

Sample Pages ~ Homeschooling Diaries

These convenient A5, spiral bound diaries open flat. Leave them open at this week's page on the bench or desk. Recording your children's learning becomes a breeze - taking only seconds or minutes at a time throughout the day. The diaries include space for evaluative and anecdotal comments; calendar; learning program goals and evaluation for each subject for the year; homeschooling contacts, networks, resources, and addresses.

Weekly Homeschooling Diary

Day	Subject	Content	Time
Mon	Social	Played Sylvannian families with friends	2 hrs
	Craft	Helped make bead jewellery, silver work	1.5 hr
	English	Tested Thomas - reading, spelling	0.5 hr
	Maths	What does a 'Million' look like activity	1 hr
	Science	Growing seedlings; TV - Quantum	2 hrs
	Music	Piano and guitar practice	0.5 hr
	Tues	English	Computer - wrote and printed 'to do' lists
Art		Designed and coloured in mandala patterns	1.5 hrs
Health, etc		Cooked quiche and birthday cake	0.75 hr
Social		Friends over for Mum's birthday; games	4 hrs
Technology		Fixed mouse cage door - made new one	1 hr
Physical Ed		Walk on beach with friends	1.5 hrs
Wed		Art	Entered sandcastle comp at beach
	Science	Found limonite crystals at Second Valley	1 hr
	Social	Joel, Kristen slept over	-
	Health	Thom's mouse died, discussion about death	0.5 hr
	Technology	April ground an edge using two rocks, axe	0.5 hr
	Physical Ed	Went for long walk with friends	2 hrs
	Thu	English	Scrabble: did pages from work books
Maths		A - decimals: R - fractions: Thom - shape	1 hr
Games		Learned to play 'Talisman' board game	1.5 hrs
Science		Charting growth of carrot in saucer	0.5 hr
Technology		Designed and made Lego model that moves	1 hr
Music		Piano and Guitar lessons	1 hr
Fri		English	Diagnostic test: Journal writing: emails
	Maths	A - decimals; R - fractions; T - place value	1 hr
	Music	Practice	0.5 hr
	Computer	Played 'Word Rescue'; 'Maths Blaster'	2.5 hrs
	Physical Ed	Rode bikes	1 hr
	Science	TV - documentary on Great Barrier Reef	1 hr

Weekending 12/2/2002

The children enjoyed designing the mandalas using a pair of compasses. Full week with emphasis pursuing hobbies and interests, high level of enthusiasm & quality written work. Need to play more games together. Children need to practice music more. Happy with routine. Tested Thomas on left/right body awareness and reading from middle of paragraph - big improvement... and so on...

Notes & Reminders	This week's important events
Run through fire drill again - what to do with animals, etc. Kids to make their own lunches - attention to nutritional balance, food pyramid Catch up with pasting in samples for scrapbooks New film for camera	Jacqui's birthday Surf life saving - Tuesday night Trip to town - Wednesday Dinner with the Jones Joel sleeping over Friday night

Belinda Moore:

I use Beverley's Weekly Homeschool Diary and I record activities for the day under subjects, for example:

- Maths - Maths Mentals workbook, lego, dominoes
- Reading - Aladdin, Dad read aloud Winnie the Pooh
- Writing - Journal, e-mail to Aldarion
- Craft - plaster moulds, painting, paper dolls
- PC - Carmen Sandiego Math Detective, e-mail
- TV/Science - The Planets, For The Juniors (Food)

Different days may have different subjects like "outing", "social", "video", "art", "history", "geography", and so on and so on...

The main reason I began doing the records like this is to show how much natural learning could be "slotted" into traditional curriculum areas, and to see myself if we had a heavy emphasis in one area, but may be neglecting others... I don't record any times and I keep records for 365 days a year. Over intense holiday periods I just write a big list down the page of the sorts of things we've done that week.

We keep records for ourselves, not for any authority.

Learning Naturally Homeschooling Diary

Summary of Activities	Weekending/...../.....
Child initiated activities (play, interest-based, social, hobbies, etc)	
Art: finger painting; potato prints; collage using leaves, etc; sketching; pebble painting; drawing on blackboard	
Craft: making doll's furniture; sewing doll's clothes; origami; woodwork	
Role Playing: with Lego; dress ups - houses/families; with little cars; pirate game (after watching movie)	
Construction Games: built town with MAB blocks; Lego play; woodwork - guinea pig enclosure	
Physical/Outside/Sport: play fighting; rope swing/bridge; bicycling; walks; cricket (with friends)	
Board Games Mastermind; Pass the Pigs; Solar Quest; paper chase; Shopping Spree; Card games	
Puzzles: 3 dimensional trick puzzle; Rubics cube; 750 piece Animalia jigsaw; floor jigsaw puzzles	
Play with Toys: Teddies; Barbie dolls; Lego; Matchbox cars in the sandpit; Dress up props (shop/post office; pirate stuff)	
Play with Friends: Visit from Ben and Angie; dinner with Jones family; sleepover at Ben's; homeschooling picnic	
Hobbies: Organised & labelled rock collection; sorted stamps; Batman cards; put Lego instructions into ringbinders with separating cards for categories	
Pets: Guinea pigs had babies; built new cage; worked out how to breed rosettes; cleaned cages; A - filled out 'family tree' details	
Chores: Made biscuits; dishes; tidied rooms; washed car; mowed Nan's lawn; stacked firewood	
Music/Singing: Listened to x-table tapes/classical radio; made own radio program with songs; played with percussion instruments	
Reading: April - Owl Service by A Garner; Thomas - Me Too series; Roger - Lego catalog, encyclopedia on Tour De France	

Summary of Activities		Weekending/...../.....
Structured Educational Activities		Results
Language and English Studies: shared reading "Never Ending Story" & "Breakthroughs in Science"; T - matching words to objects; copying; R&A - journals; projects; spelling test; R - story writing		
Language: other than English: A&R - Indonesian: Singing and listening to tapes; greetings; days of week; numbers; project - religions of Indonesia; postcard writing		
Arts: Visual, Performance, Music and Dance: Investigated art in architecture - took photographs; did display; Library research; symmetry, porportion, shape, perspective: Audience - Brass Band		
Physical, Health and Personal Development: Went to talk on Brain Gym - tried some exercises; T - "I Can" book; 4km bushwalk; swimming at pool; Roger attention to diet (allergies)		
Society and Environmental Studies: Discussion on history of local area - look at historic buildings; consumer affairs discussion sparked by "The Investigators" on TV; checked out erosion from storm at beach		
Mathematics: Shopping; Bank accounts; Pocket money; A - chp 8 - fractions: R - chp4 - graphs, practice in large sums; calculator: T - calculator and computer, classifying/sorting shapes		
Science: TV - Quantum, Beyond 2000, nature programs - sharks, dinosaurs; experiment with displacement, volume, capacity; elasticity experiment with various solids; determining rates of flow (river)		
Technology and Enterprise: Designing, planning and building guinea pig cage; using computer - games and internet browsing, games; Lego construction activity		
Evaluative Comments: Busy week with an emphasis on activities rather than bookwork. Questions sparked interesting investigations - erosion, flow rate, elasticity, religion, genetics. Some discussion from tv shows. Spent a lot of time outside - good. I'd like to focus on games during the evening instead of so much TV. Hapy with daily routine - working well. The guinea pigs were a major focus.		