

# Helping Homeschoolers

**Thrive** 

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## What to expect in this workshop

We'll examine ...

- The role of motivation and autonomy in independent learning.
- Elements of an effective home learning environment.
- Ways to document work for independent learners.
- How to use narrative assessment to support student progress.

# Differences between classroom learners and independent learners

#### **Classroom Learners**

All students will do the same assignments.

Students are assessed relative to the peer group.

Teacher directs the learning.

Outside student interests rarely come into play.

**Independent Learners** 

Students will do different things.

Students are assessed on an individual basis.

Student has an active role in directing learning.

Student interest may play a large role in shaping learning.

## **Challenges and opportunities of home learning**

### Challenges

#### Students have to ...

- become self-motivated.
- take responsibility for keeping their work organized and keeping on track with assignments.
- learn to develop a strong focus and tune out home distractions.

### **Opportunities**

#### Students are able to ...

- pursue their interests more fully.
- set their own schedule.
- work at their own pace.
- incorporate interests into their learning.

## How to encourage student motivation



- 1. Give students choice and voice.
- 2. Encourage autonomy.
- 3. Teach organizational skills.

#### Handout:

**Study Skills Toolkit** 

**Time Management Skills** 





## **Incorporate student interests into learning**

Encourage students to ...

- identify what they are interested in.
- relate assignments to a personal interest.
  - recognize their learning preferences.
  - incorporate creative and artistic expression.







## **Effective home learning environments**

#### Have a dedicated work space

- Keep supplies handy.
- Make a place for in-progress work to be undisturbed.
- Set up a desk/table and chair that fit the student.
- Provide shelves and files to organize books and papers.

### Limit distractions

- Keep younger siblings busy.
- Schedule breaks to check phone/media.
- Control sound environment.
- Minimize visual distractions.

### Handout:

**Effective Home Learning Environments** 

## **Documenting work for independent learners**

Yearly Planner

Knowing goals keeps families involved.

Helps families stay on track.

Can guide choice of representative sample of work.

#### Weekly Planner

Keep notes on skills that are developing.

Helps you keep track of assignments that are good samples for portfolio.

Checked-off tasks are record of student work.

Learning Objectives

Objectives require students to display a variety of skills.

Learning targets help students be involved and accountable.

#### Handout:

**Tools for Documenting Work** 

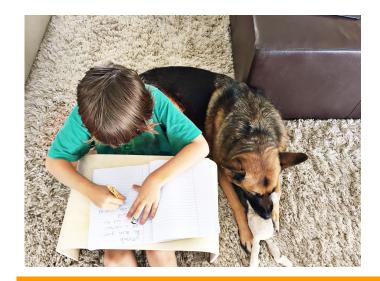
Year-at-a-Glance Planner

# Using narrative assessments to support student progress

Grades can feel like a judgment; words can be encouragement.

Narratives are individual and provide concrete guidance and support.

Use feedback to prioritize skills and focus students' efforts.



Handout: Effective Narrative Assessments



## **Questions?**

## **Comments?**

# What works for you?

## **About Oak Meadow**

Our experiential, nature-based approach allows families to set their own natural rhythm of learning and encourages creativity, critical thinking, and intellectual development through hands-on activities and interdisciplinary projects.

For resources, inspiration, ideas, and more, visit us at oakmeadow.com.

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