

Home Education Report

Tasmania, 2012

(Approval given for two years on the basis of this report. The family are predominantly unschooling.)

DS1, aged 16

DS2, aged 13

Our approach to learning is ever changing and we enjoy that we don't have any set learning style as it allows us the freedom to change how and what we are learning to suit the boy's needs. Our main aim and purpose we have for our boy's education: is for them to develop their learning in a positive environment, to learn at their level with the support and encouragement from ourselves. We are still aiming for independence within the home, especially for DS1 as this is a valuable source of independence for him.

Our weekly program is based around Maths, English, special interest, trying to secure work experience for DS1 and social interactions. Also for DS1 we have been helping him do his driving as he recently passed his learner driving test.

Resources that we are currently working with to incorporate the boy's learning:

Numeracy:

DS2: DS2 is revising "Understanding Maths year7", as we want him to have the necessary skills to be able to understand the math concepts he is learning. We have revised whole numbers, fractions, measurements and plane shapes and graphs. Once we have completed Geometry we will continue on to the level 8 book.

DS1: Right now for DS1 we are trying to just find what works for him in terms of Maths. We are trying Maths Basics, Rigby Maths year 5 and I also work with printouts for him. The main trouble that we have is that if there is an over amount of information on a page, then he is unable to focus on just the one area that he needs to do. It's always going to be a juggling act with DS1 and so his learning is always going to be a work in progress and forever changing.

Literacy:

DS2: DS2 is working through 2 English books, Language Alive 1, and Knowledge Quest English workbook 1. Knowledge Quest we have already completed Reading Comprehension and working through Punctuation. In Language Alive we have already completed term one and now working through term 2. He also does daily reading of his choice of reading material.

DS1: We have been working on spelling words for DS1, Also slowly working through, My spelling work book and Boost English. Also just to remind you DS1 has Dyslexia and Auditory processing disorder and these factors do increase his struggle with English. We have worked quite intensely with DS1 these past few weeks to help him pass his learner driver, and he did pass with all 35/35 questions right. DS1 does enjoy looking for information in regard to his special interest, so, a word of advice when the monitoring officer comes round do not ask about dogs, cars or chickens , because she will be here all day.

Second Language:

DS2: DS2 is learning French with his Poppy who is fluent in French. He has been learning numbers, colours, greetings etc.

Science:

DS2: DS2 is currently learning about the “The Living World” through Science World 7. We have also obtained a Microscope so he has been doing lots of investigating of different things.

Wood Work:

DS1: DS1 enjoys working with wood and has created many pieces for us, last year he attended a workshop through Adult Ed for Wood Turning. He has also built and designed our chook pen and chook house and much, much more. The boys both have also been going to the Men’s Shed to also do woodwork.

Gardening:

The focus of this term is to turn our garden into an edible garden. We have been working hard to change all our garden beds into edible produce. The only rules we have are if you can't eat it we don't plant it. DS1 has made our planter boxes and both boys helped to make our veggie dome. We have had to do research on what will and won't grow in our area, and also how to make the garden organic.

Other areas we incorporate into our home Ed: is sewing, cooking and trying to make everything from scratch, e.g.: soap, butter, cheese, bread, jams, sauces etc....

Social interactions we attend are: Home Ed group on Wednesday, DS1 attends Rural Youth and has just been working away at Agfest for 4 days. DS1 is still involved in Special Olympics and does weekly training and competitions. The boys have regular outings with friends of their age group and many other activities. DS2 is currently not doing a sport but does attend DS1's sports, where he helps and participates.

Career Planning (for DS1):

We are in the process of getting DS1 some more work experience on a farm. DS1's only wish is to work on a farm, so we will endeavor to work with him and outside organisations to assist him in his chosen career path.