



In this activity the aim is to clarify what you see as important for your children to learn.

Make a list of things that you feel it is important for your children to know, understand or be able to do.

Here are some ideas, but use these as examples, your ideas are better because they are based on you and your child.

- •Being able to develop skills for independence like cooking or wiring a plug and other basic DIY
- •Being able to read and enjoy stories or access knowledge
- •Being able to use a computer to find information, create a simple program or present work
- •Being able to solve problems like how much change to expect, quantity of packets to use in cooking etc
- •Or as an example of a specific aim, if your child wants to be a gardener, they could need an understanding of soils, plant species and climates.
- •Being able to work towards formal qualifications is a big aim– if it is yours, try to define some of the key skills you hope they will tackle

A large dashed rectangular box intended for writing a list of things that are important for children to learn.

...You can carry on here if you like!

Next, try to put these into a list of priorities. Consider why you have ordered them in this way. Write down a brief summary of why you consider each thing on the list to be important.

Here is space to consider up to 8 priorities, the number you choose to have is up to you.

Priority1

Why this here?

Priority2

Why this here?

Priority3

Why this here?

Priority4

Why this here?

You will be the lead and mentor to your child throughout their learning journey, but let's not forget that it is THEIR journey. One of the great advantages you have in home educating your child is that they can follow their own interests so much more freely than if they were in school, where what children do has been decided by others, and they have very little choice but to do it.

So now have a go at completing the exercise with them. (You don't have to promise that they can fully create their own curriculum!) Discuss with them, perhaps asking for clarification as to why they consider certain knowledge or skills to be important.

~~These things are important to learn :~~
These things are important to learn :

These things are important to learn:

~~Because:~~
Because:

Because:

How far do they share your idea?

Where do they differ?

Where do you have common ground?

Are there things that you have included that they haven't? Are they negotiables or non-negotiables?

Are there things that they have included that you haven't? What do you think about these? Have they convinced you with their argument for them? Can you give them good reasons why they shouldn't be included (if you feel that you want to say no!)

A collaborative negotiated idea of what you want to achieve could work wonders in keeping them really interested. Can you reach a point where you agree on a set of priorities?