

Reviews and Unschooling

Natural learning/unschooling is a valid form of education and the VRQA are prepared to accept that, so you don't need to worry about your education not looking like school. However, you do need to articulate how you facilitate your child's education to meet the requirements. The questions under *Review by Activities* in the *Guide to Reviews* will help you prepare and this sheet contains two examples of how unschooling activities can be articulated.

"she watched an episode where the main character stepped in to help another child who was being bullied, then they became good friends. We had a long chat about bullying."
(Health & PE)

"she watched an episode with English subtitles, and paused the DVD often to try and guess which words spoken in Japanese corresponded to the subtitles."
(Languages, English)

"we walked to the library to borrow books on how to draw manga characters. We used the library catalogue to find items and played at a park on the way home."
(Tech, English, Health & PE)

"she has been using Duolingo to learn basic Japanese and attempts to write characters. She also watches Japan travel and food videos for children."
(Languages, English, HaSS)

Your child's interests and their value in a home education review

Your child's interests can provide incredibly rich detail for your review. Just because something doesn't look like 'school' does not mean it is somehow inferior, or lacking, when compared to a more structured, school-like approach other families may use. Here, we look at a child's interest and break it down in to learning areas.

You may find it helpful to use the key learning area names, as in this example, but it isn't compulsory.

Activity:

"My nine year old daughter loves watching anime. She has a few favourites from popular Japanese studios."

You can write down what your child does around this interest, using brief sentences or photos with annotations: it's up to you!

"she wants to save up for a holiday to Japan. We looked up prices of airfares to Tokyo, then worked out ways she could earn and save money."
(Maths, Tech)

"she now wants her own passport and used Google to see how she could get one. We went to the post office to get forms, which she has been filling out to practice small writing."
(English, HaSS, Tech)

"she enjoys drawing the characters from her favourite shows and we have signed her up for manga drawing workshops at our local library."
(The Arts)

KEY LEARNING AREAS:

- English
- Maths
- The Arts
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Technology
- Languages
- Health & PE
- Science

"she searched for the cruise line and looked at photos and specs of the ship. Then she researched food options for vegetarians."

(Tech, English, Health & PE)

"she looked at our travel itinerary and used Google Maps to look things up. Then began to measure distances and plot our route and ports."

(Tech, English, HaSS, Maths)

"she used YouTube to watch travel-with-kids videos of the South Pacific and some of the traditional arts, crafts and music she would see."

(Tech, Arts, HaSS, English)

"she saw that French is the official language of New Caledonia, so she watched some French-for-kids videos and used Duolingo to learn basic words."

(Languages, Tech, HaSS)

Reviews for Natural Learning, Child Led and Unschooling families

If your home ed approach doesn't resemble traditional school, don't panic! You can absolutely produce a comprehensive and successful review. Here's an example of breaking down an activity, to see just how much 'learning' was done.

You may find it helpful to use the key learning area names, as in this example, but it isn't compulsory.

Activity:

"My daughter spent hours on the computer researching our upcoming cruise to the South Pacific."

You can write down what your child did, using brief sentences and listing any resources you see fit, such as websites.

"she looked up the official currencies of the countries we will be visiting, then wanted to know what her money was worth. She discovered currency converter websites and had fun there".

(Maths, Tech, HaSS)

"She watched Mighty Ships, where a cruise ship was caught in bad weather. She looked at weather in the South Pacific and read about monsoons and cyclones."

(Science, HaSS)

"she wanted to know if we'd be near an active volcano. She read about the Ring of Fire and tectonic plates. We then read a book on mountains and volcanoes."

(HaSS, Science, English)

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