

# **Suggestions for Enrichment Activities for Home Education**

Education at home can be flexible and can be enriched with a variety of activities and interests. The list of activities could be infinite. The suggestions below are to help get you thinking about what you may wish to do. You have the flexibility to decide for yourself what is appropriate for your child. You will have ideas of your own.

## **Filling In Gaps**

Sometimes in school the curriculum moved on before a child is ready or has grasped the concepts. It is OK to consider filling in all the gaps in understanding and knowledge.

## **Using Child's Own Interests**

Talk to your child and find out what his / her interests are. Use these as starting points for research projects and topic work. Work that interests is far more motivating and exciting. (Bridges, Fashion, Recycling....)

## **Get To Know Other Home Educating Families**

Consider joining parent groups. The Elective Home Education contact can often put you in touch with other home educating parents. Sometimes families meet to work or do practical and craft activities.

## **Social Activities**

- Allow time for meeting the extended family and for social events.
- Churches, The Youth Service or What Now Centres have events and activities for young people.
- Visit the theatre, go bowling etc.

## **Library**

- Plan regular visits to the library and plan some time for reading. Consider choosing both fiction and non-fiction books.
- Find out about activities planned for children at the library (story reading sessions: puppets, etc.)
- Internet access is available at the library.

## **Getting Out And About**

- Plan some time to get out and about. Allow for breaks.
- Use the local library or tourist website to do research about what is going on locally or places to visit.
- Join local clubs or groups (e.g. ramblers, brass bands, drama groups: anything that interests you).

## **Physical Activities**

- Plan to do some physical activity each day. Swimming, Cycling or walking? Consider joining a gym, using a Sports Centre or getting some equipment or fitness videos/ DVDs.
- Join a sports team (e.g. netball, basketball or football team)
- Practice gross and fine motor skills. Brain-gym activities.

## **Art and Craft**

- Plan some time for Art and Craft Activities. Make things for different materials.
- Improve drawing skills. Design clothes or other items. Look at design.

## **Local Issues**

- Find out about your locality. Find your way around using maps.
- Read local papers and write letters to newspapers and councils to make your views known about local issues that concerns you.
- Find out about how things have changed locally over the years. Look at old maps and contrast to today.

## **The World**

- The World is waiting to be discovered.
- Draw flags and find the countries on a map of the World.
- Find out about a country, its people, its history and its culture.

## **The Natural World**

- Watch wildlife programmes.
- Draw and write about different animals and birds.

## **The Environment**

- Find out about environmental issues, locally, nationally and globally.

## **The Weather**

- Take temperature measurements and keep a weather log.
- Find out about natural disasters (tornadoes, floods, earthquakes).

## **Diary**

- Consider keeping a diary to record what you have done.
- Consider keeping a personal diary to record events in your life and thoughts.

## **Religion/Culture**

- Find out about your own religion or about other religions and cultures.

## **First Aid / Health**

- Look for First Aid Courses.
- Find out about the Human Body and how it Works. Learn how to keep healthy.
- Learn about Health and Safety Issues.

## **Charity**

- Fund Raise for a Local Charity.
- Help out in your neighbourhood.

## **History**

- Search for clues to the past. Note age of houses and different styles.
- Find out about jobs our armed forces have done. Find war graves etc.
- Take a period of history and find out about it. Visit museums and churches.
- Research your family tree. Make a time line of family events.
- Find out about inventors or famous people now and in the past.

## **Science / Inventions**

- Do some simple science experiments.
- Be an inventor or designer.

## **Adverts**

- Look at adverts and persuasive writing.
- Make up adverts.
- Search for key points.

## **News**

- Watch the news on the television and read the papers.
- Keep a scrap book of items of interest and see the story progress.
- Do research about some of the topics.
- Write news articles.
- Discuss topical issues with your child and look at both sides of an argument. Record views for and against. Put a convincing argument together to express your own view.

## **Television**

- Use television programmes (BBC, ITV, Sky, Discovery, etc). Consider getting the television schools information to find out what topics are covered.
- Order the activity booklets to go with the programmes.
- BBC produces a magazine for children.

## **Use the Internet**

- The internet can be used extensively for research.
- Download games, software and teaching materials.
- Contact other families and parent groups.

## **Careers**

- Find out about different jobs people, working conditions, qualifications, hours and wages. Look at advantages and disadvantages.
- Having a career in mind may give you some ideas of what subjects to study
- Contact the Connexions Service. If you are educated at home and over 14, you can still access Careers Advice and be provided with a Personal Adviser.

## **Charity Shops / Car Boots**

- Many charity shops and car boot sales will have books that people no longer want which are cheaper. Plan to sell unwanted items yourself.
- Start your own collection of something of interest.

## **Home Decoration/ Diy / Gardening**

- Get involved in planning a renovation project. Plan what you need, work out the costings and draw up your own design board and then enjoy doing it and then benefiting from your efforts.

## **Cooking / Entertaining**

- Plan healthy menus.
- Try out new recipes.
- Cook family meals.
- Plan a party.

## **Holidays**

- Plan a holiday. Work out where to go, places to visit and costings.
- Find out what you can about the place before you visit.
- Collect leaflets, tickets, photographs for a scrap book.
- Learn some of the languages before or after you go.

## **Photography / Video / DVD**

- Improve your camera skills and learn to use the features of your camera.
- Digital cameras are useful tools to add interest to your writing.
- Make a video or DVD to tell a story or record events. Make a film.

## **Speech**

- Record yourself saying nursery rhymes, telling stories or reading poems with clear voice, good intonation and expression.
- Take something you know well and practice giving a speech about it. Record your voice on tape, a phone or on a tablet/computer. Record yourself saying your times tables.

## **Shopping**

- Play shop: price-up tins and other items from the kitchen cupboard. Develop a feel for the cost and price of things. Compare prices of different sized packages. Look out for cut prices. Work out change and discounts.
- Count money in a purse or money box.
- Make up a shopping list of basic items and compare the cost between supermarkets to find out the cheapest. Track the cost over time to see increase in prices.
- Find out about Consumer Rights.
- Use 'WHICH' for research to work out which is the best value for something your family is buying.

## **Finance**

- Banks have lots of leaflets. Find out about Saving, Credit and interest rates and the difference between accounts. Learn about finance and budgeting.
- Find out the cost of running a home.
- Track stocks and shares.

## **Work Experience**

- You may wish to gain work experience as part of your education.
- There are regulations about Young People and Work (see leaflet available from the Education Welfare Service).
- Ensure any work meets the regulations and there is relevant insurance in place.

## **Thinking Skills**

- Give time for puzzles and games (jigsaws, Sudoku, crosswords, board games...)
- Use mind-mapping.

## **Fun**

- Have fun together.
- Do some things just for the fun of it.