

Thematic/interest-driven investigations

Home education program for My Child 2025

Educational and personal goals

Short term (this year)

- To help My Child to gain confidence and excitement in learning.
- To support her to learn her Science and mathematical skills.
- To facilitate more learning through life skills and become more independent in her own life.
- To continue learning in the animal field to support her desire to be a Vet.
- To have some work experience/volunteer work opportunities in the animal industry.

Long term (future years)

- To prepare her to be independent and able to perform daily life tasks.
- To prepare her to be able to access the tertiary degree of her choice.
- To provide her with what she needs to be employable and to be able to investigate different careers and jobs.

Overview of my child (the learner)

My child's learning background and individual needs

My Child is 15 years old, loves learning and did continually bring home A's when in primary school. She is ASD and tends to become overloaded with sensory issues which make her very inflexible. Things are very black and white to My Child and while shy, she does engage well in the community setting, she loves animals and wants to be a Veterinarian.

She is proficient at maths calculations in her head and has a level of approx year 8 in math skills. She enjoys reading non fiction books including encyclopedias and Independently researches topics of her choice. She has good writing skills and is often online devouring knowledge.

My Child tends to get fixated on a topic and at the moment that topic is animals. She also is interested in her Aboriginal history and culture and has been tracing our family history.

My child's learning style/s

I want to engage her through that love of animals and encourage her drive to achieve her desire to be a Vet. I am aware of the academic challenges that pathway may present and so I would also like her to become aware of all the other options in the animal field so she is able to work in the industry, and understand more about animals, while reaching for her higher goal.

She really enjoys learning in all ways but primarily is a hands on, visual, solitary learner. She especially enjoys reading in all different media to learn more about all subjects. She learns best when she is interested in the subject and has some context for the learning and is more enthused and engaged when an activity involves animals.

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

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

I will be combining more educational games into our learning life and will include her love of cooking and gardening and we will be expanding those interests into projects. To support My Child's learning I intend to:

- Encourage and support her to use a monthly, weekly, and daily planner so that she can be in control of her tasks.
- Provide feedback and help where needed but support her independence wherever possible to give her the confidence in her own abilities.
- Build up my own knowledge about how I can best suit her learning style.
- Be flexible with expectations and make allowances for changing interests.

In addition I will use the following teaching strategies to assist with ensuring she has understanding and extending her thinking and knowledge.

- Bloom's taxonomy for reflective thinking to scaffold thinking and develop questions to guide reflective thinking.
- Compare and contrast with texts, objects or locations.
- "I used to think ... but now I know" to help to check for understanding.
- She will be asked to reflect on their learning as they compare before and after learning new ideas.
- Reflect – Connect – Apply for practical learning applications,
- Predict, observe and explain to encourage her to analyse and interpret demonstrations or experiments in greater depth.

Description of home learning environment

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

We live in an old Queenslander on approx. 38 acres of land. She has her own bedroom and laptop, she has her own TV. We have an office in our sunroom with a desk and is our business space for the local businesses that are may be created. Our bookshelves have books of all types. We have a spacious living room where some book learning can take place. Large outside with a dam and all the animals.

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 her extended family and has the freedom to pursue her own interests and passions (animals). She enjoys pending time with our animals, watching documentaries on animals and reading more about her animals. She also has become interested in Politics both US and Australian system. She spends time in the garden and enjoys connecting with peers online in Minecraft.

Social opportunities

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

My Child is very shy and has always been a loner. We do hope that as her anxiety settles, we will look at attending some of the local home school meet ups and supporting her to extend her circle of friends. She enjoys spending time with her sisters and her niece and nephew (ages 2-5) and is amazing at engaging and looking after them.

Investigation summary

Develop a brief outline of interest-driven investigations including each exploration topic and how to include learning areas for exploration. **Please note, this overview is a summary and does not constitute a complete program.**

Investigation Number	English	Maths	Humanities and Social Sciences	Science	Technologies	The Arts	Health & Physical Education
Animal Behaviourism	Research breeding and blood lines for popular chicken breeds and miniature pigs.	- Weights - Foods - Amounts - Growth - spreadsheets	What do our pets need to be healthy and happy? How do pets help us? Assistant animals role?	Identify different species and breeds and their preferred adaptations being bred. Investigate the place of animals in the ecosystem	Design a better system to feed all the animals and record their requirements.	Improve the environment for the animals around our home.	Examine the health requirements of favourite animal and relate it to health needs of people.
Investigate the many possible animal careers	Research pathways to Vet Science and Vet Nurse. Identify the different alternative animal career possibilities	Track information in a spreadsheet of career options, income, numbers of practitioners, and suitability to a career - rating.	Examine the History of animal industry and the emerging specialists in the animal industry.	Look at alternative methods (natural therapies) of treating animals and investigate their scientific basis	Create/draft some posters for better health treatment of animals Complete an animal related online course.	Display the findings and results from research.	Investigate the mental health of animal practitioners and their long-term outcomes in employment.
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 animals per head.	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 feed for the animals.	Design a creative garden based on her knowledge of permaculture.	Outdoors activities – create and maintain the garden and research the benefits of working in the soil
Science/Maths Investigations	Continue to support her science language and skills. Magazines on science	Cooking to make math relevant with fractions and weights and conversions. Board Games Continue building basic math skills.	Complete some online courses in the science from a MOOC	Science Investigations: - Astronomy - Chemistry - Science Centre	Design her own board game based on some of her favourite animals.	Design presentations in form of Posters or Lap Books or PowerPoint to share her findings and results.	Take some personality tests online to help understand her own place in the world. eg Myers Briggs
Life and Social Skills	Improving all aspects engaging resources: Prepare a Resume for volunteering in the animal industry. Investigate roles of volunteer.	Budgets and money and shopping and savings Cooking skills. Improve number fact recall and confidence with money handling.	Learn more about herself through researching her own family tree. Local indigenous culture and places of significance.	Germes and Hygiene Research the bacteria and health implications of poor hygiene in the kitchen and when food is off. Additionally bacteria transfer to food.	Systems to help Put systems in place to help her daily mental and physical health	Art Gallery Tour the local community centres and art galleries.	Cooking independently Routine of helping around the house with household chores and responsibilities.

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>
Animal Behaviourism		1 term each topic
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 is loves all animals, insects and life. We want to use this interest to delve into all aspects and learn more about animals and what they need to survive. She assists with our breeding of miniature pigs and helping with our farm animals.	Book: My Beloved Dog Wellness Book: Veterinary Record Keeping & New Owner Resources Library, documentaries, YouTube channels, Websites: • Small-scale pig keeping: why inbreeding matters https://thepigsite.com/articles/small-scale-pig-keeping-why-inbreeding-matters • If you are thinking of buying pigs here are some things that you need to take into consideration https://rarebreedstrust.com.au/public/pages/pigs • Basic housing requirements https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/agriculture/animals/pigs/piggery-management/housing/basic-housing • Genetic defects in pigs and how to deal with them https://www.pigprogress.net/Piglets/Articles/2016/6/Genetic-defects-in-pigs-and-how-to-deal-with-them-2826746W/ • "Choosing The Breed Of Chicken That Is Right For You" https://www.chickencoopdirect.com/free-guide/chicken-breeds.htm • Top 10 Most Expensive Chicken Breeds, Guess What's In No. 1?! https://hobiternak.com/top-10-most-expensive-chicken-breeds/ • Breeding Of Poultry http://thepoultryguide.com/breeding-of-poultry/	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 breeding and blood lines for popular chicken breeds and miniature pigs. Investigate and list pros and cons and their daily food and housing requirements. Maths: Weights, Foods, Amounts, Growth spreadsheets Design and maintain spreadsheets and make graphs on the animals weights, foods requirements, and their growth. SOSE: How do pets help us? Investigate what do they need to be healthy and happy? What do our pets need to be healthy and happy? Assistant animals roles, requirements? Science: Identify different species and breeds and their preferred adaptations being bred. Investigate the place of animals in the ecosystem Technologies: Design a better system to feed all the animals and record their requirements. The Arts: Improve the environment for the animals around our home. Decorate and provide suitable materials to decorate and design items for our animals. 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 Zoo, Zookeeper for a day,		

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Investigate the many possible animal careers		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 has a strong focus/passion/obsession with animals. She spends her free time devouring information about animals. She really wants to be a Vet and helping her cement that pathway will give her more direction and focus to learn. I strongly believe that the animal industry is where she will find her employment in and so we should use this to investigate all possible career pathways.	Library – non fiction books on animal career industry YouTube, Documentaries, Websites: - Find a Job Working With Animals https://www.thebalancecareers.com/animal-career-list-125603 - Top Animal Careers - You can work with animals and earn a living https://www.thebalancecareers.com/top-paying-animal-careers-4176598 - Animal Care jobs in Queensland https://au.jora.com/?q=Animal+Care&l=Queensland&button=&sp=search#email_alert_modal - The 18 Best Jobs for Animal Lovers https://www.careeraddict.com/animal-jobs - Careers with Animals – Job Descriptions https://www.petfinder.com/helping-pets/careers-with-pets/careers-animals-job/ University Courses https://www.jcu.edu.au/courses/bachelor-of-veterinary-science https://future-students.uq.edu.au/study/programs/bachelor-veterinary-science-honours-2378 https://study.csu.edu.au/courses/animal-vet-sciences Online course https://www.training.com.au/animal-care-courses/ https://www.shortcourses.com.au/animal-care-courses/ https://www.openstudycollege.com/animal-care-courses	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: Research pathways to Vet Science and Vet Nurse. Identify the different alternative animal career possibilities Maths: Track information in a spreadsheet of career options, income, numbers of practitioners, and suitability to a career - rating. Continue building highschool math skills with independent learning via Khan academy or equivalent. HASS: History of animal industry and the emerging specialists in the animal industry. Science: Look at alternative methods (natural therapies) of treating animals and investigate their scientific basis. Technologies: Create/draft some posters for better health treatment of animals. Complete an animal related online course. Investigate Cert III In Animal Care The Arts: Display the findings and results from research. H&PE: Investigate the mental health of animal practitioners and their long term outcomes in employment.		
Future investigation activities <i>What will your future topic/s of investigation be? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be included?</i>		
Obtain some work experience/volunteer role in the animal industry		

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Horticulture		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 design. So we will use this as a way to research and learn about a variety of garden bed options and she can learn more about permaculture and sustainability in general as she 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 and writing about the results of these activities Keeping records or copies of written work, either in a physical folder or a folder in the computer according to how it was created. 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 animals per head. Plan plot and garden bed sizes and soil requirements etc based on her research as to the best garden for our yard. HASS: 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. Incorporating feed for the animals. The Arts: Design of garden to include some artistic flair. Create posters, lap book to present her 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
Continue supporting her Science/Maths Investigations		ongoing
Previous investigation and theme leading to current investigation:	Resources for present investigation <i>What resources will my child and I use?</i>	Monitoring for present investigation <i>How will I monitor and record?</i>
My Child enjoys learning about science and we want to continue to use her love and enjoyment of experiments and testing to extend all areas of her learning. She has a high interest in chemical experiments. My Child needs to build her understanding of maths, while also progressing through the maths concepts so she will manage at tertiary level. We will also be learning about budgeting, banking and investments, interest rates and lock in contracts.	Library resources, Dragon Box, Board games eg Monopoly, Minecraft and others. Exercise books for sums, calculator, money. YouTube, CSIRO website, Magazines on science Websites: • Khan Academy • Money smart http://www.moneysmart.gov.au • Science Mystery - http://www.sciencemystery.com/ • Science by Doing https://www.sciencebydoing.edu.au/ • The Happy Scientist https://thehappyscientist.com • ABC Education http://education.abc.net.au/home#!/home • Maths is Fun http://www.mathsisfun.com/index.htm , Future Learn Science: • Chemistry- https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/science-engineering-and-maths-courses/chemistry • Biology & Biotechnology https://www.futurelearn.com/subjects/science-engineering-and-maths-courses/biology-and-biotechnology Astronomy - https://alison.com/course/astronomy-the-wonders-of-the-big-bang-and-our-universe	Photos, copies of reports, Presentations of results in a physical form; a poster or PowerPoint, lapbook spreadsheet. Photographing and writing about the results 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: Continue to support her science language and skills. Magazines on science. Maths: Cooking to make math relevant with fractions and weights and conversions. Board Games eg Boggle. Continue building basic math skills using Khan Academy. learning about budgeting, banking and investments, interest rates and lock in contracts. HASS: Complete some online courses in the sciences from a MOOC eg https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/propaganda Science: Science Investigations: Astronomy, Chemistry, Science Centre Technology: Design her own board game based on some of her favourite animals. Art: Design presentations in form of Posters or Lap Books or PowerPoint to share her findings and results. H&PE: Take some personality tests online to help understand her own place in the world. eg Myers Brigg https://www.onlinepersonalitytests.org/mbti/		
Future investigation activities <i>What will your future topic/s of investigation be? What knowledge, thinking skills or practical skills will be included?</i>		
Further courses in science and maths to progress to tertiary knowledge level.		

Investigation theme <i>What is the theme that you are planning to investigate?</i>		Expected duration <i>e.g. 10 weeks</i>
Life and Social Skills		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
My Child still needs assistance with some basic social and life skills and navigating the expected society behaviours. We want to support her to feel safe and happy as she starts to make new friends and respond appropriately and make good choices in the many social circles she may find herself in. To be more confident through some volunteer work. Establish more independence and routine with washing, ironing, cooking, cleaning.	• Healthy Habits website • Everyday Life http://www.gcflernfree.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/ • Meal planning / recipes journal for keeping track of successful meal options. Various online and physical recipe books • Playing History - http://playinghistory.org/ • State Library's Indigenous Languages Project https://www.slq.qld.gov.au/discover/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-cultures-and-stories/languages/queensland/indigenous-languages-map • Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education https://www.narragunnawali.org.au/ • 2 Way Science. An Integrated Learning Program for Aboriginal Desert Schools by CSIRO & Indigenous science for kids https://www.publish.csiro.au/ebook/download/pdf/7949	Budgets Wall posters Journal of Learning Take photos Keeps record of all events etc Presentation on bacteria and healthy habits
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: Prepare a Resume for volunteering in the animal industry. Investigate roles of volunteer. Improving all aspects through relevant engaging resources, Websites to learn from, Audio books, create her own comics. Continue to support her learning Maths: Create a budget for meal plan. money and shopping and savings Cooking skills. Improve number fact recall and confidence with money handling. HASS: Learn more about herself through researching her own family tree. Local indigenous culture and places of significance. Science: Research the bacteria and health implications of poor hygiene in the kitchen and when food is off. Additionally examine how bacteria transfer to food. Technologies: Put systems in place to help her daily mental and physical health – connect on line and in real life with her peers. The Arts: Design a poster/brochure/presentation to share what she learns about healthy habits. Art Gallery Tour the local community centres and art galleries. H&PE: Put systems in place to help her daily mental and physical health. Routine of helping around the house with household chores and responsibilities.		
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 to support her to learn life skills as she matures.		