impose unprecedented restrictions nationwide, including:

- Requiring parents to possess a high school diploma or equivalent
- Forty-two states have no parental minimum education requirement.
- Mandating supervision by "qualified educational professionals" for parents without such credentials
- Prohibiting withdrawal to homeschool for three years if a family has been investigated for abuse or neglect, even in unsubstantiated cases
- Requiring annual notification, in-person evaluations, and potential termination of homeschooling
- Mandatory immunizations with documentation submission

These provisions represent a significant departure from current practices in most states and would substantially curtail homeschool freedom.

Most recently, Illinois homeschooling has come under attack with HB 2827 titled "Homeschool Act." Despite more than 130,000 opposing slips, legislators continue to push the narrative that homeschooled children are suffering from educational neglect and maltreatment.

Diploma Discrimination

As participation in non-government funded education grows, so does diploma discrimination. Over the past decade, graduates from nonaccredited nonpublic schools, including homeschools, have faced increasing discrimination from law enforcement, government institutions, retailers, higher education institutions, professional schools, and military branches.

This discrimination undermines the legitimacy of home education and threatens graduates' future prospects. Indiana's House Bill 1348 aims to address this by affirming that diplomas from such schools are legally sufficient to demonstrate completion of high school requirements.

Institutional Bias

Several influential institutions have expressed opposition to homeschool freedom:

- The National Education Association regularly adopts resolutions claiming homeschooling families "cannot provide the student with a comprehensive education experience" and advocates for licensed instructors and state-approved curricula.
- Academic institutions like Harvard Law School have produced papers calling for presumptive bans on homeschooling, with exceptions only for parents who can "satisfy a burden of justification" (Elizabeth Bartholet).
- International organizations such as UNESCO have recommended using tax subsidies to bring private education under government control.

Financial Enticements

Government funding for homeschooling represents a subtle but significant threat. While financial assistance may appear beneficial, accepting government money typically leads to government control. As noted by Alex Newman, government money resembles "cheese in a mousetrap" – initially attractive but ultimately leading to increased regulation that undermines genuine educational choice.

The discrepancy in costs is notable: while public education costs approximately \$15,000 per student, homeschooling averages around \$600 per child. This cost-effectiveness comes with freedom from government interference.

Misconceptions and Harmful Narratives

Public officials and educators often perpetuate misconceptions about homeschooling such as:

- Homeschooling should be "rare" and cannot provide comprehensive education.
- Homeschooling represents an effort to "gut education and dumb-down our population."
- The assertion that parents cannot be trusted with their children's education.
- The portrayal of homeschooling as a potential cover for abuse or neglect.

CASE STUDY: INDIANA'S LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT

Indiana represents one of the most free states when it comes to homeschooling. This freedom stems from the absence of government funding.

However, even in this favorable environment, threats persist. The 124th General Assembly witnessed both positive and negative developments:

Positive

House Bill 1348: This legislation aims to protect graduates of nonaccredited nonpublic schools from diploma discrimination, affirming that administrators of such schools are legally sufficient to provide any educational documentation needed by the graduate such, as diplomas and transcripts.

Negative

Senate Bill 483: Titled "Homeschool Regulation" was presented as a bill addressing absenteeism in public schools. This bill targeted parents who withdraw children to homeschool. Homeschool representatives worked with the bill's author and the Department of Education to identify root causes and alternative solutions.

IDEOLOGICAL UNDERPINNINGS OF ANTI-HOMESCHOOL SENTIMENT

Opposition to homeschool freedom often stems from beliefs about family-state relations. Consider this statement from law professor Jim Dwyer: "The state needs to be the ultimate guarantor of a child's well-being... The reason the parent-child relationship exists is because the state confers legal parenthood on people through its paternity and maternity laws." This perspective places the state as the primary authority over children rather than recognizing the natural rights of parents.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTING HOMESCHOOL FREEDOM

Maintain Vigilance & Engage with Legislators: Freedom requires constant protection, and building relationships with elected officials helps ensure that homeschool perspectives are considered in policy discussions. Organizations like **IAHE Action** demonstrate the importance of monitoring legislative developments.

Resist Government Funding: Despite financial appeal, accepting government money always leads to government control. **Nicki Truesdell, Alex Newman, and Schoolhouse Rocked** are great resources on this topic.

Address Misconceptions: Homeschool families should actively counter false narratives about educational quality and child welfare. **NHERI** and **Homeschooling Backgrounder** offer helpful studies and articles.

CONCLUSION

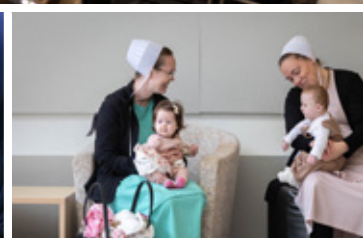
The threats to homeschool freedom are real and multifaceted. From explicit legislative challenges to subtle pressures through institutional bias and financial enticements, homeschool autonomy faces continuous challenges. However, the constitutional foundation remains strong when supported by engaged advocacy and vigilant protection of parental rights. Maintaining homeschool liberty requires ongoing effort, informed engagement with the legislative process, and commitment to protecting educational choice from government encroachment.

Freedom isn't free, Indiana. Stay vigilant. ■



Kylen Varner sits on the IAHE Action Board of Directors and serves as a policy analyst. She also serves as the Legislative Liaison to both IAHE and IAHE Action.

2025 IAHE Confer



Conference Recap!

Photos provided by Lenspiration



Indiana Association of Home Educators'

 Parenting and
Homeschool Conference

We are taking our annual IAHE
conference on the road! Join us
for this new journey as we
tour Indiana!

iahe.net/iahe-events



French Lick
March 13-14, 2026

Todd Wilson



Kathy Koch



An event for the whole family!





Enjoying Poetry Studies

— Bethany Stanley

Feeling intimidated or stressed

about studying poetry? Spring is the perfect time to head outside for enjoyable, stress-free poetry discussions - so grab a blanket and some tasty treats to share! Poetry offers a fun way to introduce children to enriching vocabulary, practice speaking skills, and enhance reading fluency. For older children, it is an excellent opportunity to analyze a poem and discuss the techniques. There is no need to overthink or stress; this can be a delightful experience for you and your children. It's a moment to relax, enjoy creative works, and cherish each other's company. Here are some ideas to help guide your discussion.

What Poem Should I Read?

If poetry feels intimidating, start by sharing a few poems together. A visit to the library or an internet search can lead you to poets like Robert Frost, Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Browning, and many others!

If your children are new to poetry, keep it simple by encouraging them to share favorite parts or discuss why they didn't like certain sections. Don't hesitate to model this by sharing your favorite lines and how the poem made you feel. As you become more comfortable, ask questions about what is happening in the poem and explore various techniques used. Here are some ideas using a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson.

The Swing by Robert Louis Stevenson

*How do you like to go up in a swing,
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!*

*Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—*

*Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!*

How do you like to go up in a swing Up in the air so blue

Discussion Questions

Try to weave in the discussions questions below as prompts to the flow of conversation rather than quizzing them.

What image does this poem bring to mind? *A child swinging in a garden area, perhaps in a fenced area.*

Do you enjoy swinging? What do you see when you swing really high?

What time of the year do you think it is? *Probably spring since Stevenson states a "garden green."*

Poetic Structure and Techniques

As you gain confidence in discussing poetry, take time to analyze the poem's structure. When poems are read aloud, they possess a rhythm or melody that can convey deeper meanings. This flow of sound is created through various techniques and structural elements, such as stanzas, line length, meter, and rhyme. Remember, there's no need to mechanically go through these questions. Approach it like a detective, examining why the poet chose certain techniques and considering how these choices enhance the poem.

Stanzas - A stanza is a group of lines that function like a paragraph in poetry. Poets are often deliberate on the number of stanzas they use. Consider asking your children "Why would Stevenson select three stanzas?" The use of three stanzas could represent the ascent of the swing into the air, the maximum height the child reaches, and finally, the descent back down.

Number of lines - In *The Swing*, there are four lines per stanza, also referred to as a quatrain, which is a simple and common structure used by poets. This simple structure has a very sing-song like pattern, which compliments the light heartedness of the child swinging in the poem.

Rhyme Scheme - Although not all poems have a rhyme scheme, many poets use rhyme to enhance the melody or flow of their work. Stevenson employed an ABAB CDCD EFEF rhyme scheme, as demonstrated with the following pairs of words: swing/thing, blue/do, wall/all, wide/side, and brown/down. This rhyming scheme adds to the childlike innocence of a simple sing-song pattern.

Anaphora - The repetition of words or phrases at the beginning or multiple lines is known as anaphora. Stevenson repeatedly uses "Up in the air.." in the first and second stanzas and twice in the final stanza. This repetition of "Up in the air..." mimics the repetition of swinging up and down.

Assonance - Assonance is when words containing the same repeated vowel sounds are close together. Look at the second line of the third stanza. You can hear the "o" sound being used repeatedly in this line, dragging out the process of the swing falling from its highest height.

Double Meaning - Poets often use words with double meanings to enhance the imagery or add deeper significance to their poems. Stevenson used the word "green" to describe the garden. This term can represent both a color and concepts like youth or new growth. Stevenson likely chose "green" deliberately to emphasize the themes of childhood innocence and the simple joy of swinging. Additionally, the use of "green" disrupts the rhyme scheme, which may further illustrate its importance in symbolizing youth..

Growing with Poetry

Poetry is an art form of language, and like other art forms, it's about both the author's intent and the reader's interpretation. To grasp the poet's intent, it's helpful to learn about the poet's life, culture, beliefs, language or dialect, and the period in which they lived. Words can change meaning over time and vary across cultures and translations.

Reading and appreciating poetry can feel intimidating, but it doesn't have to be. Start small by simply reading poems and reflecting on how it makes you feel. Just as with music or fine arts, there are no wrong answers when expressing your reactions to a poem. You can begin by focusing on aspects that are easy to identify, such as rhyme. As you build your confidence, dive deeper into more complex elements of poetry.

Discover other poetry by Robert Louis Stevenson in his poetry collection *A Child's Garden of Verses*. ■



Bethany Stanley became a volunteer for IAHE shortly after moving to Indiana from Texas with her family. Alongside her husband, Jonathan, they homeschool their three children, ages 8 to 13 years old. With a background in Cognitive Psychology, she loves incorporating various learning styles in her homeschool. Bethany also has a deep passion for encouraging the hearts of women as they walk through their motherhood journey.



Let's imagine something for a minute:

It's July. Your youngest is sitting in front of the TV, watching YouTube on the big screen; your middle daughter is lounging on the couch, scrolling on her phone; and your oldest son is still asleep after playing video games late into the night.

Not exactly the summer break you had planned, right?

The good news is this vision does not have to become your reality. You can have a summer filled with togetherness, outdoor adventures, and memory-making if you protect against one thing: screens.

Toxic screens like video games and smartphones are difficult to manage at any time of the year, but during the summer, setting and sticking to limits is practically impossible. The daily structure that defined your school year has been thrown out the window, leaving children with an abundance of downtime.

That's why, instead of setting the kitchen timer and arguing every time it goes off, I want you to try something different: I want you to remove the toxic screens from your home altogether.

I have been helping parents reclaim their homes from toxic screens for over a decade now, and I promise you, there is no better time for a screen detox than the summer. This summer can be more than just another season; it can be the beginning of a whole new chapter for your family. All it takes is a little planning and a few pro tips.

Tips for a Screen-Free Summer

1. Fire the digital babysitters.

- iPads and TV are often digital babysitters. It's easier than you think to send them packing, especially during the summer when the weather is nice.
- Get rid of the iPad. Send it to live with a neighbor or relative, or sell it outright.
- Remove TVs from bedrooms or anywhere but the living room. Make a point to watch TV together as a family instead of in isolation.
- Never start the day with TV. The first hour of the morning sets the tone for the rest of the day.
- Keep the remote hidden or not easily accessible. This prevents the TV from becoming a go-to activity at every moment of boredom.

2. Send smartphones & game consoles on vacation.

- This transition will be easier for younger children, but even older children will adapt within a few weeks (and be happier and healthier for it).
- Gather a few families to join you in a summer digital detox. Everything is more fun with friends.
- Use a basic talk-text phone as a shared house phone and keep it in a central location, like the kitchen, when not in use.
- Sell your video game consoles and let your kids use the money to buy something from a sports or hobby store.

3. Help your kids fill their downtime productively.

- After a few months free from the pull of toxic screens, your children will have all kinds of ways to fill their downtime productively. At the beginning, though, you need to acknowledge they don't have these skills—yet. You need to be their scaffolding, supporting them until they can ultimately support themselves.
- Consider getting a pet. Training a dog and caring for a pet is a perfect summer activity!
- Have your kids get a job this summer. They can do house and pet sitting, yard work, or other age-appropriate tasks.
- Fire the housekeeper and pay your kids to deep clean, do their laundry, organize the garage, paint the deck, etc.
- Take on a project together. Schedule time to work on the go-kart (or other project), read, bike ride, and work in the yard.

4. Educate your kids about your decisions.

- Removing the devices and filling mindless screen time with productive, real-world activities is a great start to becoming screen-free—but it isn't enough. Your kids also need to know the why behind your decision. ScreenStrong's Kids' Brains & Screens series can help by explaining the brain science behind screen overuse in a way that kids can understand, empowering them to get on board with new screen rules and make healthier decisions.
- Our KBS series contains both a Student and Home Edition. The Student version is a full, 8-week curriculum perfect for middle and high schools (or homeschooling families of middle and high school students!), while our new Home Edition offers a more compact version of the lessons in our Student course, without the quizzes and worksheets, great for kids to read on their own over the summer break.

Don't Let Screens Steal Another Summer

After all, you only get so many of them before your kids are out of your house. Don't fill yours with the empty calories of YouTube, social media, and video games. Go screen-free and give your kids a summer they will remember forever—and thank you for later. ■



Melanie Hempe used her nursing background after her son dropped out of college due to video game addiction to help families understand the science behind screen overuse and make lifestyle changes to prevent and reverse screen addiction. Learn more at ScreenStrong.org or listen to the ScreenStrong Families podcast.



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Muncie, IN 47303

*Resources for those new to homeschooling
as well as veteran homeschoolers looking
for different materials and resources.*

- Mom's support group
- Office equipment co-op (laminator, paper cutter, hole punch, etc.)
- Lab equipment co-op (microscope, dissection tools, prepared slides, etc.)
- Sample copies of different curriculum for you to preview and order directly from the publisher or resellers
- New curriculum
- Used curriculum

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A young child with light brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a yellow button-down shirt over a grey t-shirt, is crouching on a green lawn. The child is smiling and looking up at the camera. In the background, a large American flag is spread out on the grass. The legs and white sneakers of several people are visible around the child, suggesting a group gathering or picnic.

RAISING *Government* SMART KIDS

— Dwayne & Melissa Sawyer

America is the most excellent place to live on Earth. The framers of our Constitutional Republic, founded on our Constitution and Declaration of Independence, created a government system that is the world's envy. Our enlightened citizens reflect their appreciation and knowledge of this. In the article, *New Study Finds Alarming Lack of Civic Literacy Among Americans*, published by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation in February 2024, the foundation published the following results from their comprehensive study.

Highlights of the study include:

More than 70% of Americans fail a basic civic literacy quiz on topics like the three branches of government and the number of Supreme Court justices.

One in three did not know there are three branches of government.

Only half were able to correctly name the branch of government where bills become laws.

Two-thirds of Americans say they studied civics in high school, but just 25% say they are “very confident” they could explain how our system of government works.

In the article cited above, Hilary Crow, head of the U.S. Chamber Foundation’s The Civic Trust, was quoted, “Without reversing these deficiencies in understanding how our government works, we are risking the long-term health of our civic culture and democracy itself.”

While I still believe we live in the greatest country in the world, we have a long way to go to raise the knowledge of how this “democracy” (I mean, Constitutional Republic) works among our citizens.

Responsible Citizenship

We live in this society. We work in this society. We make money, spend money, and pay taxes in this society. We should know how this society operates. To get our driver’s license, we had to learn how to drive, study the traffic laws, and know how our car works. We had to pass a test to show we were proficient drivers to get the license. Some of us were taught how to change the oil and change a flat tire. Not all of us can change the transmission or brakes, but we know how to put gas in the car and when to get an oil change.

The same basic knowledge needed to drive should be true of how America works. Being a responsible citizen means knowing how the government works. Participating in the political process includes more than just voting every two or four years. Our basic civic knowledge needs to increase. We need to learn the three branches of government. We need to know their roles and responsibilities. Understanding why we have checks and balances built into our government increases our knowledge to make informed decisions. Teaching students about how this country works, increasing their civic knowledge, they will grow up to be responsible citizens, filled with knowledge to make informed choices.

Biblical Foundation

We are the land of the free and the home of the brave. Ronald Reagan said, “Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God is acknowledged.” But we also are a people under authority. That authority was instituted by God. We read in Romans 13 that everyone is subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. God has established our authorities, our government, for our good and we need to submit and follow the laws established.

With this as the foundation, being knowledgeable, responsible citizens helps to ensure we get the government and society God wants. Not all laws and policies passed do we agree with. Some politicians we like and some we do not like. Teaching our children to engage in their civic duties, such as voting or advocating for moral policies, we help shape the laws and systems that reflect



Biblical moral order. We all can foster a culture honoring him and benefiting all of society.

TeenPact

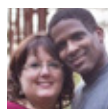
One avenue to raise knowledgeable and responsible citizens is TeenPact. TeenPact Leadership Schools are in all 50 states with a 27-year history. With the motto of “Changing Lives to Change the World,” TeenPact has trained thousands of young people to be better citizens and stronger Christians. This week-long program is for students aged 8 to 19, who often return year after year to learn not just about politics, but also how their state and federal governments operate, and how they can take on leadership roles now. TeenPact is not just teaching young people about government; it is nurturing future leaders who are both knowledgeable and faithful. Fun, life-long friendships, leadership and service opportunities are had along the way.

Conclusion

Raising children with a strong understanding of government and their civic responsibilities is essential for the future of our Constitutional Republic. The current state of civic knowledge in America is not just a gap—it is a chasm that threatens the very fabric of our constitutional republic. As homeschool parents, we have a unique opportunity to instill not only academic knowledge but also a deep appreciation for the principles that make America great. Teaching our children about the three branches of government, the importance of checks and balances, and their role as responsible citizens, we equip them to make informed decisions and actively contribute to society.

Programs like TeenPact provide an invaluable resource in this endeavor. With its hands-on approach to learning about state and federal government, leadership training, and emphasis on Christian values, TeenPact inspires young people to engage meaningfully with the political process while developing lifelong friendships and leadership skills. Through experiences like these, our children can grow into knowledgeable, confident citizens who honor God and positively impact their communities.

Let us continue to guide our children toward responsible citizenship rooted in Biblical truth, ensuring they are prepared to lead with wisdom and integrity in the years to come. ■



Dwayne and Melissa Sawyer are former homeschool parents who have been involved in homeschool co-ops and civic organizations, sharing their mission: equipping the next generation—especially Gen Z—with the skills to be engaged and responsible citizens. They currently serve as State Coordinators for TeenPact Indiana Leadership School (teenpact.com), continuing their passion for mentoring young leaders.

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Summer Learning Fun with Contests

Helpful tips to make contests fun:

- Let your student choose the contest that most interests them, even if you like a certain contest better.
- Choose contests with deadlines that work in your family's schedule. Stress and time pressure will not make this enjoyable.
- Make research a family affair. Look up articles and documentaries together. Model a love of learning. You may even find a person to interview as you collect information.
- Assure your student that winning is not the ultimate goal. The journey is the goal, and if they win in the process, hooray! Praise them for their hard work.

Check out some exciting contests your students could enter this summer:



Find the links here

Indiana State Fair - Creative Arts and Essay Contest

Age Range: K-12th grades

Deadline: June 2025

Maria W. Faust Sonnet Contest

Age Range: all ages

Deadline: June 1, 2025

SAR Elementary Poster Contest

Age Range: 3rd - 5th grades

Deadline: June 1, 2025

SAR Middle School Brochure Contest

Age Range: middle school

Deadline: June 1, 2025

Jane Austen Society of North America - Essay Contest

Age Range: high school - graduate school

Deadline: June 2, 2025

Ocean Awareness Contest

Age Range: 11-18 years old

Deadline: June 9, 2025

Jane Austen of North American - Young Filmmakers Contest

Age Range: 30 years or younger

Deadline: June 20, 2025

Future Scholar Foundation - Writing Contest

Age Range: all students

Deadline: 28th of each month

Indiana Agriculture Photo Contest

Age Range: all ages

Deadline: June 30, 2025

Poetry Society of Indiana Young Voices Annual Poetry Contest

Age Range: 3rd-12th grades

Deadline: September 20, 2025

Patriot's Pen - Patriotic Written Essay

Age Range: 9th-12th grades

Deadline: October 31, 2025

Voice of Democracy - Patriotic Audio Essay

Age Range: 9th-12th grades

Deadline: October 31, 2025

The IAHE does not endorse the organizations or contests, and the content provided is for information only.



History Spotlight

Indiana Constitution — of 1816 —

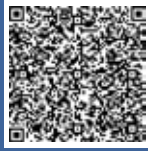
Indiana's first constitutional convention

began on June 10, 1816. A total of 43 delegates from across the Indiana Territory gathered in Corydon, the territory's capital, to establish the state constitution and government. The delegates were elected to represent their respective counties at the convention. These 43 delegates came from diverse backgrounds, including farmers, preachers, judges, and physicians.

One of the key factors influencing decisions made during the convention was the frustration and struggles faced by the Indiana settlers regarding government representation during the territorial years. These factors prompted them to adopt the American system of checks and balances, distributing the powers of state government among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Moreover, all of these positions would be elected rather than appointed.

Take some time to explore the Indiana Constitution of 1816. Below are some discussion questions and a suggestion for a field trip to help your family delve into Indiana's rich history, the founding of its statehood, and the rights and freedoms that were prioritized.

Check out the full text of the
Indiana Constitution of 1816



Discussion:

- Identify the three branches of the state government and name the basic services the constitution provides. (See Articles II - IV of the constitution)
- Like the U.S. Constitution, the Indiana Constitution of 1816 included a Bill of Rights. Read through Article I and discuss or create an illustration of the freedoms that are most important to you.
- Older Students: Study both the Constitution of 1816 and the revisions in 1851. Research the differences and what prompted the state to make the changes in 1851. (Answers can vary. Changes in 1851 included ways to decrease government spending, increase in the number of elected officials, changes in voting rights, and public education. Reasons for the 1851 revisions include the increase in population, the addition of new counties, the shift of settlement to central and north parts of the state, the shift of agriculture to manufacturing, economic difficulties of the 1840s, the changing politics of a more diverse population, etc.)

Field Trip Destination - Corydon, IN

Corydon Capitol Building

Consider visiting the Indiana Territory's capitol building, where the delegates gathered to draft the constitution. While there, check out the "Constitution Elm," under which the delegates met in the shade of the large elm to discuss the constitution. You can also view the 1815 Census that established the required population for statehood.

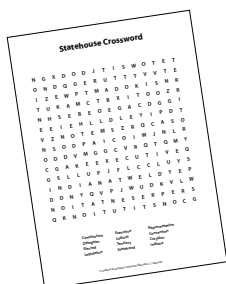


**Remember with an IAHE Membership, you can receive a free homeschool parent admission to Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites! (Must show your IAHE membership card.)*

Special Event - June 13, 2025

Live History: Constitutional Convention and The Elm (Ages 10 and up)

Travel back to the summer of 1816 in the little town of Corydon where the constitution for our soon-to-be state of Indiana is being created. Explore the topics that the framers of Indiana's constitution addressed and visit the Constitution Elm. Each participant will go home with a booklet about the Indiana State Constitution and a real piece of the Constitution Elm! ■

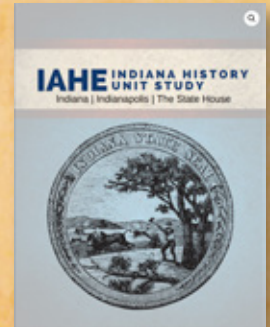


Want more
Indiana history fun?

Find a crossword puzzle here:



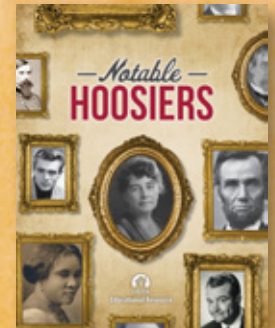
Want to learn more about Indiana's History?



Indiana State House



The History of Voting in Indiana



Notable Hoosiers

Check out more of IAHE's Unit Studies!

Exploring Indiana State Parks

Indiana State Symbols

Indiana Limestone

Who Works at the Statehouse?



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IAHE Summer Reading Challenge



*"Nothing ever invented provides such sustenance,
such infinite reward for time spent, as a good book."*

— David McCullough

It's time for the 2025 Annual IAHE Summer Reading Challenge! Dive into adventures, biographies, picture books, and more. Create lasting memories as you bond over a story together this summer.

What you get:

Reading log
Tips for making reading exciting
Book ideas for all ages
A chance to win a prize



**Get yours at
[iahe.net/
summer-reading](http://iahe.net/summer-reading)**





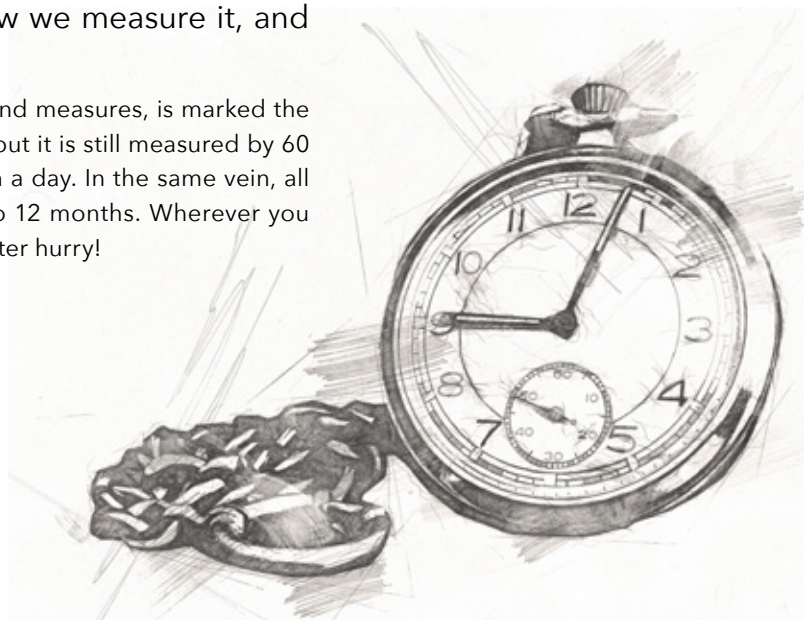
Spring Forward

— A Time-Based Unit Study —

— Joann Burnside Hoyt

Time flies when you are having fun! Have you ever heard that phrase? Do you know where it originated? Can time actually move faster? In this unit study, we will explore the concept of time: how we mark its passing, how we measure it, and even how it affects our politics and economy.

It is interesting to note that time, unlike money or weights and measures, is marked the same way all across the globe. It may be stated differently, but it is still measured by 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour, and 24 hours in a day. In the same vein, all across the globe, there are 365 days in a year, divided into 12 months. Wherever you travel, if you have 5 minutes before the store closes, you better hurry!



Types of Clocks

How do we measure time during the day? While the methods of timekeeping have evolved from ancient sundials to modern atomic clocks, the purpose remains unchanged: to organize and quantify time. Below are the various types of modern clocks that can be found in the world today.

Analog: An analog clock is the most recognized type of clock in the world, characterized by its circular face with numbers and moving hands. It marks the passage of time through the physical motion of its hands. An analog clock is divided into 12 segments, with each segment representing 30 degrees. It utilizes a system of moving gears to measure time accurately.

Digital: A digital clock is an electronic device that measures time using a microprocessor. This microprocessor receives signals from an oscillator to create a timing signal at precise intervals. The time is displayed in numerical form, typically on LED or LCD screens. Digital clocks can be powered by batteries or other sources of electricity.

Atomic: An atomic clock operates on the principle that atoms have different energy levels. It measures time by tracking the resonant frequency of these atoms. This frequency is extremely precise and serves as the foundation for the International System of Units, which defines exactly what a second is.

Pendulum: A pendulum clock, such as a cuckoo or grandfather clock, is another example of how physical movement is used to keep time. A pendulum is a swinging weight that moves back and forth at a precise interval. This interval is determined by the pendulum's length, which resists swinging at any other rate. Because external movements can disrupt the accuracy of the swing, pendulum clocks must remain stationary.

Activity Time!

Eye-spy: Make a list of all the clocks you can find in one week's time, whether it is in person, in a photo, in a movie, or in a show. Decide if the clock is electronic or physical. Make a note of where and/or who is using the clock and for what purpose.



How's It Work? Find an old watch or clock

that is truly analog and take it apart. Thrift stores and garage sales are great places to look. Pay attention to the inner workings; the gears, springs and other parts and pieces that make it work. If you can't find one to take apart, find a diagram of a clock and study the intricate workings.



Government/Economics

Daylight saving time (DST) is a heated topic that comes up at least twice a year. The question often arises: Is daylight actually saved? The state of Indiana has had an on-and-off again relationship with DST since 1917. The state's current acceptance of DST began in 2005.

Indiana is uniquely positioned on the dividing line between two time zones: Central Standard Time and Eastern Standard Time. This situation has led to confusion and complications for businesses on the western side of Indiana that engage in trade with companies in bordering Illinois within the Central Time zone,



particularly around Chicago, which is a major business hub. Over the years, many people have suggested that Indiana should adopt Central Time; however, this raises concerns for businesses on the state's eastern side.

Activity Time!

History of DST: Research how many times DST has been implemented and revoked in Indiana. Identify the groups that supported and opposed daylight saving time in the state.



Opinion Time! In your opinion, should

Indiana be on Central or Eastern time? Why? Research the debate within the state government and make a list of reasons given for each side of the argument. Compare and contrast them with the reasons you came up with for your preferred time zone.



Pop Culture/Literature

The idea of time, the passing of time, and even time travel have long captivated the imaginations of writers and filmmakers. No matter what period of history we live in, people seem to have a fascination with time. In Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, time appears to stand still for Ebenezer Scrooge as he learns a crucial lesson about life. In the movie series *Back to the Future*, Marty McFly travels back and forth in time to save his family and his future. *Dr. Who*, a very popular British TV show, is based on traveling through time and space in a machine that looks like a British police telephone call box. In the *Chronicles of Narnia* books written by CS Lewis, all of the adventures take place in another world, yet only mere moments have passed when the children return to their world of WWII England. *Hickory Dickory Dock*, a well-known children's rhyme, uses a pendulum clock as a playground for mice. *Around the World in 80 Days* is a story about accomplishing a task in a relatively short amount of time, less time than it had ever been done before.

Activity Time!

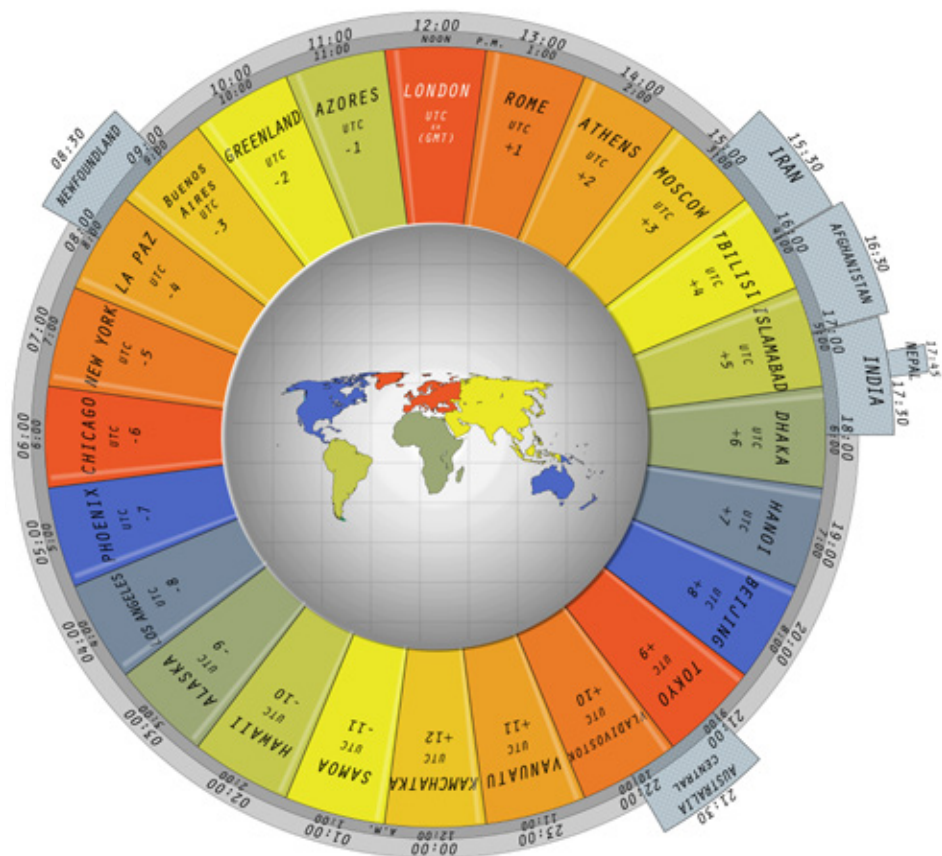
Movie Time! Choose one or more of these titles to read or watch. Write a brief synopsis of how time affected the storyline and main characters.



Sports of All Sorts: Sporting events are played

and watched all over the world. Many sports or athletic events are either limited by a set time frame or won by the participant who completes the task in the shortest time. Make one list of timed sporting events and another list of sports that are based on the fastest time. Then, choose one from each list and learn the rules of that sport/athletic competition. Learn how the events are timed. What is the method of marking time, and what kind of clock is used?





International Date Line

While the world acknowledges the division of days and months, not every country shares the same calendar date at the same time. The International Date Line is an imaginary line that extends from the North Pole to the South Pole, marking the boundary between one calendar day and the next. It roughly follows the 180-degree longitude line, passing through the Pacific Ocean and curving around certain territories and islands to prevent them from being split into two different calendar dates.

When crossing the line from east to west, you advance the calendar date by one day, while crossing from west to east subtracts one day. For instance, if you take a flight departing from South Africa on May 15 and land in Australia before midnight, you will arrive on May 16. However, if you fly back to South Africa from Australia on May 20, you will land in South Africa on May 19.

It's important to note that this is not a strict law, but rather a cartographic (mapmaking) convention, which means that the exact placement of the imaginary line can sometimes be called into question.



Activity Time!

Jet-Setter: For an interesting exploration, consider looking at flights between two countries situated on opposite sides of the date line. Plan a mock business or professional trip that takes you across the International Date Line. Explain how much additional time you need to allocate for travel (including time zones and the International Date Line). ■



Joann Burnside Hoyt lives in NW Indiana. Her real-world experiences as a Christian wife, mother, widow, 27-year home educator, grandmother, small business owner, and now wife once more, all combine to "work together for good" as she draws from her life to bring humor and hope to her audience.

Field Trip Ideas



Indianapolis Children's Museum Indianapolis, IN

In addition to a variety of fascinating exhibits, the Children's Museum in Indianapolis features a two-story-tall water clock. This unique installation consists of numerous glass globes filled with colored water, which empty at regular intervals. If possible, plan your visit to be near the clock at 1 p.m. to witness all the globes of water empty back into the main sphere.



Indiana State Museum Indianapolis, IN

You can view the Foucault Pendulum in the center of the museum. A 235-pound ball swings on a cable and knocks down a peg every 8.3 minutes.



Center of Science and Industry Columbus, OH

When you enter this facility, look to the right, and you will see a pendulum hanging almost 40 feet above the floor. This pendulum clock measures the passage of each day by knocking over a steel ball every 7 minutes or so.



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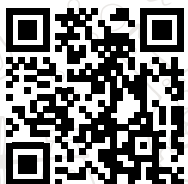
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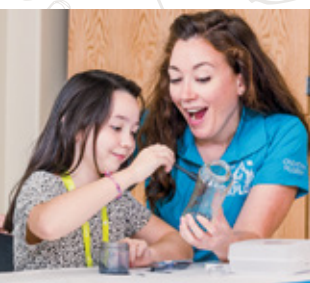
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