

2017 Home School Review

2017 has been a much smoother and settled year for us this year.

Our school days are generally more settled. We certainly have our tough days, especially with Child 1's anger, but there has been an over all improvement on 2016.

Read alouds have remained as a very important, valued and much loved part of our day. I find that Child 1 and Child 2 glean much information through living books as well as a fabulous tool to transition from a break to formal learning.

Child 1 and Child 2's paternal grandparents joined us on a holiday to Stansbury in May. They did lots of fishing, walks, playing with the other kids in the park and enjoyed checking out the local history. They particularly loved the Bublacowie Military Museum.

We managed to get to most of the homeschool meet ups this year. Attendance has been a bit down on last year's however the last meet was local to us and we met some great local families that we hadn't met before. We plan to catch up with one family in particular as our children got along really well.

Some of the activities and outings for this year included:

- Tour of the Lenswood Apple Factory
- Swimming at the new local indoor pool
- Seasonal visits to the Mount Lofty Botanical Gardens
- Searching local cemeteries for family history
- Spring Fest at Flinders University
- Setting up our own vegetable garden
- Baking
- Helping parents and grandparents with yard work

English

Child 1 and Child 2 both enjoy reading. Both always have a section of books on their bedside tables.

Handwriting has improved slightly although they are both still very reluctant to write more than a few words. We hope that this reluctance will be address with Occupational Therapy next year. They did not like Typing Tournament.

I am slowly having them write a bit more with some subtle notebooking.

Read alouds this year have included The Island of the Blue Dolphins, Horrible Histories Wicked Words, Little Grammar People, Doctor Dolittle.

Maths

Child 2's addition work has been fantastic. He's really grasping adding 3 digit numbers well now.

Child 1 is still struggling with multiplication. I'm slowly extending him on this however his anger often gets in the way.

Art

Art has often been included with our other subjects. I hoped to do some basic artists studies this year, however Child 1 and Child 2 weren't really interested.

Health and PE

As always Emotional Regulation has been a big focus this year. I believe we are slowly getting there for the most part. Just need to get Child 1's anger managed better.

We have been taking advantage of the new local pool and try to visit it every couple of weeks.

Child 1 has a new skateboard so has been busy learning new motor skills. Child 2 also has a new bike and is loving riding.

Design and Technology

Much of this has been Lego based. They have been playing around with some Minecraft this year too. We have also discussed some inventions too.

Child 1 and Child 2 have been learning how to use a lawn mower, pressure cleaner and gardening tools.

We have enjoyed this year's learning and are looking forward to next year's education.

History

We have been continuing with Story of The World volume 1 this year. We are working through it slowly and Child 1 and Child 2 are enjoying it. They love that we are now up to ancient Greece and Rome.

We have also looked at Greek Mythology and Gods as part of our historical studies.

Geography

This year we focused on the continent of Africa. We have looked at the countries of South Africa and Kenya. We are currently looking at Morocco and will soon move onto Nigeria and Egypt.

We have read many books on Africa over the year. A favourite was Journey to J'Burg.

Science

Our science focus this year has been Zoology. We are using a living book series called Sassafras Science Adventures. This includes a fictitious living book and an accompanying notebook that needs to be filled in. The notebooking has been a challenge for both children due to their reluctance to write, but we are slowly improving with this. Child 1 and Child 2 both enjoy the curriculum though. To go with this we have read a variety of books including some from the Horrible Science series.