# Resource Ideas

If you are considering home education or you have been home educating for a while you may like to have additional information advice or guidance from others from time to time. The 'resources ideas' domain provides you with some handy links / contacts to some of the national, regional and local providers of services or support.

**This is only a selection from many that exists and therefore it does not set out to recommend any particular one, over another: you will have your own unique needs which only you can resolve, but advice and guidance from others may prove helpful.**

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**Tuition Courses by Home Educators for Home Educators**

* Catherine Mooney - a former home educating mum - offers IGCSE English Language (for Edexcel or Cambridge boards) and IGCSE English Literature (for Edexcel). There is also an Essay Writing course (for 12 +) and Word Weavers (a pre IGCSE English course for children aged 8 - 12).

You can see a summary of the differences between the exam board specifications for English Language on Catherine's website <http://www.catherinemooneytutoring.co.uk>

* Sam Martell Distance Learning Science Courses. Written for Home Educators by a Home Ed mum. Currently available Biology, Chemistry and Physics IGCSE for CIE and Edexcel and Double Award, Edexcel. Coming soon CIE Double Award and KS3 learning packs.

For more information please see Sam's website [http://www.sammartell.co.uk](http://www.sammartell.co.uk/) or email sammartellcourses@gmail.com

* Echo Education offers science courses see [www.echo.education](http://www.echo.education) or email at info@echo.education

**Creative Outdoor Learning**

We are a small business based in Lichfield, covering Staffordshire and the surrounding area.

We offer the following services which are ideal for children of all ages and adaptable to fit to various group sizes and locations.

• Forest School - This inspirational approach to learning is very beneficial to children of all ages as it supports their development and boosts self-confidence through outdoor based, small achievable tasks. It is usually carried out with small groups in a wooded area.

• Environmental education - Activities such as mini beast safaris, leaf or bark rubbings, natural artwork and colour games all fall into this area. These can be designed to tie in with educational themes. We can also design activities to complement activities already being carried out.

• Adult training - We can support adults with a bespoke package, whether it is a Forest School taster day or a range of outdoor based activities you can then pass on to your children.

To see the full range of our services, please see our website [www.creativeoutdoorlearning.co.uk](http://www.creativeoutdoorlearning.co.uk/) or call 0789 979 3967.

You can also find your local forest school: www.forestschools.com/find-your-local-forest-school/

**e-safety: Welcome to the thinkuknow website**

Come in to find the latest information on the sites you like to visit, mobiles and new technology. Find out what's good, what's not and what you can do about it. If you look after young people, there's an area for you too - with resources you can use at home or just to get with it. Most importantly, there's also a place which anyone can use to report if they feel uncomfortable or worried about someone they are chatting to online. Visit thinkuknow website <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

**NSPCC**

The NSPCC have information to support parents to keep their children safe online; please see the enclosed in this welcome pack or go to: nspcc.org.uk/o2

**Are you being Bullied?**

Bullying can happen to anyone at any age.  Being bullied at school, home or online might involve someone pushing you, hitting you, teasing you, talking about you or calling you names. No one has the right to hurt you or make you feel bad, and if you are being bullied you don't have to put up with it, you can talk to someone about it. Bullying can happen to anyone at any age
<http://www.childline.org.uk/explore/bullying/pages/bullying.aspx>

**Childline** - **0800 11 11** is the free telephone helpline for children and young people. Committed to improving the lives of young people. Visit the Childline website for more information, on-line support and resources
<http://www.childline.org.uk/pages/about.aspx>

**Know IT All for parents** contains advice for parents and carers, and a special section for children and young people
<http://www.childnet-int.org/kia/parents/cd/>

**Private Fostering** - private foster care

Many professionals who work with children will come across private fostering situations. Professionals in the education, health and social care fields therefore have a shared responsibility to work together to ensure that all privately fostered children are well cared for and are safeguarded from harm. DfE guidance (pdf) <https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/eOrderingDownload/PFL1-PDF1.pdf>

**Voluntary Sector**Parents are encouraged to avail themselves with advice and support from independent Home Education charitable groups:

**Education Everywhere**Launched in December 2007 "Education Everywhere" provides parents with reassurance and guidance on any educational concern.  The helpline service offers impartial advice and a friendly ear - ring anytime and speak to an experienced volunteer: all with considerable experience, knowledge, information ideas and endless patience. For more information visit Education Everywhere <http://www.educationeverywhere.co.uk/> or telephone 01942 897779 where a volunteer is waiting to help you.

**Education Otherwise**
http://www.education-otherwise.net
PO Box 325 Kings Lynn PE34 3XW
Helpline O845 478 6345 Largest UK membership organisation which provides support and information for families whose children are being educated at home. General information and contacts for local support groups.

There is a well working network of home education groups in the Staffordshire area which are run by dedicated families. We meet regularly for mutual support, organised educational activities, outings, and fun sessions for home educated children of all ages and their carers.

For details of these contact Astrid Brand Tel 08445 003963
email: eaststaffs-lc@educationotherwise.org

**South Cheshire home educators group** meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at:-
Yoxhall Village Hall
Crewe Road
Haslington
Cheshire
CW1 5QX

Contact Angela Evans, email:  homeedmum@talktalk.net.

<http://southcheshirehe.btck.co.uk/>

**ED Yourself - Home Education Consultancy**Fiona Nicholson is a home Educator and former Chair of Education Otherwise Government Policy: Fiona can provide you with a clear up-to-date analysis of the key areas of home education practice and policy in England <http://edyourself.org/>

**Home Education Advisory Service**
[http://www.heas.org.uk](http://www.heas.org.uk/)

P.O. Box 98

Welwyn Garden City

Herts

AL8 6AN

Phone/Fax: +44 (0)1707 371854

HEAS is a support group which offers information for home educators including advice about educational materials, resources, GCSE examinations, special educational needs, information technology, and legal matters.

Basic information about elective home education and local detail for families in Staffordshire.

**Home Education**<http://www.home-education.org.uk/>

Legal guidelines, mailing lists, chat, articles, events calendar, research questionnaire, FAQs, support group listings, Northern Ireland section, scrapbook, games, quizzes and other resources.

**HE Special UK**
<http://www.he-special.org.uk/>

Provides information, articles, resources and mailing list for parents of children with special needs who would like to educate at home.

**Home Education in the UK**
<http://home-ed.info/>

Information and resources for anyone interested in home education in Britain. Many articles about different aspects of education at home, ideas, and books.

**Choice In Education**
<http://www.choiceineducation.org.uk/>

Independent home education magazine. Provides legal guidelines for UK home educators.

**Freedom-in-education**
<http://www.freedom-in-education.co.uk/>

Articles and news about alternatives to school-based education, eg Montessori, Rudolph Steiner and the Waldorf method, with emphasis on education at home.

**Christian Home Education**
<http://www.homeschool.co.uk/>

Tips and resources for Christian home schooling.

**Islamic Home Education Advisory Network**
<http://www.islamichomeeducation.co.uk/>
Telephone and Newsletter support.

**Muslims and Home Education**
<http://www.muslimsandhomeeducation.com/index.html>
Muslims and Home Education was set up in December 2003 to support Muslim parents and carers.

**Muddle Puddle**
<http://www.muddlepuddle.co.uk/>
Home education resources and ideas for parents with younger children.

**Educational Heretics**
[http://edheretics.gn.apc.org](http://edheretics.gn.apc.org/)

Articles and books about home-education and alternative learning systems.

**Spearhead**
[www.advice-spearhead.org.uk](http://www.advice-spearhead.org.uk/)

Special education at home. Advice and information on special needs and disabilities.

**Autism West Midlands**

<http://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk>

Autism West Midlands aims to improve the quality of life for people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families by raising awareness of the condition and making provision for the individual needs of people with autistic spectrum disorders. We are the principal provider of autism-specific services for children and adults in the West Midlands region.

**Friends, Families and Travellers**
[www.gypsy-traveller.org/education/](http://www.gypsy-traveller.org/education/)

Tel: 01273 234777 (FFT) is an advice, information and training organisation providing a range of services, including educational advice, to all Travellers - whether traditional, new, settled or on the road.

**The National Association of Traveller Teachers**
[www.natt.org.uk](http://www.natt.org.uk/)

Tel: 01726 7713 NATT works to promote and improve the education of Travellers. They provide a national list of educational contacts for Travelling families.

**An international Dimension - on Homeschooling
Education Corner** [http://www.educationcorner.com/study-skills.html](http://www.educationcorner.com/study-skills.html%22%20%5Co%20%22educationcorner)

**Useful Website Addresses**

Please note some of these sites may charge for their support and resources.

* InterHigh is an online virtual school: [www.interhigh.co.uk](http://www.interhigh.co.uk)
* First College is also an online virtual school: [www.firstcollege.co.uk](http://www.firstcollege.co.uk)

The National Extension College – provides on line GCSE and exams taken as a correspondence course

Oxford Home Schooling provide resources and access to tutors for KS3, GCSE’s and A levels: [www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk](http://www.oxfordhomeschooling.co.uk)

Wolsey Hall Oxford International Home Schooling provide for ages 7 – 10 years: <http://wolseyhalloxford.org.uk>

IXL English and maths resources and activities for primary and secondary age young people: <http://uk.ixl.com>

The following resources are based on subscriptions but offer two weeks’ free trial:

Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress support reading activities from early years to age 13

Maths Whizz, Mathseeds and Mathlectics support maths activities

[www.edplace.com](http://www.edplace.com) provide home education resources for primary and secondary age young people following the UK curriculum for English, maths and science; there is a subscription payable for this service

BBC Bitesize provide UK curriculum for all key stages and is free to access.

[www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk): primary resources free for Early Years (EYFS), KS1 and KS2

Learn to code: [www.codeacademy.com](http://www.codeacademy.com)