

Thematic/interest-driven investigations

Home education program for My Child 2025

Educational and personal goals

Short term (this year)

- To support him to manage his anxiety and overall mental and physical health needs.
- To gain enthusiasm and excitement in his learning through supporting him to be independent and self-driven.
- I want to investigate what concepts might have been missed that are contributing to his anxiety.
- Assist him to consider his answers and review his own work as he makes simple errors.

Long term (future years)

- To facilitate more learning through life skills and become more independent in his own life.
- Have sound understanding of his own skills and be able to regulate and complete tasks.
- Be able to undertake learning independently as well as with assistance.
- To be healthier and happier in himself and his skills and abilities.

Overview of my child (the learner)

My child's learning background and individual needs

My Child is a very caring and sensitive 9 year old. He has been diagnosed as ASD Level 2 and ADHD. He loves all types of animals and becomes very sad if one is injured or dies. His actions are governed largely by his emotions and he is friendly to those he knows.

My Child's skills and abilities have been assessed extensively and his numerous impairments, impact on his ability to develop higher level skills, such as impulse control, flexibility and adaptability, problem solving skills, effective social interactions and social problem solving, improved emotional awareness, regulation and expression, and more effective participation socially at home and within the community. He has sensory issues and becomes overwhelmed and overloaded very easily.

We have always scribed his written English work as he will not handwrite or type. It is a struggle to do any kind of spoken assessment or video him. I will look more into apps for speech to text to support him to be independent. Previous school feedback has been that he doesn't provide enough detail and struggles with making inferences or drawing conclusions when reading literature. He is below peer level.

He has specific interests which vary from time to time and he does have one unwavering interest in military history. He also enjoys playing online games such as Call of Duty and Minecraft, as well as gardening, soccer, Pottery and building things.

My child's learning style/s

My Child likes to learn via Computers and topics he enjoys. He will read around his interests and would be classed as a visual, physical, logical and solitary learner.

He has been assessed with a number of challenges. I will adapt and be flexible to his needs.

Teaching strategies to support my child's individual needs and learning style/s

We will be addressing his mental health so he then will have the capacity for learning. Paramount is for me to support him to learn in a way that is supportive doesn't cause further distress. We will continue with our needed schedule and routine to assist his regulation and to minimise anxiety. We will focus on providing assistance with his comprehension skills and his ability to self regulate. Including proprioceptive input with ways to modulate and calm his nervous system via biting/chewing objects, pushing, pulling, jumping and spinning. And will continue to enjoy going to the park and watching funny videos on YouTube to help with his self regulation

I chose this Thematic style template to help support his individual needs, so we can focus his learning around his interests and provide hands on relevant learning opportunities. We intend to introduce more project based work around the topics of WWII and animals while incorporating technology, as a way for him to cement learning and present his knowledge in a tangible way.

We want to engage him through his interest of the military and we will visit historical places in Qld around WW2 to keep providing more opportunities. Increase our hands on projects and science experiments as well as investigate all about keeping bees, as he is very keen on Native Bees and getting a bee hive.

We will also support him as per OT and other professional guidelines with how he processes sensory information and reduces his anxiety.

- Reduce his stressed state to assist with
 - his increased sensitivity in auditory, tactile, and vision system.
 - Improving his focusing and paying attention.
- Assist with his awareness of his body in space and motor planning.
 - Provide proprioceptive input (pushing/pulling/jumping/chewing).
 - Support to practice to learn, retain, and generalize and automaticity and flow sequencing multiple steps.
- Assist with his Impaired self regulation and attention.
- Keep improving his motor skills - balance, core strength, and bilateral integration.
- Continue with the various tools he uses when stressed - therapy pod, lycra stretchy material and fidget and sensory toys.

Description of home learning environment

Physical environment e.g. private/shared study spaces, light, ventilation, display areas, storage, IT access, indoor/outdoor facilities

My Child has his own room and we have a study area in the living room where he can work. We have a portable air con and heater for warmer/cooler months. We have numerous bookshelves have books of all types fiction non-fiction animals and more. We have a spacious living room where some more learning can take place. The main living area is open plan to kitchen where he can take part in cooking/smaller science experiments. We have access to Foxtel Go, Netflix and Curiosity Stream as well as the local library being a 5 minute drive away and main library 20 minute drive away.

We have a large sensory/music room that is more a “tech” free area which contains 2 pianos, a keyboard, digital piano, guitar, ukulele, smaller instruments and drum kit. There is a therapy pod and other therapeutic items available. We have a back covered patio with a table and cupboard area set up for arts and craft. There is a park walking distance away and outside there is a large climbing frame and trampoline as well as a netball hoop.

Motivational environment e.g. indoor/outdoor activities, hands-on/real-life experiences, daily routines/tasks, variation of routines/tasks, individual/group learning opportunities, interactive learning

My Child enjoys being with his family and friends and has the freedom to pursue his own interests and passions (military). He enjoys spending time with our animals and engaging with others on the pc. We have a busy schedule with multiple professional appointments and support workers for himself and his siblings.

Social opportunities

Peer and other interactions e.g. friends, home education groups, sporting clubs/associations, religious activities, classes, travel/excursions

My Child lives with his mum (me) and dad and is the third of four children. He has 3 sisters. Due to needs/medical issues we have many consistent regular relationships with paid support people. We will connect and meet up with the local home school group to provide a regular peer group. My Child will also be engaging in educational activities and outings as they arise.

Investigation Number	English	Maths	Humanities and Social Sciences	Science	Technologies	The Arts	Health & Physical Education
WWI and WWII Investigations	Research the machinery of WWI and WWII and investigate how machinery influenced the outcomes of various battle campaigns.	Map a battle campaign on paper and then set it up in backyard or recreate on computer or in Minecraft List the capabilities of the machinery	Identify what is the difference between WW1 and WW2 machine guns/weaponry? List the countries involved in the WW2.	Learn about the 11 Secret Weapons Developed By Japan During World War II Military	Review aircraft, ships, vehicles, weapons, personal equipment and uniforms, and other equipment Design a trench with aim to build in backyard	Recreate some of the Posters for recruitment from one of the Wars.	Examine the health stats on the average soldier in both wars and look at the fitness requirements.
Horticulture	Research and summarise findings on: - Garden bed designs, - Vertical Gardens - Air plants - Permaculture	Plan plot and garden bed sizes and soil requirements etc Look at requirements needed to feed our household.	History of gardens and their uses over time. Use of animals in sustainable farming practices.	Garden – herbs, research companion plants, seasonal plating, soil requirements, plant health requirements. Permaculture	Draft and design a suitable layout for a garden. Incorporating what you have learnt about design and companion plants etc.	Design a creative garden based on his knowledge of permaculture.	Outdoors activities – create and maintain the garden and research the benefits of working in the soil
Animals in War	Research the many animals used in War time to assist our troops. Investigate whats needed to support those animals.	Keep track of our pets: - Weights - Foods - Amounts - Growth - Spreadsheets Including averages and graphing.	What countries used which animals? How do pets help us now? Assistant animals role?	Identify different species and breeds and their preferred adaptations.	Design a travel vehicle for safer transport of animals.	Create a poster/diorama showing the impacts and assistance of War pets. Prepare a presentation of information.	Examine the health requirements of favourite animal and relate it to health needs of people.
Bees	Understand how bees benefit humans Identify unique abilities of bees How do bees communicate? How do bees defend themselves?	Researching cost of owning bees and honey production. Investigating bees' mathematical abilities	What are some of the different roles that bees play in a bee colony? The uses of bees and honey over the decades. Native bees vs introduced species and where they came from	What kind of creature is a bee; different species of bees? Identify parts of a bee? Do bees produce anything other than honey? What exactly is honey? How do bees help the ecosystem?	Using the internet for research Using the library to find books on a topic Using honey as a cooking ingredient in recipes.	Create an informative poster on Bees	Research the health impacts of honey.
Mental and Physical Health	Some self focused investigations on mental health and ways to support herself.	Record his physical health and create a personal fitness plan. Board Games And building basic math skills.	Identify Forms of health/exercise over time.	Investigate the science of maintaining good mental and physical health.	Design a board game based on some of his favourite animals. Draft and design a life routine.	Continue to Design art to express his emotional need and for fun.	Continue to learn to recognise his triggers and limits.

Teaching, learning, resources, monitoring and recording

Elaborate in detail on the investigations listed in your program summary. Detail the plans you have for facilitating the development of these.

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Research the machinery of WWI and WWII and investigate how machinery influenced the outcomes of various battle campaigns.		2 Terms
Previous investigation and theme leading to current investigation: <i>What was your previous topic of investigation and how does it connect to your current investigation?</i>	Resources for present investigation <i>What resources will my child and I use? Include a variety of specific titles, levels and websites.</i>	Monitoring for present investigation <i>How will I monitor and record my child's progress with this investigation? What work will be collected?</i>
My Child loves learning all about WW1 and WW2. We will utilise these interests to delve into all aspects and learn more. Difference Between WWI and WWII While WWI was fought in the lines of trenches, WWII was fought in a broader scale using modern weapons and methods including the atomic bomb. Use support and guidance to enable him to undertake the research and present his findings in a clear manner.	Library, documentaries, YouTube channels, Webpages - Australian War Memorial website & Anzac Portal. Full of activities, resources, memorabilia, https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/ - What is the difference between WW1 and WW2 machine guns? https://www.quora.com/What-is-the-difference-between-WW1-and-WW2-machine-guns - What impact did technology have on World War I? https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/what-impact-did-technology-have-on-world-war-i-439378 - German War Machine https://germanwarmachine.com/ 10 Most Powerful Machines of World War II https://www.wonderslist.com/10-most-powerful-machines-of-world-war-ii/ - Lists of World War II military equipment https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lists_of_World_War_II_military_equipment 11 Secret Weapons Developed By Japan During World War II https://www.gizmodo.com.au/2016/04/11-secret-weapons-developed-by-japan-during-world-war-2/ - Propaganda and World War II https://www.teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/lesson-plan-reviews/25185 - Difference Between WWI and WWII http://www.differencebetween.net/miscellaneous/politics/difference-between-wwi-and-wwii/ Places to Visit - Queensland World War II Historic Places https://www.ww2places.qld.gov.au/ - Woolloongabba Air Raid Shelter https://apps.des.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=602477 - Charleville air base https://www.news.com.au/travel/australian-holidays/tourists-flock-to-former-us-air-force-base-near-charleville/ - Cairns Military Museum	Photos. Summary of findings Notes in my learning diary. Report on WW1 and WW2 through the medium of choice PowerPoint, oral presentation or diorama or poster etc. Keep copies and date work produced eg spreadsheet of information. I will keep a diary of progress and note my observations of his abilities and skills.

Investigation activities, knowledge and skills

*What **topics/content/learning areas** am I planning to incorporate? What **knowledge, thinking skills** or **practical skills** will be developed? What **learning experiences/activities**?*

English: Research the machinery of WWI and WWII and investigate how machinery influenced the outcomes of various battle campaigns. What impact did technology have on World War I?

Maths: Map a battle campaign on paper and then set it up in backyard or recreate on computer or in Minecraft. List the capabilities of the machinery in a spreadsheet. Design and build a bunker – accuracy and calculations and measurements will be key. We will use programs such as Khan Academy to continue building basic math skills as well as utilising real life situations to learn about math (shopping, budgeting and cooking).

SOSE: Identify what is the difference between WW1 and WW2 machine guns/weaponry? WWI was fought between 1914 and 1918 while WWII was fought between 1939 and 1945. What were the main influence in the way war was fought and why? List the countries involved in the WW2. Visit historical WW places in Qld and Museums and military places of interest.

Science: Learn about the 11 Secret Weapons Developed By Japan During World War II Military. Investigate the mechanisms for force and power and chemical reactions in the weaponry.

Technology: Review aircraft, ships, vehicles, weapons, personal equipment and uniforms, and other equipment. Design and draft the requirements for a trench with aim to build in backyard.

Art: Recreate some of the Posters for recruitment from one of the Wars.

HPE: Examine the health stats on the average soldier in both wars and look at the fitness requirements.

Future investigation activities

*What will your future **topic/s** of investigation be? What **knowledge, thinking skills** or **practical skills** will be included?*

Visit local museums and machinery exhibitions. Visit Fort Lytton at Night – A Lost Story from the Great War

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Horticulture - research and learn about a variety of garden bed options		10 weeks /ongoing
Previous investigation and theme leading to current investigation: <i>What was your previous topic of investigation and how does it connect to your current investigation?</i>	Resources for present investigation <i>What resources will my child and I use? Include a variety of specific titles, levels and websites.</i>	Monitoring for present investigation <i>How will I monitor and record my child's progress with this investigation? What work will be collected? (e.g. tasks, questions and answers, digital or oral presentations, observation checklists)</i>
My Child is very keen to keep making some garden beds of different designs and expand his gardening skills and knowledge. We will research and learn about a variety of garden bed options and he can learn more about permaculture and sustainability in general as he designs a herb garden to begin with.	YouTube, documentaries, library books, Bunnings, - How plants and animals adapt to particular environments and how adaptations vary between environments. http://scienceweb.astu.edu.au/years-5-6/unit2/overview/yr56-unit2-overview.html - Permaculture activities https://www.milkwood.net/ - Permaculture https://permaculture.com.au/downloads/ - Regenerative agriculture for students launched in Australian-first curriculum https://kisstheground.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Soil-Story-Curriculum_Aus_190311-1.pdf - Digging into the soil https://www.diggingintosoil.org/	Photos of work, copies of drafts. Photos of the projects completed and when underway. Photographing the results of these activities Keeping records or copies of our discussions. Keeping a Learning Diary on things I note and observe with our discussions.
Investigation activities, knowledge and skills <i>What topics/content/learning areas am I planning to incorporate? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be developed? What learning experiences/activities will my child have?</i>		
English: Research and summarise findings on suitable Garden bed designs including the options of Vertical Gardens, Air plants and Alternatives for a small space. Maths: Look at requirements needed to feed our household per head. Plan plot and garden bed sizes and soil requirements etc based on his research as to the best garden for our yard. SOSE: Investigate and report of the History of gardens and their uses over time in different cultures. Use of animals in sustainable farming practices. Science Investigate the best way to plant and what herbs, research companion plants, seasonal plating, soil requirements, plant health requirements. Delve into Permaculture design and sustainability and what would be needed for our household. Technologies: Draft and design the Layout of our garden. The Arts: Design of garden to include some artistic flair. Create posters, create lap book together to present his research. H&PE: Outdoors activities – create and maintain the garden and research the benefits of working in the soil		
Future investigation activities <i>What will your future topic/s of investigation be? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be included?</i>		
Could on sell some garden produce and learn more about cost and surplus.		

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Animals in War		1 term
Previous investigation and theme leading to current investigation:	Resources for present investigation <i>What resources will my child and I use? Include a variety of specific titles, levels and websites.</i>	Monitoring for present investigation
My Child loves all animals and life. We want to use this interest to delve more via his interest in the Military to look at other aspects including ecosystems and learn more about animals and how they support us everyday and through history.	Library, documentaries, YouTube channels: Websites: • 15 Animals That Went To War https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/15-animals-that-went-to-war • A to Z of animals in war, https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/animals • The Role of Animals in World War I http://www.centenaryww1orange.com.au/stories/the-role-of-animals-in-world-war-i/ • 12 Ways Animals Have Helped The War Effort https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/12-ways-animals-have-helped-the-war-effort • 9 Famous Animals From The First And Second World Wars https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/9-famous-animals-from-the-first-and-second-world-wars • Ecosystems http://www.thenewecologist.com/2014/03/importance-of-animals-and-plants-in-ecosystem/ • Qld Wildlife https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife • Half day excursion https://bunyavilleec.eq.edu.au/curriculum/senior-school/investigating-ecosystems Australia Zoo - Zookeeper for a day	Photos Summary of findings Presentation in a poster or PowerPoint Spreadsheets of results Notes in my learning diary.
Investigation activities, knowledge and skills <i>What topics/content/learning areas am I planning to incorporate? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be developed? What learning experiences/activities will my child have?</i>		
English: Research the many animals used in War time to assist our troops. Investigate whats needed to support those animals. Maths: Keep track of our pets: Weights, Foods, Amounts, Growth, Spreadsheets. Design and maintain spreadsheets and make graphs on their growth. SOSE: What countries used which animals? How do pets help us now? Assistant animals role? Science: Identify different species and breeds and their preferred adaptations. Design a travel vehicle for safer transport of animals. The Arts: Create a poster/diorama showing the impacts and assistance of War pets. Prepare a presentation of information. H&PE: Examine the health requirements of favourite animal and relate it to health needs of people.		
Future investigation activities <i>What will your future topic/s of investigation be? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be included?</i>		
Visit other Zoos		

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Bees - learn more about Bees and what they need to thrive.		1 term.
Previous investigation and theme leading to current investigation:	Resources for present investigation <i>What resources will my child and I use? Include a variety of specific titles, levels and websites.</i>	Monitoring for present investigation <i>How will I monitor and record my child's progress?</i>
My Child is really interested and keen to keep some native bee. We want to use this interest to delve more via to look at other aspects including ecosystems and learn more about Bees and what they need to thrive. We have space and are considering keeping some bees.	Library for books on bees, YouTube - Talking Australian Native Bees with Tim Heard https://youtu.be/9M2zW4Lj3_w - Australian Native Stingless Bee Expert Shares Her Top Tips on the Martys Garden Show https://youtu.be/XGGTq765nuE Documentaries, Websites - Cool Australia https://www.coolaustralia.org/activity/learnhome-observing-native-bees/ - Act for Bees https://actforbees.org/resources/education/ - Bee Aware kids https://www.beeawarekids.com.au/ - Hollys Backyard Bees http://www.hollysbackyardbees.com.au/ - Bee Aware https://beeaware.org.au/industry/education-and-resources/ - Amazing Bees https://www.amazingbees.com.au/bees-for-kids.html - Biodiversity in nature https://www.sustainableschoolsnsnsw.org.au/teach/biodiversity - Beginner Bee keeping Qld Bee Keeper Association https://qbabees.org.au/home/beekeeping-basics/ Podcasts on Bee Keeping (12) https://blog.feedspot.com/beekeeping_podcasts/ Visit - Super Bee at Currumbin	I will keep a learning diary of what happens and what I observe with our lessons. All written work, photos and videos will be dated and saved for report time. A presentation on the animal related industry Poster of results and investigations
Investigation activities, knowledge and skills <i>What topics/content/learning areas am I planning to incorporate? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be developed? What learning experiences/activities will my child have?</i>		
English: Understand how bees benefit humans. Identify unique abilities of bees. How do bees communicate? How do bees defend themselves? Maths: Researching cost of owning bees and honey production. Investigating bees' mathematical abilities SOSE: What are some of the different roles that bees play in a bee colony? The uses of bees and honey over the decades. Science: Native bees vs introduced species and where they came from What kind of creature is a bee; different species of bees? Identify parts of a bee? Do bees produce anything other than honey? What exactly is honey? How do bees help the ecosystem? Technologies: Using the internet for research Using the library to find books on a topic H&PE: Using honey as a cooking ingredient in recipes. Research the health impacts of honey. The Arts: Create an informative poster on Bees.		
Future investigation activities <i>What will your future topic/s of investigation be? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be included?</i>		
Visit an Apiary https://www.aussieapiaristsonline.net/honey-from-queensland.html , purchase a bee hive.		

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Mental and Physical Health		ongoing
Previous investigation and theme leading to current investigation: <i>What was your previous topic of investigation and how does it connect to your current investigation?</i>	Resources for present investigation <i>What resources will my child and I use? Include a variety of specific titles, levels and websites.</i>	Monitoring for present investigation <i>How will I monitor and record my child's progress</i>
We want to support him to learn more about himself and what he can do to help with his mental and physical health. Establish more independence and routine with washing, ironing, cooking, cleaning, sewing, washing/drying dishes, putting things away, assistance with laundry (washing/folding/putting clothes away). Taking responsibility for his pets. My Child still needs assistance with some basic social and life skills and navigating the expected society behaviours.	• Everyday Life http://www.gcflearnfree.org/everydaylife 30 interactives offer information on banking, cooking, reading labels and receipts, understanding maps, shopping, telling the time and other practical life skills. • Social Thinking https://www.socialthinking.com/ • Social Stories http://www.myaspergerschild.com/2011/02/how-to-write-social-stories.html Social stories provide an individual with accurate information about those situations that he may find difficult or confusing. • Khan Academy Growth Mindset https://www.khanacademy.org/partner-content/learnstorm-growth-mindset-activities-us • Create your own Fitness Planner http://workoutplanner.com.au/ • How To design your own routine https://www.wholelifechallenge.com/how-to-design-your-own-workout-program-a-guide-for-beginners/	Photographing and writing about the journey. Discussions about progress and recording these for comparison with later discussions. Keeping a Learning Diary on things I note and observe with our discussions.
Investigation activities, knowledge and skills <i>What topics/content/learning areas am I planning to incorporate? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be developed? What learning experiences/activities will my child have?</i>		
English: Work on using words before “fight” mode. Work with therapists. Some self focused investigations on mental health and ways to support. Audio books, create own comics. Look into local networks to establish friendships/connections. Maths: Record his physical health and create a personal fitness plan. We will use programs such as Khan Academy to continue building basic math skills as well as utilising real life situations to learn about math (shopping and cooking). Improve number fact recall and x3 and x5 tables. SOSE: Identify forms of health/exercise over time. Art: Continue to Design art to express his emotional need and for fun. Science: Investigate the science of maintaining good mental and physical health. Use scientific language and concepts. Technology: Design his own board game based on some of his favourite animals Draft and design a routine. Cooking, washing/drying dishes, putting things away, taking responsibility for pet, cleaning up his own messes, keeping room tidy. HPE: Develop core strength, stamina. Continue to learn to recognise his triggers and limits. Incorporating a routine that involves dressing in morning, breakfast, brushing teeth and a night routine where he showers, changes into night clothes of his choice and after a short time puts electronics aside to read a bit before bed.		
Future investigation activities <i>What will your future topic/s of investigation be? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be included?</i>		
Continue with learning about Mental and Physical health for life.		