

Scrapbooking! Catch The Fever! Yes! Homeschooling CAN Be FUN!

By Cindy Rushton



Scrapbooking! Make you excited...BUT! School MUST be done...and it "can't be fun?" Wrong! Not only can homeschooling be fun...BUT, Scrapbooking is the PERFECT way to get it done!

We use Scrapbooking ideas, techniques, and supplies across the curriculum. We constantly look for cute new ways to teach and learn every subject. Scrapbooking affords us with an inexhaustive means for new ideas and new ways! Want to know how? Want some fresh ideas? Well, this article is FOR YOU!

♥ **Get a Good Supply of the Basics!** There is SO much out there that we could spend millions of dollars on supplies and still not have the right supplies to actually work and complete our family albums. I have spent SO much money through the years and found that so much of what I had was inferior to the better quality products that were easier to use anyway. I have also spent my time and money on things that made it too difficult to begin, much less complete an album! So, want to know the MUSTS? Here they are:

1. **BINDERS (albums for just scrapbooks)...**Don't scrimp here! **BUY THE BEST!** Our favorite notebooks are the 3-ring vinyl notebooks that have the clear pockets on the outside so the children can design their own covers. We usually choose the white notebooks (Either 1 or 1 ½ inches thick, although some of the more beloved studies have required larger notebooks.) and fill it full of plastic sheet protectors. Then, all our children have to do is add their work each day. You can also use scrapbooking for making homemade books. Look for the best in supplies for your books too!
2. **Sheet Protectors...**Oh, yeah! Another MUST! Again, use these as you work to protect your pages. YES! They are needed to protect your pictures and memorabilia from rubbing and being susceptible to damage. Worth every penny!
3. **Adhesives...**Another MUST! I love my Tape Runner almost as much as my photos! NOT REALLY! It can be used for anything—even dried flowers. I keep one of these on hand at all times AND we also keep baskets of glue stick for all of our notebooking and other projects. These are MUSTS! You can usually find these

very reasonably priced at Sam's or local stores.

4. **PAPER!** I keep several kinds of paper on hand for my projects. I have bright colored cardstock, white cardstock, printed cardstock, packets of pre-cut shapes and touches of color, and of course, regular paper for printing off my journaling, captions, and titles. Begin easy, but concentrate here for the most options. You can do SO much with just PAPER!

♥ **Organize!** Want my best tip for encouraging your young writers? (Well, I may have more than one! Ha!) Keep things in their own spot and have everything accessible for your children. This ONE thing has helped me more than I can tell! Everything is tucked in its spot, ready to sit down for those moments when we can sneak away to work on our notebooks, books, or heirloom albums. Also, I simplified all of my "stuff" so I could take what I REALLY use with me on the road or sit in the family room for snatches of time all along the way. It is really working! What do I carry WITH me? Well, I organized my photos first by going through them and pulling out the photos to consider for the album that I am working on now. I put them in my little photo organizer. The others I left in my big photo bin. They are organized in chronological order waiting for me until I am ready for the next album! I also took a bit of time to organize all of my paper. I have all of my paper in a paper file ordered by color. It is SO helpful to find those pages that I need when I need them! I also have my smaller cardstock shapes (circles, triangles, ovals, rick-rack, waves, etc.), and "die-cuts" divided in another paper file by color so I can easily find pieces that are perfect for the pages and photos as I work. Another thing that I have found to be a BIG HELP is having another paper file just for dividing up my letters by colors. I try to punch a whole bunch of my alphabet letters when I have my Sizzix out. Then, they are ready for adding to our pages! I keep my enhancers like stickers and die cuts in a special notebook just for embellishments. My supplies like my scissors, paper punches, paper trimmers, corner rounders, adhesives, and pens I keep in a little portable case that simply zips up and fits nicely in my great big Scrapbooking bag. When I add all of these goodies inside my Scrapbooking bag, I still have room to carry my album, our quote books, and my idea notebooks. My children each have a backpack that holds their notebooks they are working on at this time, great quote books, books they are reading through, and their other texts for their table time. All they have to do is carry their backpack along with them. They know that any supplies that they need for creating fun pages are in my Scrapbooking bags. Everything is together! Ready to work at any time! This is KEY to really making it EASY to scrapbook at any time we can snag a moment.

♥ **Work along the way!** Remember that I mentioned that my children have their backpacks and my photo file organizer? I have found that one way to build FAST pages for our notebooks, books, and scrapbooks is to carry our work with us. The children may copy quotes or draw pictures while we ride. Then, they can set up their page during their table time. This really helps to make the most of those moments along the way. I do the same thing with my scrapbooks. I carry corner rounder and my photo file that holds my pictures with me to trim along the way. For a long time I made my page and tried to fit

my pictures into the page. I made MORE mistakes that way! Now, I trim each picture to compliment IT and THEN I later set up the pages around the pictures! Faster AND there is more of a focus on the pictures. Plus, I can carry my pictures with me to trim as we travel or along the way during those spare minutes!

- ♥ **Learn EASY Techniques!** Don't get so encumbered and distracted with the "craft" part of Scrapbooking that the memories go unrecorded! This was a hindrance for me for a long time. There will be more and more ideas FOREVER! But, if we want to really finish albums, we need to remember that if we keep it all EASY, we will be more inclined to DO IT! Also, if we are careful to spend out money on what we WILL use and only what WILL MAKE IT EASY for us to complete albums, then we will find that we will also be more likely to get busy! Instead of spending time and money on the "stuff" that is too complicated to use regularly, invest time and money into learning techniques and investing in tools to make finishing heirlooms EASIER, DO-ABLE and FUN!!
- ♥ **Use Scrapbooking Ideas for Those Special Touches in ALL Subjects!** We have used the ideas and tools for making all of our projects, books, and notebooks nicer! One example is our Nature Journals. The memorabilia pouches that are used for Scrapbooks are PERFECT for keeping those Nature Specimens without damaging the journals or any pictures or copywork. Also, the adhesives are simply WONDERFUL for mounting flowers or leaves. Just a touch of bright colored paper sets off poetry, photos, or sketches that would blend in. They certainly need that special touch! Not only this, but creating books is FUN and EASY using Scrapbooking techniques and supplies. So, go to that local Scrapbooking shop and call it your "new SCHOOL SUPPLY STORE!"
- ♥ **Jump In!** Don't wait for everything to be PERFECT! You probably know what I mean by that! To KNOW everything! To have all of the equipment! To be organized completely! To have those perfect touches to your albums! Select a place to begin. Begin easy. Jump in TODAY! You WILL LOVE IT!

Happy Scrapbooking!



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