

## **Home-School Convention Survival Tips:**

### **What to Bring...**

- A fabric shopping bag or back pack with a clipboard, paper, pens and a calculator.
- A list of Learning Outcome goals for your child's grade or Unit Study Themes that you want to learn about. (The Scope and Sequence Chart for grades 1-7)
- A wish list of hands on items you want to enhance your school room (globe, manipulative tools, computer games, etc.)
- A list of each child's personal interests and curiosities.
- A water bottle and a snack for those long lineups.
- A watch. Time slips away so fast.
- Directions to the facility. Look for free parking or bring cash.

### **What to Do...**

- FIRST: Visit the table represented by the school you are registered or enrolled with. They will provide you with a purchase order form or advise you to how you can use your allotted funding in advance for the next school year.
- Collect catalogues. You can check the FVRL catalogue to see if they carry the titles of the resources. Then you can reserve the item and have it sent to your nearest branch.
- Write down titles, authors and the ISBN number of books that interest you that you want to remember for a later date. Check the back of to see if the book is part of a series.
- Flip through books you recognize from catalogues so that you can review the content. "Don't judge a book by its cover."
- Stay Focused. Some of the sales reps will try and distract you with their products that they really think you need if you are wandering by their booth.
- Talk with other moms and find out why they like what they use.

### **Questions to ask before you buy something:**

- Do you like it?
- Do you need it or want it?
- Is it attractive enough for your children to spend time with it?
- Does it agree with your family's value system and worldview perspective? (Usually these items are not available from your public library)
- Can you get it free or cheaper? (Craig's List, used book sales)
- Can you make it yourself?
- Is it storage friendly?
- Is it a multi-level resource or specific to one topic and age group?
- Would the item be suitable to recommend for a local support group library.