

This is a program from a new home educator for her 11 year old daughter. Emelie is one of three children she would be educating - they were previously in school.

## **From The Home Educating Mum**

In May 1998 we had our first inspection. I had prepared all the necessary paper work including a learning program for each child. Our home meets all our local council standards for ventilation light etc. The inspector went through the guidelines with me highlighting particular points that home educators often fall into trouble with i.e. Aboriginal studies and Australian literature. I was asked if I was a teacher. He told me that he believed home education worked for many children.

He then read through my programs responding positively to all that I had prepared commenting that he wouldn't compliment me further as I might get a swelled head. Which is why I was so surprised when he said, because I was just starting out he would give me 6 months registration and return to check how I was going. He also made reference to our need to obtain further resources as the children moved into secondary levels.

My overall feeling about the inspector was that he was polite and well versed in teaching methods but suspicious of a mother who had no significant teaching qualifications wanting to take on such a task without the surveillance of a government body. I consider the reasons given for the inspectors decision were inadequate, so I pursued the matter with the minister, who failed to reply. My second letter received a response informing me that the authorized person's report would stand and I should reapply if I wished to continue home educating.

Phil Strange became involved at my request, and raised my complaint at the OBOS meetings with Home educators. After some discussion the OBOS requested an updated list of resources and another authorised person rang me, I was then given the full two year period. A satisfactory outcome, but as my first encounter with a large government department it was certainly an unfortunate start.

## **Documentation For Emilie, Age 11**

### ***English***

"Eureka Treasure Chest" stage 6 reading scheme and accompanying work book. I will use "Teachers ideas" work book to extend topics. Emilie reads anything and everything and will continue to do so. Grammar is covered in work book and activities outlined in ideas book.

Vocabulary will be expanded with the use of a thesaurus and dictionary particularly during written expression.

Spelling words will be taken from reading scheme and words spelt incorrectly in written work.

Writing will include reports on BTN (behind the news), making own books, creative writing exercises, correspondence with friends, family and others.

Articles for publication in local news papers.



Listening to me read daily - literature or social studies topic, stories on audio tape, social listening - the importance of listening carefully and thoughtfully, critical listening - to media.

Theatre visits to appropriate productions in various mediums, mime, drama, puppetry, pantomime

Speaking in group situations such as youth group or in front of an audience in a Sunday School service.

### **Resources**

"Eureka Treasure Chest" stage 6, Work book, Dictionary, Thesaurus, Audio tapes, TV, Radio, Newspapers, Videos, Computer, Theatre groups, Sunday School.

### ***Maths***

"Signpost maths 6" that includes space, measurement and number.

Mentals 6 for daily living and problem-solving skills.

Maths projects and experiments.

Tables-all.

Maths games and activities.

Shopping

Cooking, measuring, weighing ingredients, etc.

Calculator and computer usage.

### **Resources**

"Signpost maths" 6, Base 10 blocks, Mentals 6, "How mathematics works", Calculator, Set square, Compass, Scales, Thermometer, Rulers,

### ***Science And Technology***

Junior spectra - Science in the home - Rail, hail or shine - Plants and animals

Spectra - Chemistry (home chemistry) - Zoology (animals) - Ecology (Planet Earth)

Follow up on science programs

David Suzuki's looking at series on - Insects - Plants -The body -Senses - The environment

these books encourage kids to problem solve, investigate, make and use technology.

Museum visits to the Australian, Powerhouse and Questacon



## **Resources**

Spectra and Junior Spectra, ABC science programs, Videos, Library books, David Suzuki's looking at series, Museums, Taronga Zoo, Home kitchen, Vegetable garden, Computer.

## ***Creative And Practical Arts***

Pottery at Start

Sewing - applique, cross stitch and hand sewing

Drawing - life drawing, shading, perspective and cartooning

Painting - printing, watercolour and oils

Design - layouts for projects

Bookmaking

Paper folding

Papermache

Weaving

Art gallery visits - NSW, Sturt, regional galleries such as Short Street Bowral and any other exhibitions we hear of.

## **Resources**

Library books, Sturt Art and craft centre, Own craft books, Dad, Art supplies, Patch work shop classes, Art galleries local and others, Competitions.

## ***Music***

Emilie dabbles with the recorder and xylophone and for the time being will not be having any formal lessons.

Emilie also sings a lot and enjoys listening to a wide variety of music styles.

Performances for Sunday School services.

Bowral Jazz festival once a year.

ABC concerts Benalong program

Local theatre group performances



**Resources**

Recorder, Xylophone, Music books from library, Local and Sydney concerts, CD's and tapes, Radio, I play guitar and sing, Sunday School and Church, Benelong program, Pantomimes.

***Personal Development, Health And Physical Education*****Personal development:**

Family Bible reading and discussion

Decision making practice

Church and Sunday school

Autobiographies and biographies

Other peoples beliefs and why they might hold them

**Resources**

Bible, "What would you do if...?" Greg Johnson, Home library and town library, World book Encyclopedia.

**Health:**

Basic Nutrition

An understanding of the importance of regular activity

Hygiene

Healthy cooking

Safety and elementary first aid

Human reproduction "Where do babies come from?"

**Resources**

Library books, "The body" David Suzuki, "Australian first aid" St John Ambulance Australia, Home kitchen.

**P/E and Sport:**

Swimming

Tennis

Softball

Bike riding



Rollerblading

Bush walking

### **Resources**

Clubs and associations

### ***Human Society And Its Environment***

BTN (Behind the News) - current affairs

Follow up investigations of Daily Newspapers in areas of interest.

Indonesian democracy movement.

Nuclear tests on the sub continent

Maps - local, state, Australian and world

Basic history of how and why Australia was established

Australian Aborigines.

First Fleet.

Federation

Ancient history -

Egypt,

China or other of interest

Government bodies How and why they work and who they serve

Police, hospitals, fire rescue etc

Local, State and Federal Government

### **Resources**

ABC TV programs, News Papers, Radio, Maps, Atlas, Puzzles, Historic Society, Parliament house, Local council, Visiting - businesses, warehouses, factories and workplaces as opportunities present themselves, Museums - Powerhouse, Bradman, Berrima court house, Bowral School House Museum Berrima Historic Museum, National Mint Biographies, Excursions with other home schoolers.

On the page following is an example of her record keeping.

