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Laura Stokes soon began to realize that homeschooling your child can be expensive. That's why she opened Brainstorm Books in Powdersville. The store carries new and used homeschool curriculum and offers classes and other programs for students. Stokes is a homeschool mom herself and realized that there wasn't a place to buy used books.

"I saw a growing demand," she says. "There was more than I imagined."

Stokes says a first grade curriculum kit can cost around \$180 with parent's materials costing \$132. Then you have supplies and other materials that may be needed.

At Bob Jones University Press, the entire curriculum for a kindergartener is about \$300 and first grade through high school's curriculum is \$500. BJU offers homeschool materials for each grade and offers the services of an Academy of Home Education to help parents keep track of tests and graduation requirements.

"Any time you bring education home there's cost," says Emily Largent, homeschool consultant for BJU Press.

"It's a commitment and parents will have to sacrifice." Largent speaks from experience and homeschooled each of her seven children in a small Texas town.

And she knows that it can be very cost effective to reuse materials.

Laura Derrick, president of the National Home Educators Network, says homeschooling can definitely be done inexpensively.

"It's possible to homeschool on a shoestring. Parents can go to the library, purchase used materials and share books with others," she says, adding that attending conferences or book fairs can be beneficial.

Greenville's Hughes Main Library offers several programs during the school day from database training to science groups.

"Over time we've seen a lot of homeschoolers," says Karen Allen, youth services manager. The library has materials that are on the student's curriculum with fiction and non-fiction books.

The library's "Science Station" has been at the library for three years. This year several concepts will be explored such as earthquakes and forensic science, Allen says.

The Greer branch is launching a new series and will talk to homeschoolers about voting, famous musicians and students will be invited to watch the presidential inauguration in January.

According to the National Home Education Research Institute, there are 2 million home-educated students in the United States.

John Cross, sales director for BJU Press, says homeschooling continues to grow 10 to 12 percent per year.

"It's an avenue for those who want a quality education," he says, citing the fact that many people seem to be frustrated with the public and other school systems.

Lisa Roach "got the guts" to start homeschooling her 9-year-old son this year because of some of his struggles in reading and spelling. She says she feels he does better with one-on-one attention.

She wasn't concerned about the cost and has spent about \$400 to \$450 on curriculum materials. Roach purchased materials online and from a supply store in Lyman. "He'll probably do better this year with having more time to spend (on different subjects)," she says.

Children's Books in Lyman offers several different curriculum materials for homeschoolers ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 depending on the chosen curriculum. The more expensive packages come with DVDs and other extras.

Materials have gone up in price, says Owner Barbara Lopez, but not excessively. "It's not the money that parents are usually afraid of, it's the system sometimes," she says. "But it's easy to homeschool in South Carolina."

Another small expense for Roach was a \$50 fee to register with the state to homeschool her child. Each state has different requirements. In South Carolina, one must have at least a high school education to homeschool children, the school day must be at least four and a half hours and the curriculum must be approved.

Derrick, with NHEN, hears the same thing consistently from those who homeschool their children.

"They regret spending too much money up front and they wish they had started sooner."