

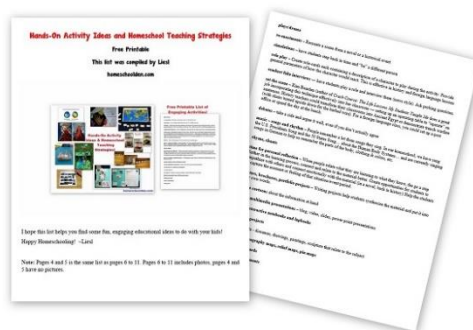
Hi Everyone,

I'm Liesl! ☺ This homeschool conference session was on Encouraging and Nurturing Independent Learning in our Homeschools.

The main gist of this session was that it is a slow (but steady) process for helping our students become independent learners.

In the session, I went over a number of different hands-on, engaging activities to help encourage engagement and spark curiosity for your kids. This wasn't the main topic of this session, so I really rushed through this. I have a free printable list of these hands-on activities here if you are interested:

Click here to download this free printable list of [Hands-On Activity Ideas and Homeschool Teaching Strategies](#). It includes all kinds of teaching strategies (like plays, simulations, dramas, brochures, etc. etc.) that you might use in your homeschool (over the years, that is... not all at once!!).



And now, on to the conference hand out. The first two pages are the summary/overview/rough outline. The second two pages are the brainstorm pages (for what independent learning looks like for you and your kids).

Again, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

~Liesl

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Helping Students Become Independent Learners

20,000 hours: Much of what is “taught” is forgotten within a short time. We want kids who know how to apply EFFECTIVE learning strategies. Help the kids learn to retain and apply knowledge!

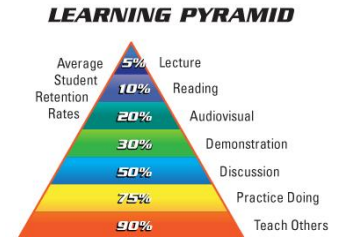


Engagement:

- Games
- Technology – youtube, documentaries, slide shows, videos, apps as learning tools, math games...
- Matching
- Flashcards
- Online Flashcards (Quizlet)
- Ongoing Projects

Share in the Decision Making:

- What do your kids want to learn? What topics interest them?
- How do they want to learn this material?
 - Choosing projects
 - Choosing specific topics to research
 - Deciding whether to dive deeper or move on...
 - They will feel more invested in the learning process if they know they have a say in the matter.
- Give them the opportunity to lead: Let students take ownership of the learning experience. Let them take charge of how things will be presented, Have the kids re-teach lessons to their siblings.



Self-Evaluation – Self Assessment Check in with them...

- How is the material? Hard? Easy?
- Do you know the material?
- Do you need more time?
- How can I help?
- Should we spend more time on this?
- Are you ready to move on?
- Do you remember when we did ____?
- Do you remember when we covered (the 3 branches of government)? Should we review that a bit?

Developing **Strategies & Habits** that will help students become confident, independent learners ... and hopefully self-starters!

Routines

- Building routines helps us ensure that various tasks get done each day.
- Creating routines in our homeschools around certain subjects or certain parts of our homeschool day can build consistency.
- These parts of our day become automatic...
- We don't have to think quite so hard about how to get started, we can just dive right in.

Determine your own routines

- Structured? Loose? Workboxes? Morning baskets or morning circle? Chores? Predictable outside time? Writing routines?
- Younger Kids: Predictable Morning Routine
 - Sang songs (we learned various patriotic songs, the USA song, the Presidents Song, German songs...)
 - Read alouds (including poetry)
 - Geography
 - Calendar Time
 - Artist of the Week
 - Daily Calendar Work
 - Math (or Spelling) Games, Sorting Cards
- Routines and Reading
- Writing Routines (Writing Workshop)

How does Creating Homeschool Routines Lead to Independence?

- Tasks become easier

- This session was put together by Liesl
- Questions? Thoughts? I'd love to hear from you: Liesl@homeschoolden.com
- You can visit my website at homeschoolden.com

- Automatic
- You are stumbling around wondering where things are
- You know what to do and how to get started
- The kids can do this routine even when you get tied up with other things
- They will take ownership of these regular routines and will keep you on track!

Expectations


- Sometimes we are loud, energetic, silly, focused, quiet, on task, at a loss, side-tracked, listening, talking, engaged
- Homeschool life is a mix of real life and academic focus.
- Make it clear when you expect certain behaviors (to focus, to talk & participate, to be energetic, to sit up straight, to jump/move around)
- Where can the kids work?
- When can they chat with each other?
- Help them learn to manage their own time... let the kids have growing control about how and when they focus
- What kinds of expectations do you have around different parts of your homeschool day?

Being Clear

- Be clear about what good work looks like
- Be clear about what a great project would look like
- Give examples
- Check in
- Have them get outside help (from a sibling, parent, friend)
- Have them read their work aloud
- Become aware of the errors in their own work
- Have a checklist of things to look for (grammar – capital letters, periods, etc.)

[illegible]

Time & Consistency -- Activities have a beginning and an end

- Workboxes – visual clue for the kids to see what they had accomplished and what they had left
 - Timer
 - Checklists – This allows them to get things done on their own time frame!
 - Curriculum grid – to schedule subjects over the course of the week... doing a certain subject on M/W/F
- 




The Challenge

- It is a challenge to provide the correct amount of guidance without providing too much direction.
- Direction is needed to help learners identify areas of difficulty but too much direction detracts from their sense of ownership of the learning project.
- Too little (as well as too much) direction can cause frustrations for the learner

Day-to-Day Strategies – Mindset & Focus

How do you teach perseverance...? Tenacity...? Working towards your dreams?

Help them build a framework for figuring things out.

- **Framing the Problem**
 - Don't immediately jump in to explain
 - Tap the problem with your finger
 - Have them read it aloud
 - What do you think this means?
 - What do you think you have to do?
 - What other information do we have?
 - Flip to example problems
 - Break down the steps
 - Help them learn the steps for finding the answer for themselves
 - Refuse to help
 - Play dumb - Hmmm... I'm not sure... what would you do?
 - Suggest improvements
 - Personal challenge
 - Speak to a peer
 - Open-ended questions
- 
- A cartoon illustration of two children, a boy and a girl, looking very confused. The boy, on the left, has brown hair and is wearing a purple shirt; he has his hand on his head. The girl, on the right, has blonde curly hair and is wearing a blue shirt; she has her hand to her chin. Above each child are three colorful question marks (yellow, blue, and pink) floating in the air, symbolizing their uncertainty.



- **Learning is not a spectator sport.**
- Anonymous
- **Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.**
- Chinese Proverb
- **I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.**
- Albert Einstein

What do Independent Learners Look Like?

What is an independent learner? What traits do independent learners have?

What does/will independent learning look like for your kids?

Independent Learning:
PreK/Early Elementary

Independent Learning:
Elementary
Middle School

Independent Learning:
High School

Helping Students Become Independent Learners

- Independent learning focuses on the process and not simply the goal.
- Flexibility for different styles of learning.
- Independent learning includes time management and other life skills.
- Passion and curiosity cement learning.
- Internal satisfaction.
- Independent learners are more aware of their own strengths and weaknesses.
- Students learn how to educate others.
- Students can self-critique more effectively.

Were you an independent learner in Elementary School?

Middle school?

High school?

How much do you remember about your daily routine in Elementary school?

Middle school?

High school?

What kinds of activities do you remember doing in Elementary school?

Middle school?

High school?

What types of activities do your kids like doing in your homeschool?

Do you have any routines set up for your kids involving reading? What?

Do you have any routines set up for your kids involving reading?

Do you have expectations for certain subjects? For example, is your math routine different from the way you do science or spelling?

How do you handle time? Do you follow a schedule? Are you structured? Do you use a timer? Do your kids know how long a subject will last? How do your kids know when your school day is over?