

INTEREST LED

Project Planner for
Homeschooling Families



Before We Begin

I'm so happy that you're here and that you've taken this step to begin (or continue) your journey with interest-led learning.

Interest-led learning, also known as child-led or passion-driven learning, is an educational approach that centers on a child's natural curiosities and interests. Instead of following a rigid curriculum, children explore topics they are passionate about, fostering a deeper engagement and enthusiasm for learning. This method encourages children to take the lead in their education, promoting independence, critical thinking, and a love for lifelong learning.

For homeschooling families, interest-led learning is an ideal fit. It allows for a flexible and personalized educational experience, tailored to each child's unique strengths, interests, and pace. Homeschooling parents can create a rich, dynamic learning environment where their children can thrive, exploring subjects that truly captivate their attention and imagination.

The Interest-Led Project Planner is a valuable tool for homeschooling parents, designed to guide you through the process of identifying your children's interests and transforming them into comprehensive learning projects.

This planner includes sections for setting goals, exploring various subjects through the chosen interest, planning activities, and organizing resources. By using the planner, you can create engaging, multidisciplinary projects that not only educate, but also inspire your children, making learning a joyous and meaningful journey.

XO, Laura

Picture This: The Benefits of Interest Led Learning

Encourages Engagement and Motivation:
When children are allowed to explore topics they are genuinely interested in, they are more engaged and motivated.

Promotes Deep Learning:
When children are passionate about a subject, they are more likely to delve deeper, ask more questions, and seek out more resources, leading to a richer learning experience.

Enhances Creativity:
An Interest-Led Project Planner allows for creative expression in multiple forms, whether through art, writing, building, or other mediums and the planner helps you prepare for the messiness!

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills: They must figure out what they need to learn, where to find info, how to apply what they've learned, and how to overcome obstacles that arise to really learn about their topic.

Enhances Collaboration:
This Interest-Led Project Planner allows for parents to help their child be successful in their learning and in the pursuit of their interests and curiosities.

This Interest-Led Learning Planner will help homeschooling parents identify and develop their children's interests into comprehensive learning projects that they will enjoy and love. Let's get started!

The Fun Part: Let's Identify Your Child's Interests!

1. Child's Name:

2. Date:

3. What is ONE thing your child is most PASSIONATE about right now?

4. Why is your child interested in this topic? Have a conversation with them and write down what you learn.

Not So Fun, but Super Important: Clarify the Goals

5. What do you hope your child will learn from exploring this interest?

6. What specific skills or knowledge will your child gain from this topic?

Bring On the Subjects!

How can this interest be connected to different subjects?

SCIENCE

HISTORY

MATH

LANGUAGE ARTS

Bring On the Subjects!

How can this interest be connected to different subjects?

ART

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

WRITING

SPELLING

Bring On the Subjects!

How can this interest be connected to different subjects?

RELIGION

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Bring On the Subjects!

How can this interest be connected to different subjects?

LIFE SKILLS

TECHNOLOGY

OTHER:

OTHER:

All the Activities!

Here's a massive list of activities. From this list, highlight some of the activities that fit well with the chosen interest.

Art

- Drawing or Painting: Create a picture or painting about what you love.
- Sculpting: Make a model using clay or playdough.
- Photography Fun: Take cool photos of things you find interesting.
- Collage Creation: Cut out and glue pictures to make a fun collage.
- Crafty Creations: Make fun crafts with different materials.
- Digital Art: Use a computer or tablet to draw digital pictures.
- Art Journal: Keep a special journal for your drawings and doodles.
- Mural Making: Paint a big picture on a large piece of paper or wall.
- Mixed Media: Combine different art supplies to create a unique project.

Language Arts

- Story Writing: Write a fun story or comic about your favorite topic.
- Journal Writing: Keep a journal where you write about your day.
- Create a Presentation: Make a cool presentation to show what you learned.
- Read Aloud: Read books or stories out loud to family or friends.
- Book Report: Write a short report about a book you love.
- Scriptwriting: Write a play or skit and act it out.
- Letter Writing: Write letters to friends or family about your interests.
- Vocabulary List: Make a list of new words you learn and their meanings.
- Blogging: Start a blog where you share your learning adventures.

Math

- Measuring Fun: Measure things around the house or garden.
- Graphs and Charts: Make charts or graphs to show what you've learned.
- Budgeting: Plan a pretend budget for a project or fun activity.
- Patterns and Sequences: Find and create patterns with objects or drawings.
- Math Games: Play fun math games to practice your skills.
- Geometry Projects: Make shapes and structures with paper or blocks.
- Statistics: Collect and count data related to your interests.
- Math Puzzles: Solve fun math puzzles and brainteasers.
- Symmetry Projects: Draw or create symmetrical designs.
- Real-World Math Problems: Solve everyday math problems while shopping or cooking, etc.

All the Activities!

Here's a massive list of activities. From this list, highlight some of the activities that fit well with the chosen interest.

Science

- Experiments: Do simple experiments to explore your topic.
- Nature Walks: Go on a nature walk and observe what you find.
- Build Models: Create models to show how things work.
- Research Projects: Find out more about your topic and share it.
- Science Journal: Keep a journal of your experiments and observations.
- Microscope Fun: Look at tiny things under a microscope.
- Gardening: Plant seeds and watch them grow.
- Weather Tracking: Keep a weather journal and observe changes.
- Animal Studies: Learn about your favorite animals and their habitats.
- STEM Kits: Use science kits to explore different topics.

History

- Timeline Creation: Make a timeline of important events.
- Historical Stories: Write a story set in the past.
- Compare and Contrast: Compare life now to life in the past.
- Biographical Study: Learn about a famous person and their life.
- Museum Visits: Visit museums (virtual or in-person) to learn more.
- Documentaries: Watch kid-friendly documentaries about history.
- Reenactments: Dress up and act out historical events.
- Artifact Creation: Make replicas of historical objects.
- Primary Source Fun: Look at old photos, letters, or objects.
- Cultural Studies: Learn about different cultures and their histories.

Foreign Language

- Vocabulary Lists: Learn new words in another language.
- Translation Fun: Translate simple texts or stories.
- Cultural Exploration: Explore foods, music, and customs from other cultures.
- Language Games: Play games to practice new words.
- Pen Pals: Write letters to kids in other countries.
- Language Apps: Use fun apps to learn a new language.
- Storytelling: Tell stories in another language.
- Music and Songs: Learn and sing songs in a different language.
- Language Immersion: Watch shows or movies in another language.
- Cooking: Cook and taste recipes from different cultures.

All the Activities!

Here's a massive list of activities. From this list, highlight some of the activities that fit well with the chosen interest.

Physical Activities

- Dance Party: Dance to your favorite music.
- Outdoor Fun: Go hiking, biking, or play in the park.
- Build and Create: Use blocks or Legos to build cool structures.
- Fitness Challenges: Set up obstacle courses or do fitness challenges.
- Sports: Play your favorite sports or try a new one.
- Scavenger Hunts: Go on scavenger hunts to find hidden treasures.
- Dance Moves: Learn new dance routines.
- Martial Arts: Try out some basic martial arts moves.
- Yoga and Meditation: Do kid-friendly yoga or relaxation exercises.
- Nature Exploration: Explore nature and discover new things.

Technology

- Coding Fun: Learn to code simple games or animations.
- Digital Storytelling: Make digital stories or comics.
- App Exploration: Try out educational apps related to your interests.
- Virtual Tours: Take virtual tours of interesting places.
- Robotics: Build and play with simple robots.
- Video Production: Create your own videos or animations.
- 3D Printing: Design and print 3D objects.
- Website Creation: Make a simple website about your topic.
- Online Courses: Take fun online classes.
- Digital Art: Create digital drawings and designs.

Social Studies

- Community Projects: Help out in your community.
- Interviews: Interview family members or friends about their experiences.
- Mapping Fun: Draw maps of your neighborhood or places you learn about.
- Current Events: Learn about what's happening in the world today.
- Cultural Studies: Discover how people live in different parts of the world.
- Debates: Have friendly debates about different topics.
- Ethnographic Studies: Learn about and document different cultures.
- Policy Analysis: Discuss and learn about rules and laws.
- Simulations: Play games that simulate real-world scenarios.
- Case Studies: Look at real-life examples to learn more about social issues.

All the Activities!

Here's a massive list of activities. From this list, highlight some of the activities that fit well with the chosen interest.

Life Skills

- Cooking and Baking: Make delicious recipes with your family.
- Gardening: Grow plants and learn how to take care of them.
- DIY Projects: Create fun do-it-yourself crafts and projects.
- Problem-Solving Challenges: Solve puzzles and challenges together.
- Budgeting: Plan how to spend pretend money on fun projects.
- Household Chores: Help out with chores around the house.
- Sewing and Crafting: Learn to sew or make crafts.
- Public Speaking: Practice speaking in front of others.
- Time Management: Plan your day and learn to manage your time.
- Entrepreneurship: Start a small business project, like a lemonade stand.

Now, You Need Materials!!

Based on the activities you decided on, you will now need to make a list of the materials you'll need to make all the awesomeness happen.

Materials for Activity #1

Materials for Activity #2

Materials for Activity #3

Materials for Activity #4

Now, You Need Materials!!

Based on the activities you decided on, you will now need to make a list of the materials you'll need to make all the awesomeness happen.

Materials for Activity #5

Materials for Activity #6

Materials for Activity #7

Materials for Activity #8

Books, Articles, Websites, and Videos!

Let's list some resources that will fit beautifully with this interest!

15. What books would be great for this topic?



16. What articles can you find that will be great with this topic?



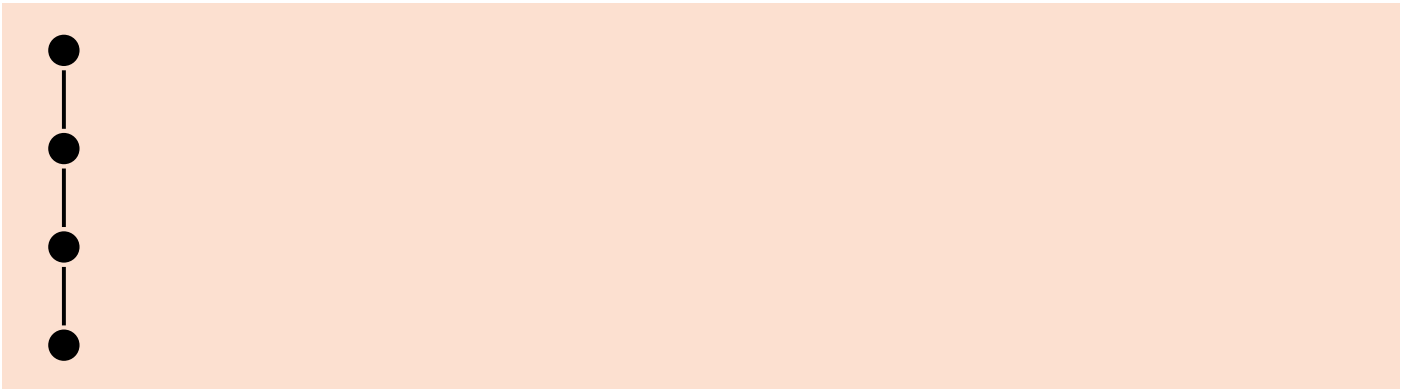
17. Jot down a few websites that would enhance this topic for your student!



Books, Articles, Websites, and Videos!

Let's list some resources that will fit beautifully with this interest!

18. What videos can you find that will be great with this topic?



Plan the Week (or Two Weeks)

Get organized (sort of) and plan your activities for the week:

Monday

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Tuesday

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Wednesday

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Thursday

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

Friday

ACTIVITY:

MATERIALS NEEDED:

To-do

Notes

A Fantastic Field Trip

It's time to plan a field trip that will deepen the understanding and engagement.

Date:

Destination:

What will we explore/learn:

Materials to have/bring:

Weekly Reflection Sheet

Let's reflect on a wonderful week of learning; what went well, what challenges arose, and how can you improve your process for the coming weeks?

What topic and/or interest did you guys explore this week?

What stood out to you the most about the learning this week?

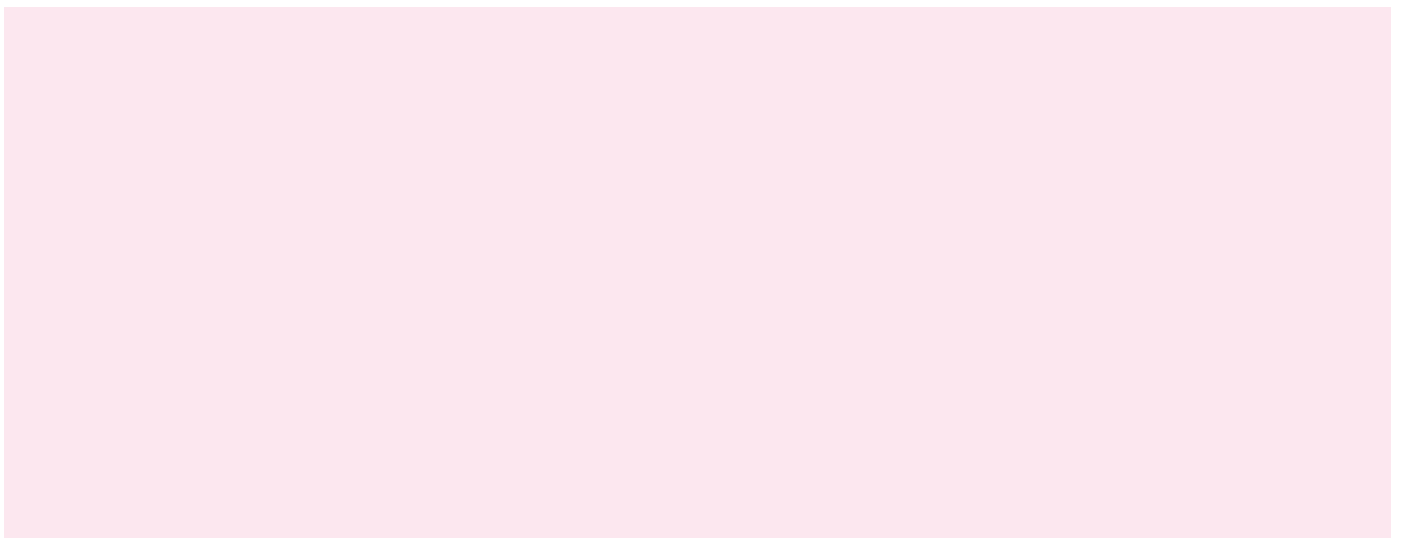
Describe the activities or learning that worked well and why they were successful:

Were there any challenges or difficulties this week? How did you address them?

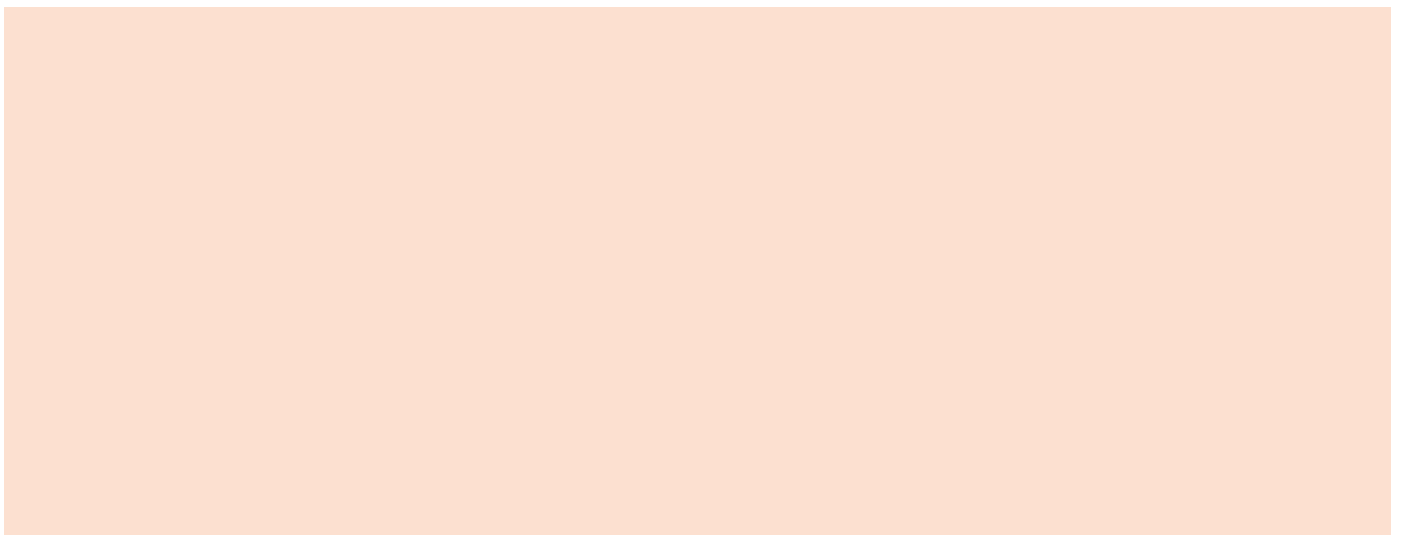
Weekly Reflection Sheet

Let's reflect on a wonderful week of learning: what went well, what challenges arose, and how can you improve your process for the coming weeks?

How engaged and motivated was your child during the activities? What kept them interested?




Did your child discover any new wonders, interests or areas of curiosity? Describe them:



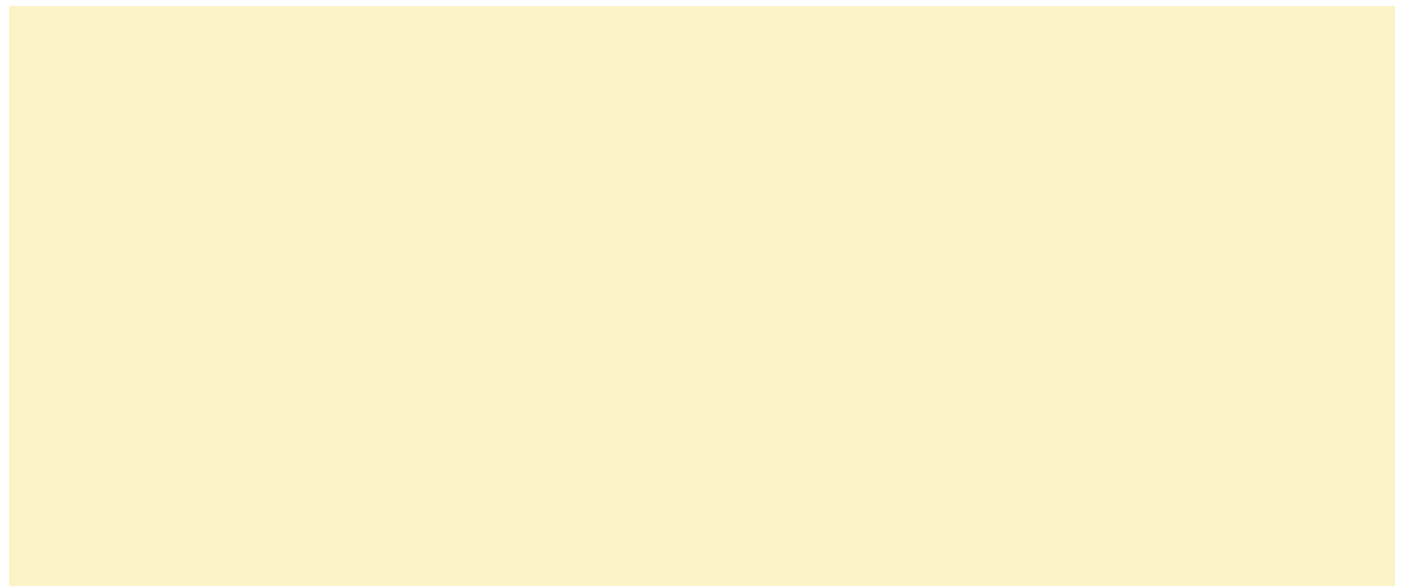
Weekly Reflection Sheet

Let's reflect on a wonderful week of learning: what went well, what challenges arose, and how can you improve your process for the coming weeks?

List the books, articles, websites, videos, and other resources that were helpful:



Which skills and subjects were covered through the interest-led activities?
(e.g., art, math, science, language arts)



Weekly Reflection Sheet

Let's reflect on a wonderful week of learning; what went well, what challenges arose, and how can you improve your process for the coming weeks?

Reflect on the goals and objectives you set at the beginning of the week. Were they met? Why or why not?

How did you feel about the week? What was fulfilling for you as a homeschool parent?

What feedback did your child give about the week? What did they enjoy or dislike?

YAY!

Congratulations on completing an entire week of interest-led learning!

I'd love to hear your thoughts and improve this planner.

Please complete the form below. It is only 6 questions!

Feedback Form