

# Home Style Learning



Photo:  
A family at a dinosaur activity session

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7th July 2018

The school population is on holidays. Our learning routine continues unabated, with the only change that home ed group breaks for the two weeks and, of course, everywhere we go is a lot busier!

Daniel's reading skills have progressed over the year, but he is sometimes frustrated that his reading level is not yet equal to real stories. In the meantime, he devours stories for as many hours as I can sit and read to him, and often listens to audio books while playing.

Jason messes around with the fridge magnet letters and numbers often and spells out family names.

This week's movie viewing and discussion was on *Peter Pan* and with talk about real life pirates, story characters and plots, and Pan's reluctance to grow up. Daniel also watched *A Christmas Carol* with Mum and Dad and we talked about Charles Dickens, his characters and the amazing coincidences in his books.

The kids have been doing a lot of imaginative play with lots of discussion between Daniel and Jason about what their characters will do next. Harrison sometimes joins in and sometimes does his own thing or takes a nap. This week the game was inspired by Peter Pan and has involved lots of pirates with the ghost of Jacob Marley making a somewhat bizarre appearance. I love to watch how everything the kids watch gets recycled through their games.

Daniel played *30-second Mystery* with me and we talked about puzzles and logic.

Trampoline, bike-riding and swimming.

We attended a dinosaur activity session where the kids' favourite activity was assembling a skeleton and experimenting with whether it would go together the wrong way.

Sounding out the words on the milk bottle led to talk about the homogenisation and pasteurisation of milk and how milk now lasts longer and the milk industry has changed — no longer delivered to houses, lasts longer on the shelf, the milk truck won't stop at farms for a small amount of milk so farmers tend to specialise.

Practical maths while grocery shopping (addition, subtraction, weights, percentages)

Attended library story-time and chose books.

**Daniel's independent reading this week:**

*Dick and Jane, The Three Billy Goats Gruff* (a stretch)

English Drama Literature History Science Phys Ed Maths



14th July 2018

The big news this week is that Daniel can read!

The breakthrough came with a book called *Frog and Toad*. It was almost magical the way it happened. I read the story to him, he asked for it again, and then took it from me and read it back. Wow!

Our daily reading sessions continue, but he now reads independently at some stage every day as well and is hugely pleased with himself. Jason is impressed and wants the magic to happen to him.

Going with the pirate theme, we watched *Muppet Treasure Island* and the boys are colouring in pictures from the Dover colouring book *Pirates*.

Last week's imaginative game has continued, but the pirates are now running a shop with doubloons for currency — in full dress-up of course! The game provided great opportunities for cooperative play, maths skills and a bit of English in the preparation of signage.

We had a dentist appointment which gave rise to talk about cleaning and caring for your teeth, the importance of being on time, and the frustration of waiting rooms.

We did more practical maths while grocery shopping (addition, subtraction, weights, percentages). We also played Snakes and Ladders using a pirate theme — the ladders were rigging and the snakes were planks. The boys had heaps of fun and it was a good opportunity for Jason to practice counting skills.

Attended library story-time and chose books — couldn't wait to find more *Frog and Toad* books!

We had two trips to the playground which provided plenty of physical activity. We also played catch.

**Daniel's independent reading this week:**

Daniel: *Frog and Toad*.

English Drama Health History Phys Ed Maths



Photo:  
Children giving a Wiggles concert

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21st July 2018

Home ed group started up again with a group visit to Scienceworks which the boys loved. They were particularly taken with the Sportworks section and spent over an hour playing in the Nitty Gritty Super City. There has been much discussion about everything they saw and did and they are keen to go back again. Levers were popular and have led to some experiments with rulers and Legos.

The pirate game is still progressing but the shop has given way to building ships out of boxes — a game which continued in the Nitty Gritty Super City with a little imagination.

Physical exercise this week was bike-riding, ball games and trampolining as well as racing Cathy Freeman at Scienceworks.

We played Pirate rigging and planks again and Daniel played *Battleship* with Dad which was a new take on maths skills through board games. Meanwhile, I played *Trouble* with Jason and he used skip counting to move quickly around the board.

The boys are continuing with their pirate colouring and have had a go at drawing their own pirate scenes which were used to decorate the pirate shops. We've also been reading about real life pirates from library books. Some of these people — Anne Bonny and Blackbeard are now popping up in their games alongside Captain Hook and Captain Feathersword.

Another current game is doing Wiggles concerts. This week Jason asked to have the words printed out to 'read' from despite the fact he knows them off by heart. I was very happy to oblige as I have a suspicion could well be the key to reading for him. I typed out the words to his favourite songs, adding pictures that help identify each song. He has coloured those in and now has a display book full of Wiggles lyrics which he refers to during concerts.

**Daniel's independent reading this week:**

Daniel: *Frog and Toad are Friends*

English Drama Science History Phys Ed Maths Art Music



28th July 2018

This week we headed to Swan Hill and spent a full day at the pioneer settlement. The boys enjoyed soaking up the history of old cars, old shops, and the street theatre. There were fantastic opportunities for the kids to really get in and feel part of history — climbing into old wagons and cars, and seeing especially 'bushrangers' gallop in and hold up the boat were about to board. It really brought history alive for them and their games have been full of bushrangers this week. We've followed up on this with some bushrangers books from the library and the boys have lapped them up.

The Wiggles concerts game continues and Jason is becoming very proficient at locating the desired song in his display book.

Jason had some competition for his fridge letters this week — Harrison decided to sort them by colour and didn't understand that the letters J A S O N were sacrosanct. All of sudden, Fridge-aggdon was on! The fallout was bitter and took up most of the day. It almost made me regret home educating at all.

The following day when Harrison headed for the fridge, the howling could have started again except that Granma (with perfect timing) arrived bearing gifts and Harrison's one of his own letters including purple. His letters are now grouped by colour on the sides of the fridge while JASON adorns the front together with THESE ARE MINE. He said we should get one of those 'extra things that show crossness'. I'm now searching ebay for fridge magnet punctuation marks.

Home ed group was at the playground this week and was a good chance to let off steam and have some other company after the tensions of the day before. Bike-riding and trampolining have again rounded out the boys' week in physical activity.

We baked a cake on Friday which was not only practical science in terms of discussion on combinations and changing states but also gave measurements, volume and doubling. With the cake in the oven, Daniel and Jason playing with all the measuring cups on the sink - tipping water from one to another to test their capacity.

On Saturday there was a request for more cooking so we decided on playdough which was a big hit with all three. Harrison enjoyed mixing colour through his share of the dough, Jason worked on making letters and Daniel's dough was shaped into bushrangers.

**Daniel's independent reading this week:**

Daniel: Days with *Frog and Toad* and *The Hold Up Heroes*

English Drama Science History Phys Ed Maths Music Art

## About Us

We live and learn without school. We learn all year regardless of school terms of school hours. Our learning takes place from our home but incorporates the ordinary excursions of daily life (shopping, banking, dentist etc.) as well as trips to museums, the playground, pools, parks and home ed groups and activities. The world is our classroom and learning is all around us!

- Maths
- Phys Ed
- Science
- History
- Geography
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