Moving Beyond the Page

Learning Centers

Homeschooling Is Better with Friends
A Moving Beyond the Page Learning Center is a local group of homeschoolers who meet together for classes two days each week and homeschool the other three days.

**COMPREHENSIVE COURSES**

All Learning Center courses are comprehensive and are designed to cover one or more subject areas for a full year of academic instruction in

- science,
- social studies, and/or
- language arts.

Each Learning Center course consists of **72 classes** that are designed to be taught over a **36 week school year**.

**GREAT FOR HOMESCHOOL STUDENTS**

Moving Beyond the Page Learning Centers will help to ensure that you are providing the best for your children by combining the advantages of homeschooling with those of small group learning. Your children will continue to receive the one-on-one instruction that is such a valuable part of homeschooling, but they will also interact with students their age through:

- group discussions,
- sharing of ideas and projects,
- cooperative learning, and
- public speaking.

**GREAT FOR HOMESCHOOL PARENTS**

Moving Beyond the Page Learning Centers will also benefit homeschooling parents with opportunities to:

- utilize classroom teaching skills,
- take a much needed break, or
- even earn a part- or full-time income.

Parents and students will benefit by being part of a meaningful learning community where strong relationships and a support system will be developed.
There are 3 primary types of Learning Centers.

**LEARNING CENTER CO-OP**

Parents in a Learning Center Co-Op share the teaching responsibilities with other members. This type of Learning Center can be less expensive than the other two types that may require paid teachers, but it will require a higher time commitment on the part of the families involved. Learning Center Co-Ops are free to choose only the courses that they are interested in providing.

**HOME-BASED LEARNING CENTERS**

A Home-Based Learning Center will look very similar to the Learning Center Co-Op, except that instead of parents splitting the teaching duties, there is a single teacher who teaches all of the classes. This teacher may be one of the parents or an outside teacher that the Home-Based Learning Center brings in. Home-Based Learning Centers will be a bit more expensive than a co-op because members will also have to pay for a teacher, but since classes occur in a home, there is no cost for building or facilities. This is a great opportunity for homeschool parents with strong teaching skills to put their skills to use, and they can even make some extra money while homeschooling their own children. Like the Learning Center Co-Op, a Home-Based Learning Center will probably be organized around a small offering of classes that will most likely reflect the needs of the organizer’s children.

**COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS**

A Community Learning Center is a more ambitious undertaking that will require more planning and coordination. This type of Learning Center will probably (but not necessarily) meet in a public building like a church or community center. The main difference between a Community and a Home-Based Learning Center will be the thoroughness of its course offerings. Instead of being based around the needs of specific families, the Community Learning Center will offer courses that cover most or all of the age levels and subjects available. Some Community Learning Centers will recruit teachers from among its parents, while others will hire teachers who may work full- or part-time teaching Community Learning Center courses. Moving Beyond the Page is providing the curriculum and the structure, but how individual coordinators choose to structure their own schools is flexible. Some of the additional cost of renting space in public buildings may be offset through our volume discounts. All Community Learning Centers will have a discount rate for their members that is based on a mix of the number of students signed up during the previous year and a positive score on a feedback survey.
Students meet for Learning Center classes 2 days per week and homeschool the other 3 days.

**A Week In The Life**

The next two pages will walk you through a week in the life of Learning Center student. This is the second week of a Learning Center for an 8 year-old enrolled in both the Age 7-9 Language Arts course and the Age 7-9 Science / Social Studies course. In this example Learning Center classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday. Language Arts runs from 9:00 - 10:30 AM. After a short break, the Science / Social Studies class runs from 10:45 AM - 12:15 PM. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday the student will have reading assignments and activities to complete at home.

In Language Arts the class is going through a literature unit for the book *Tornado*. In Science / Social Studies they are studying weather.

### Monday (At Home)

- On Monday, the student will read Chapter 5 in the novel *Tornado* and answer a few questions in his journal. In this chapter of the book, the dog Tornado encounters a turtle. The student will follow up the reading with research about turtles, and he will complete a vocabulary activity.
- For Science and Social Studies, the student will read about the Sun and learn about temperature from the book *Weather and Climate*. Then he will look at the differences between the Fahrenheit and Celsius temperature scales. He will finish the day with a related math activity that asks children to tell the temperature based on the number of times a cricket chirps in 15 seconds.

### Tuesday (At Learning Center)

- On Tuesday, the student will attend a 1 ½ hour class for Language Arts. In this class, he will learn about myths by reading the book *How the Turtle Got Its Shell*. After discussing the elements of a myth, the student will write his own myth with the guidance and support of the teacher. He will be encouraged to be creative, provide relevant details, remain focused, and connect ideas together.
- After a short break, it is time for the Science lesson. Students will begin by writing either a paragraph or a poem about what they feel is perfect weather. Then they play a game that gives them practice reading a thermometer and picking the right clothing for any given temperature. Finally, students will play a game of charades based upon the average temperatures in their town at different times of the year.
**Wednesday (At Home)**

- On Wednesday, your child will read and answer questions about Chapter 6 of the book *Tornado*. He will then be introduced to the story element of "conflict." He will learn what conflict is and how to identify the conflict in any story, and he will be asked to describe the conflict occurring in *Tornado*. If the student did not not finish writing his own turtle myth in class, he will finish this up at home today.
- In Science, the student will move on from temperature and begin learning about wind. After a short reading from the book *Weather and Climate*, you and your child will discuss the Beaufort scale and will use a few tricks to determine the current speed of the wind outside. Then your child will spend some time outside and will write a short journal entry about the wind and how it feels.

**Thursday (At Learning Center)**

- On Thursday the students in the Learning Center will take turns sharing the myths that they created regarding how turtles got their shells. They will then do an activity called “World’s Best Pet Award” focused on the dog in the novel. This will give them practice writing sentences and using adjectives. To end the class, they will spend time together on a turtle craft.
- In Science, students will perform a few experiments that uncover the effects of wind on different objects. Then they will build a weather vane that will show the direction of the wind.

**Friday (At Home)**

- On Friday, your child will begin preparing next week's lesson by reading Chapter 7 of *Tornado*, learning about the importance of word choice in writing, and exploring the story element of "setting."
- In Science your child will begin looking at different forms of precipitation through reading and an activity, and he will discuss with you how weather affects mood.
## Getting Started

Getting started with Moving Beyond the Page Learning Centers is easy.

## Finding a Learning Center

The first thing you should do is look for a Learning Center near you. To do this, just navigate a web browser to [www.movingbeyonddthepage.com/learningcenter](http://www.movingbeyonddthepage.com/learningcenter) and click the find button.

## Start a Learning Center

You may want to start your own Learning Center. You can get together with some friends and start a Learning Center Co-Op, or you can start your own Home-Based Learning Center and offer courses to your local homeschool community. If you are a bit more ambitious, you can look for space to start a Community Learning Center.

If you are interested in starting a Learning Center, you should definitely watch the videos we have prepared on this subject. Just go to our website at [www.movingbeyonddthepage.com/learningcenter](http://www.movingbeyonddthepage.com/learningcenter) and click the “Learning Center” tab. After you watch the videos, review the documentation that we have prepared to help you begin your Learning Center journey.