Libraries play an important role in providing resources to those parents considering the option of homeschooling their children.

Experienced homeschool parents know this and make the library an integral part of the curriculum. To give a helping hand, I have listed several useful books for homeschool beginners as well as for the most experienced and everyone in between.

“The Homeschooling Option: How to Decide When it's Right for Your Family” by Lisa Rivero and “Homeschooling: Why and How” by Gail Nagasako are two books that will help you decide if homeschooling is really something you want to tackle.

“Beginner's Guide to Homeschooling” by Patrick Farenga and “Homeschooling FAQs: 101 Questions Every Homeschooling Parent Should Ask” by Tamra Orr contain answers to some of the many questions you might have as you take that giant step to teach at home.

“100 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum: Choosing the Right Curriculum and Approach for Your Child's Learning Style” by Cathy Duffy and “Homeschooling Methods: Seasoned Advice on Learning Styles” by general editors, Paul & Gena Suarez are guides you might want to consult when searching for the best lesson plans to follow.

“The Homeschooling Handbook: From Preschool to High School, a Parent's Guide” by Mary Griffith and “Homeschooling, the Middle Years: Your Complete Guide to Successfully Homeschooling the 8- to 12-year-old Child” by Shari Henry are both essential tools as you progress to higher grades.

“Practical Homeschooling [magazine]” is a publication filled with ideas and advice for parents. It contains recommended resource materials, articles written by professional instructors, and so much more.

Beginning in 2013, on Tuesdays, January 8 and 22 at 11am, the Aulds Library will offer

homeschool projects for ages 6-12 years old on various school subjects such as Science, Math, and Social Studies. Call Diane at (318) 742-2337 to find out more about this program.
Check at any of the library branches for more materials about homeschooling or go to the library website at www.bossierlibrary.org to access the online catalog.

Make a note:

- Dec. 5-31, there will be a life-size walk through Candy Land game at the Bossier Central Children's Library.

- Branches normally open until 8 p.m.or later will be closing at 7 p.m. during Bossier schools Christmas/New Year holidays. Those holiday weeks are: Christmas/New Years: Dec. 20 – Jan. 4, 2013. Normal hours resume Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

- All Bossier Libraries will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25 for the Christmas Holiday.

New Books

Fiction
"Bluegrass Undercover" by Kathleen Brooks
"Against the Tide" by Elizabeth Camden
"Beautiful Lies" by Clare Clark
"Following Your Heart, Book 2" by Jerry S. Eicher
"Dead Weight" by Susan Rogers Cooper
"Some Kind of Fairy Tale" by Graham Joyce
"Triplets find a Mom" by Annie Jones
"Sleep No More" by Iris Johansen
"The Bloodletters' Daughter" by Linda Lafferty
"Live by Night" by Dennis Lehane

Nonfiction
"Phake: The Deadly World of Falsified and Substandard Medicines" by Roger Bate
"Yes! Energy: The Equation to Do Less, Make More" by Loral Langemeier
"Grace and Grit" by Lilly Ledbetter
"The Hunger Fix: The Three-stage Detox and Recovery Plan for Overeating and Food Addiction" by Pam Peeke, M.D.
"Fix It & Freeze It & Eat It" by Southern Living
"The $100 Startup" by Chris Guillebeau
"Making Peace" by Beth M. Howard

“The Richard Burton Diaries” by Editor Chris Williams
“Luck or Something Like It” by Kenny Rogers
“Are You Ready? Let’s Get it on!” by “Big” John McCarthy

Vickie Hardin is Outreach Specialist for the Bossier Parish Library. She can be reached at vhardin@state.lib.la.us