Homeschool AI

The Homeschool AI Starter Kit

Checked by a teacher

AI does the busywork. You do the teaching.

What's inside

1 **The Prompt Library** — 25 copy-and-paste AI prompts, each with a Teacher-Checked note

2 **Plan Your Week in 30 Minutes** — the weekly planning routine and fill-in template

3 **The Unit Study Builder** — turn any interest into a week of connected learning

4 **The Records Organizer** — attendance, work samples, and progress notes, without the scramble

By Brian Carlson, certified elementary teacher (M.S. Ed.) — ten years in K–5 classrooms.

Every prompt and template in this kit was tested and checked by a real teacher before it reached you. Print it, keep it by your planner, and write all over it.

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PART 1

The Prompt Library: 25 Copy-and-Paste Prompts

These are the exact prompts I use, written so you can paste them into any free AI chat tool, fill in the [brackets], and get something genuinely useful back.

What “Teacher-Checked” means here: every prompt below has been tested by a certified elementary teacher and carries a check note — what the AI usually gets wrong with this prompt, and the roughly two-minute check that catches it. AI output is a first draft. These notes make you the editor-in-chief.

How to get the best results: always include your child's age, how they learn best, and what materials you already own. The more specific you are, the less generic the answer. And remember — you are the teacher. Edit everything.

Our ethics rule for every prompt: never paste your child's full name, school, address, or other personal details into an AI tool. Use first name only — or just “my 8-year-old.” Parents run the AI; kids don't chat with it unsupervised.

Planning (1–5)

1 · Week builder

```
Build a Monday–Friday homeschool plan for my [age]-year-old from these notes:
[notes]. No more than [number] hours a day, hardest subject first, and list supplies
to gather.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI loves to overfill a week and quietly schedules more hours than you asked for.
Teacher check (2 min): add up the minutes for one day — if it's over your limit, cut 20% before you print anything.

2 · Unit study builder

```
Create a one-week unit study on [topic] for a [age]-year-old that connects reading,
writing, math, science, and art. Include one hands-on project and a simple way to
show what was learned.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI regularly invents book titles, videos, and websites that don't exist.
Teacher check (2 min): search for every resource it names before you promise it to your child.

3 · Daily checklist

```
Turn this plan into a friendly checklist my [age]-year-old can follow independently:
[paste plan]. Use encouraging language and end with a fun finish.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI writes checklists in adult language, even for six-year-olds.
Teacher check (2 min): read it out loud — if you stumble over a sentence, your child will too. Simplify together.

4 · Catch-up planner

```
We fell behind in [subject] because of [reason]. Build a gentle two-week catch-up
plan that covers the essentials without doubling daily work.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI often skips the missing foundation and jumps to grade-level work, which is why the child fell behind in the first place.
Teacher check (2 min): make sure the first three days rebuild the prerequisite skill.

5 · Interest hook

```
My child is obsessed with [interest]. Suggest five ways to connect it to [subject]
this week, using only things we have at home.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI suggests activities needing supplies you don't own.
Teacher check (2 min): cross out anything that requires a purchase — the at-home version is usually just as good.

Math (6–9)

6 · Story problems

```
Write 8 story problems about [topic your child loves] that practice [math skill] for
a [age]-year-old. Start easy, get harder, and include an answer key with short
explanations.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI's own answer keys are wrong more often than parents expect.
Teacher check (2 min): work every problem yourself before your child sees it. Every one.

7 · Explain it three ways

```
Explain [math concept] to a [age]-year-old three different ways: with a real-life example, with a drawing I can sketch, and with a hands-on activity.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** One of the three 'ways' is usually just the same explanation with different words, and the hands-on one often means watching, not touching.
Teacher check (2 min): insist one version uses real objects your child can move.

8 · Mistake detective

```
Here is my child's worked problem: [paste]. Find where the thinking went wrong and give me a kind, simple way to explain the fix without just giving the answer.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI sometimes misdiagnoses the mistake and 'corrects' work that was actually right.
Teacher check (2 min): solve the problem your own way first, then compare diagnoses.

9 · Ten-minute warm-up

```
Give me a 10-minute math warm-up for a [age]-year-old that reviews [skills] and feels like a game, not a worksheet.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI warm-ups quietly grow into 25-minute worksheets.
Teacher check (2 min): time the first run-through — if it passes 10 minutes, cut half the questions.

Reading (10–13)

10 · Book list builder

```
Suggest 10 books for a [age]-year-old who loves [interests] and reads at about a [level] level. Mix fiction and nonfiction, and add one discussion question per book.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** This is the big one: AI hallucinates titles, authors, and reading levels.
Teacher check (2 min): verify each book in your library's catalog before adding it to the list.

11 · Chapter questions

```
We just read this chapter: [paste summary or text]. Write 5 discussion questions that go beyond recall — prediction, character choices, and connections to our life.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** Despite instructions, most questions come back as simple recall.
Teacher check (2 min): swap at least two for prediction or 'why did the character…' questions.

12 · Vocabulary in context

```
Pick the 8 hardest words from this passage: [paste]. Define each in kid-friendly language and write a silly sentence for each using my child's name and interests.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI definitions drift too formal and sometimes just repeat the word in the definition.
Teacher check (2 min): your child should be able to use the word in their own silly sentence — that's the real test.

13 · Reluctant reader rescue

```
My [age]-year-old resists reading. Based on their love of [interests], suggest a two-week plan of very short, high-interest reading experiences — no long books.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI sneaks long books back into a plan for a child who resists reading.
Teacher check (2 min): cap every item at 15 minutes and protect the short, high-interest rule.

Writing (14–17)

14 · Kind feedback

```
Read my [age]-year-old's writing: [paste]. Give feedback in this order: two specific things that work, one clear next step, and one encouraging closing line. Keep it warm and concrete.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI feedback swings between empty praise ('Great job!') and a pile of corrections.
Teacher check (2 min): there should be exactly ONE next step — more than that shuts young writers down.

15 · Story starter

```
Give my [age]-year-old a story starter set in [place they love] with a problem to solve. Include three possible first sentences at different difficulty levels.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI starters can be so detailed they leave nothing for the child to invent.
Teacher check (2 min): offer two starters and let your child change the setting or character freely.

16 · Sentence stretcher

```
Take these simple sentences from my child's writing: [paste]. Show how to stretch each one with detail, and then turn it into a game where they stretch the next one themselves.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI stretches sentences in an adult voice no child would use.
Teacher check (2 min): your child reads the stretched sentence aloud — if it doesn't sound like them, rewrite it together.

17 · Real-world writing

```
Suggest five real reasons a [age]-year-old could write this week connected to [interest or family activity] — letters, lists, signs, reviews, instructions — and what "done" looks like for each.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI picks writing tasks with no real reader.
Teacher check (2 min): choose the one a real person will actually read — a letter that gets mailed, a sign that gets hung.

Science & History (18–21)

18 · Kitchen experiment

```
Design a safe kitchen science experiment that teaches [concept] to a [age]-year-old, using only common supplies. Include what to observe and three questions to ask during it.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** Two risks here: safety and science. AI can suggest unsafe steps for little kids, and it confuses ideas like melting and dissolving.
Teacher check (2 min): an adult does every heat/sharp step, and verify the explanation against a trusted source.

19 · Time-travel interview

```
Act as [historical figure] speaking to a [age]-year-old. Answer questions in character, keep language simple, and gently correct me if I repeat a common myth about your life.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI historical figures invent quotes and 'facts' confidently.
Teacher check (2 min): pick two or three claims from the chat and verify them in an encyclopedia or biography afterward — a great lesson in itself.

20 · Nature walk guide

```
We're walking in [habitat/region] in [season]. Give us a scavenger list of things a [age]-year-old can find, plus one "wonder question" to investigate when we get home.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI lists plants and animals that don't live anywhere near you, or aren't out in that season.
Teacher check (2 min): cross-check the list with a local field guide or your state's parks page.

21 · Two sides

```
Explain [historical event] for a [age]-year-old from two different perspectives, fairly and simply, and give me a question that helps my child think about why perspective matters.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI can flatten the story into heroes and villains, or quietly favor one side.
Teacher check (2 min): ask, 'Whose voice is still missing?' — then look that perspective up together.

Everyday Homeschool Life (22–25)

22 · Portfolio summary

```
Here are notes on my child's work this month: [paste notes]. Turn them into a short, warm progress summary for our homeschool portfolio, organized by subject, with one goal for next month.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI loves the word 'mastered' and will overstate progress from thin notes.
Teacher check (2 min): only claim what a work sample in the portfolio actually proves.

23 · Rough-day reset

```
Today fell apart because [what happened]. Give me a 20-minute reset plan for a [age]-year-old that still feels like learning, plus a kind script for restarting without a lecture.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** On a rough day, AI still plans a full day in disguise.
Teacher check (2 min): pick ONE 20-minute activity from its list and close the laptop. That's the whole plan.

24 · Sibling edition

```
Adapt this activity — [paste activity] — so a [age]-year-old and a [age]-year-old can do it together at the same table, each at their own level.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI often makes the 'levels' identical except for font size.
Teacher check (2 min): the younger child needs something concrete to touch and a shorter task; the older child needs an extension question, not more of the same.

25 · Explain it to Grandma

```
Turn this topic my child studied — [topic] — into five simple questions they can answer out loud to show what they learned, written for a [age]-year-old.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI's questions skew toward recall — names and dates, not understanding.
Teacher check (2 min): add one 'why' and one 'how' question; those answers show what really stuck.

One last thing

Save the prompts that work for your family and tweak the wording until they sound like you. A prompt library that grows with your kids is one of the best time investments a homeschool parent can make — and it starts with these 25.

PART 2

Plan Your Whole Week in 30 Minutes

Sunday-night planning used to eat a whole evening: open the curriculum, stare at the week, move things around, forget something, redo it. This routine takes about 30 minutes, and AI does the part that used to take the longest — turning a pile of intentions into an actual schedule.

The rule that makes it work: AI drafts, you decide. You bring the knowledge of your child. AI brings speed.

Step 1 — Gather (10 minutes)

Before you open any AI tool, collect the raw ingredients in one note:

- Where you left off in each subject or curriculum
- This week's real-life constraints — appointments, co-op days, work shifts, visitors
- Anything your child is currently obsessed with (use it!)
- One thing that didn't work last week

That's it. Messy is fine — the next step cleans it up.

Step 2 — Generate the draft week (10 minutes)

Paste your notes into your AI chat tool with this prompt:

The week builder

```
You are a homeschool planning assistant. My child is [age/grade] and learns best [how — short bursts, hands-on, reading, etc.]. Here are my notes for this week: [paste your notes]. Build a Monday–Friday plan with no more than [number] hours of focused work per day. Keep [day] light because of [commitment]. Put the hardest subject first each day, alternate sitting and moving activities, and end each day with something enjoyable. List any supplies I need to gather.
```

Then sharpen it with two follow-ups:

The gap finder

```
Look at this draft week. What is missing or unbalanced — too much sitting, no writing, no outdoor time, nothing fun? Suggest specific fixes, not general advice.
```

The daily card

```
Turn [day]'s plan into a simple checklist my child can follow on their own, written in friendly language for a [age]-year-old, with a small reward or fun finish at the end.
```

Step 3 — Adjust like a teacher (10 minutes)

Now do the part only you can do. Read the draft and ask three questions:

1. **Is this my child?** Swap anything that ignores how your child actually learns.
2. **Is this my week?** Cut ruthlessly on busy days. A finished light day beats an abandoned heavy one.
3. **What's the one win?** Pick the single most important thing to accomplish this week. Everything else is a bonus.

Teacher tip: always leave one flex block in the week. Homeschool days overflow — a planned flex block turns a derailed day into a rearranged one.

After a month of this, planning stops feeling like a second job. The AI remembers the format, you get faster at the gather step, and the week starts to plan itself. Thirty minutes, coffee in hand, done.

Fill-in template

My Week at a Glance

Print one each week. Fill it in during Step 3, after the AI draft is adjusted. Keep it where your child can see it.

Week of: _____ **The one win this week: _____**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hardest subject first					
Main work block					
Move / hands-on					
Fun finish					
Flex block					

Supplies to gather this week:

_____

Light day(s) and why:

_____

One thing that didn't work last week (leave it out this week):

_____

PART 3

The Unit Study Builder

Turn any interest — dinosaurs, baking, space, a favorite book — into a week of connected learning across subjects. A unit study takes one thing your child already loves and lets it carry a week of reading, writing, math, science, and art. Kids remember what connects. Here's how to build one in about 20 minutes.

Step 1 — Pick the spark

Start with what your child can't stop talking about. One topic is enough. Then pick a **big question** to hold the week together — a question with no one-word answer, like “How does a baker turn flour into bread?” or “Could a T. rex beat a bus in a race?” Write both on the planning sheet on the next page.

Step 2 — Ask the AI (then check it)

Use Prompt 2 from the Prompt Library — it was built for exactly this:

```
Create a one-week unit study on [topic] for a [age]-year-old that connects reading, writing, math, science, and art. Include one hands-on project and a simple way to show what was learned.
```

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI regularly invents book titles, videos, and websites that don't exist. **Teacher check:** search for every resource it names before you promise it to your child.

Step 3 — Connect the subjects

Walk down this list and give the topic one job in each subject. One activity per subject is plenty for a week — you're connecting, not cramming.

Subject	Give the topic this job	Simple example (topic: baking bread)
Reading	Read about it — one book, article, or chapter a day	A picture book about bakers; the history chapter in a cookbook
Writing	Write about it for a real reader	Write the recipe card neatly for Grandma; label a diagram
Math	Measure, count, or compare something real	Double the recipe; weigh the flour; time the rise
Science	Ask why or how, then test it	What does yeast do? Try one loaf with, one without
Art	Make something you can keep	Draw the loaf at three stages; design a bakery sign
Show it	One simple way to show what was learned	Teach-back at dinner; a photo page for the portfolio

Step 4 — One hands-on project

Pick ONE project — bake the bread, build the volcano, make the lapbook. One real project beats five worksheets. Decide now what supplies it needs and when in the week it happens (mid-week works well; Friday is show-off day).

Step 5 — Show what was learned

End the week with one small proof of learning: a teach-back at dinner, a labeled drawing, a photo page, or five questions your child answers out loud (Prompt 25, “Explain it to Grandma,” was written for this). Drop it in the portfolio — Part 4 shows you where.

Fill-in planning sheet

Unit Study Planning Sheet

One sheet per topic. Photocopy or print as many as you need.

Topic (the spark)

Child's age

Big question for the week

Reading — read about it

Writing — write about it

Math — measure, count, compare

Science — ask why/how, test it

Art — make something to keep

Hands-on project (just one)

Supplies we need

Show what was learned (teach-back, photo page, drawing…)

Teacher tip: if a row won't fill, that's fine — a four-subject unit study that actually happens beats a six-subject one that doesn't. Let the interest lead.

PART 4

The Records Organizer

Simple systems for tracking attendance, work samples, and progress notes — without the end-of-year scramble. The secret is boring: a tiny bit every week, everything in one place. This part gives you the system, the routine, and the logs.

The system: one home for everything

Give each child ONE home for records — a binder, a folder bin, or one folder on your computer. Inside it, keep four sections:

- **Attendance** — the days you did school (use the log on the next page)
- **Work samples** — a few best pieces per subject each month, dated
- **Progress notes** — two or three honest lines a month, plus your monthly summary
- **Important papers** — your state's forms, letters, and test results

That's the whole system. If a paper or photo doesn't land in one of the four sections the week it happens, it quietly becomes the end-of-year scramble.

The routine: 10 minutes a week

Same time each week (right after your 30-minute planning session works well):

1. Mark this week's attendance days in the log.
2. Pick this week's best work sample per subject — one piece is enough — date it, file it.
3. Jot two lines in your progress notes: what clicked, what's next.

Once a month, turn those notes into a short portfolio summary with Prompt 22 (“Portfolio summary”) from Part 1.

✓ **Teacher-Checked:** AI loves the word 'mastered' and will overstate progress from thin notes. **Teacher check:** only claim what a work sample in the portfolio actually proves.

What to write in progress notes

Keep it plain and honest — future you is the reader. Three starters that always work:

- “This month in reading, she …” (one thing that improved, one example)
- “Math is clicking when … / still hard when …”
- “Next month's one goal: …”

End-of-year checklist

- ☐ Attendance log filled for every month
- ☐ At least a few dated work samples per subject

☐ A progress summary for most months (Prompt 22 helps you catch up)

☐ Important papers filed — check your state's requirements for what must be kept and for how long

☐ One page of favorites: your child's best work of the year, on top

A note on state rules: requirements differ by state, and they change. This organizer helps you keep good records; always confirm what your state actually requires with your state homeschool association or education department.

Fill-in logs

Attendance & Work-Sample Logs

Child's name: _____ School year: _____ Print fresh copies each term.

Attendance log — mark each month's school days

Month	School days	Notes (trips, co-op days, sick days)
September		
October		
November		
December		
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		

Work-sample log — your best pieces, dated

Date	Subject	What it shows

Keep going — it's all free

You've got the kit. Here's how to keep the momentum, at no cost:

Plan Your Week in 30 Minutes — live, every week

Once a week, homeschool parents gather live for 30 minutes: bring your curriculum notes, use the prompts together, and leave with next week actually planned. Free — you're on the list now, and we'll email you each week's session link.

Want a teacher's eyes on your family's setup? Start with a free call.

I work one-on-one with families: setting AI up for your home, creating materials for your kids, one-on-one teaching, and planning help. Every engagement starts with a **free 15-minute call** — text **AI** to **708-317-8828** and I'll get back to you. See everything I offer on the Work With Brian page:

homeschoolaihelp.com/work-with-brian.html

Keep exploring the free site: the video library, the blog, and a fresh idea in your inbox every week.

— Brian Carlson, certified elementary teacher (M.S. Ed.)

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