But on to classical education. A proper understanding of the theory itself is a good place to begin. I recommend Introduction to Classical Education by Christine Miller and its links, On the Trivium by Christine Miller and its links, Preparing Younger Children for a Great Books Education by Wes Callihan, The Lost Tools of Learning by Dorothy Sayers, Motivation in Education by Fritz Hinrichs, Classical Education and the Home School by Doug Wilson, Wes Callihan, and Doug Jones; and the rest of the articles in the CCH FAQ section. All of these are essay-length and can be read in an hour or two, but each add some vital pieces to the puzzle that forms a complete picture of classical education. Other valuable resources are the classical education books recommended in CCH’s online catalog, and the About Classical Education links in CCH’s CE Links section.

Most homeschool parents did not receive a classical education themselves. Thus their obligation to continue to educate themselves, not only on what classical education is, but to give themselves a classical education: to teach themselves the tools of learning, to read the literature and history that they may not have had in school, that is so much a part of western civilization and our classical tradition. The tools of learning -- grammar, logic, and rhetoric -- can be learned with your children. Do the exercises, the Latin, the diagramming, the building logical syllogisms that your children are doing, and if you can do their work in advance, or even while your children are toddlers before you begin formal schooling with them, so much the better. Then you will have a basic knowledge, and to that knowledge the understanding of the subject grows as you go through their lessons with them. And if your children are already school age, teach yourself during the summers.

Educating Ourselves © 2005 by Christine Miller