

Proposed educational program for M BH

April 2014-2015

As we are choosing a natural learning approach, our proposed educational program will be quite eclectic: We will provide M with access to a wide range of experiences and support her in following her interests and passions. We will help her find her way to where she wants to go. As our approach is ongoing and it requires being very responsive, it is difficult to say what exactly we will cover and when, however we have some ideas about what we would like to work on and these are listed under each key learning area. For all key learning areas we do not specify a set **period of time**, as every subject is covered on an ongoing basis every day of our lives. As we are choosing primarily natural learning methods **themes/topics** will be covered in the **order or sequence** they arise in our daily life. The **time allocated** to each key learning area is unlimited and M is able to learn at a depth appropriate to her intellectual level and developmental stage. **Assessment of student achievement in each key learning area** will be carried out by interacting and engaging with M and her work, by witnessing her learning and in discussion with her.

English:

We will continue our responsive natural learning approach day by day, however we have some ideas about directions we would like to take:

- Continue refining writing skills through regular letter writing, card making and emphasising sentence structure. In particular a focus on appropriate spacing between words and upper/lower case letters.
- Looking at a variety of texts and discussing their purpose, in particular recipes, instruction manuals, poetry and story books.
- Reading to and with M on a daily basis.
- Borrowing more readers from the local library and encouraging more reading aloud.
- Provide M with more hands-on opportunities to seek information with guidance/support.
- Ensure regular access to “good literature” by making time to read such literature on a fortnightly or weekly basis.
- Re-visit the workbook for Nanowrimo and further develop a story/plot and characters.
- Encourage M to work on the kid’s recipe book idea she had a month ago.

Mathematics:

We will continue our responsive natural learning approach day by day, however we have some ideas about directions we would like to take:

- Focus semi-frequently on identifying “to” and “past” times. Encouraging M to wear her watch more often.
- Place emphasis on units of measurement specific to length, weight, volume and provide activities for M to freely explore these concepts.
- Involve M more frequently in measuring ingredients when cooking at home.
- Continue to support M with her interest in numbers and number patterns with a focus on place values.
- Discuss calendars and time actively with M, perhaps make/purchase a calendar for her to use.
- Provide more opportunities to examine data on graphs/tables and discuss applications of these.

- Collaboratively create a diagrammatic artwork that explores the relationship of seasons, months, weeks, years.

Science and technology:

We will continue our responsive natural learning approach day by day, however we have some ideas about directions we would like to take:

- M has said she would like to learn to be a scientist and to do more experiments with her family. We will source more science kits for home and continue to attend Homeschool Science Club on a weekly basis.
- Continue to explore the behavior of a variety of animals with a focus on mice as per M's interests, discussing life cycles, habitats etc.
- Regular trips to Taronga Zoo to take advantage of our Zoo Friends membership this year and focus on the wildlife at the zoo.
- Investigate the life cycle of trees, how they grow and how the first tree arrived on earth.
- Further examine the qualities of fire and fire safety.
- Daily attention will be given to the needs and growth of our vege patch and guinea pigs
- M has requested that we make time each week to make things- felt creatures, origami, jewellery, clothing, puppets.
- Encourage and support M to be more indecently involved in cooking and preparing meals.

Human Society and Its Environment:

We will continue our responsive natural learning approach day by day, however we have some ideas about directions we would like to take:

- Focus on further development of Japanese language through reading, viewing and speaking. Some face to face interaction/conversation with friends who have Japanese background.
- Continue discussing and exploring customs and practices of various families and cultures with a focus on Aboriginal Australians.
- Create a family tree about M and her family.
- Further explore the concept of natural vs man-made environments.
- Create more opportunities to read/utilize maps.
- Plan more camping adventures as a family
- Further develop our knowledge and skills related to "no-dig" gardening.
- Weekly focus on worm farm, guinea pigs, recycling.
- Road trip to Melbourne- focus on maps, distance, family, significant milestones (100th Birthday).
- Daily focus on roles in family and community- comparing practices of people and animals; keeping watch, grooming, gathering food etc.

Creative Arts:

We will continue our responsive natural learning approach day by day, however we have some ideas about directions we would like to take:

- Plan regular visits to galleries both locally and further afield.
- Explore and discuss the works of a variety of artists
- Listen to and discuss a variety of musical pieces on a daily basis
- Provide opportunities for group music / jam sessions
- Discuss and explore ways of documenting musical pieces using a variety of symbols.
- Provide weekly opportunities to create artworks using a variety of materials.
- Weekly contemporary dance lessons

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education:

We will continue our responsive natural learning approach day by day, however we have some ideas about directions we would like to take:

- Weekly dance and gymnastics classes.
- Further develop skills in outdoor games like soccer or cricket with more structure and frequency
- Focus specifically on “self” and what does it mean to be “me”. Relationships with self and others.
- Conversations about safety as appropriate to specific environments- cooking, camping, bike riding, swimming. What are the safe practices for M’s daily activities?
- Provide M with opportunities to engage in group activities such as board games and outdoor sports.
- Focus on social skills and what it means to be a friend.
- Focus on feelings- how does our body feel when we are happy/angry?
- Continue reading about and discussing anatomy, puberty, life cycles of humans.

RESOURCES:

- Blue Mountains Home Education Network-specifically Living Learning
- Local library
- you-tube video clips
- Museum trips
- Taronga Zoo
- Theatre productions- various venues
- Audio books
- Documentaries
- Local community- food co-op, BMHEN
- Curious George website-mathematic and language based activities
- CDs
- Story cards
- Science kits
- Local swimming pool and swimming instructors
- Local home schooling parents with specific skills and interests relevant to our own.
- Internet search engines
- Various workbooks focusing on numeracy and literacy.
- Local and on-line book stores
- Board games - Zingo, Kids of Catan, Little Orchard, dominos etc.
- Yoga classes with I am Bliss Healing
- Homeschool Science Club with The Crazy Scientist