Writing your own Program of Study – Stage 4

Helping homeschooling families to write their program of study in each of the key learning areas with stage statements

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3. Each KLA has these following components:
   1. stage statements,
   2. Your foundation statement,
   3. methodology,
   4. resources,
   5. Ways to record learning
   6. Ways to record progress

2015

Writing your Program of Study using Stage Statements

# Overview

To help you prepare your program of study in each of the Key Learning Areas (KLAs) – we have attached this outline to help you in your own presentation. To prepare your program of study for your family’s homeschooling life, we would firstly encourage you to set personal / family goals.

Once you have considered your goals, you should be able to continue and complete the outline of this Program of Study, which will become an important statement for your family as to where you are headed, what goals you set out to achieve, materials you may use and the methodology you will choose to complete your goals.

This program is written according to Stage Statements. It is a far more detailed program and you will need to create a different program for each child / stage you need. Alternately you can use the Program of Study using Objectives for all of your children.

# How do I prepare the Program of Study?

This program of study has been divided into the 6 Key Learning Areas (of Primary School) as defined by the Board of Studies.

Beneath each Key Learning Area, you may choose to include the following items. Remember to prepare this foremost for your unique family, and not just for the governmental authorities. Most of these components will not need to be updated, except for changes you will make – specifically the resources used. However, if your goals or methodology changes, you can add, delete, remove and update accordingly.

## STAGE STATEMENTS:

The first page under each Key Learning Area – is the Stage Statements Page. These stage statements have been taken from the NSW BOS Syllabus and should be kept in your program and can be used as a guideline or overview. It is good to place this as the first page behind each KLA. Having read the statements, keep this framework in mind as you prepare the rest of your document.

## YOUR FOUNDATION STATEMENT

This is a statement which you may (or may not) decide to create as you family’s vision and goal statement in teaching this subject. An example is listed under each Key Learning Area. You will need to replace this example with your own statement and what the big picture goals of teaching this subject to your children may be. This statement may be valid for their entire schooling – it is not specifically for the content of this year or for 2 years – it describes more of what your purposes are.

## METHODOLOGY

This describes the way in which you plan to teach this subject. This may change over the years and you may find it helpful to look at the Skills and Strategy Ideas Page in the Appendix for new methods to use as your children develop their skills. This is a practical section – showing what it would look like in your home – reading books, visiting the library, following interests, learning an instrument, real life learning experiences, writing in a notebook etc; You do not need to write everything you plan to do, but this is an overview of the methods you intend to use over the years. These methods are the general way in which you will fulfil your own plan.

## RESOURCES

This is the place where you would add the particular resources you will use to teach this subject and the specific content for the years of the program. It will vary over the years, according to what you have at home, resources you purchase, the interests that arise, the children’s level of ability and focus and so on.

## WAYS TO RECORD LEARNING

This is a way to record what is being learned;

You will need to keep some record of the learning activities of the family; It can be a teacher diary or each child can keep a record of what they do; It can also be a simple list of what was done in your day; You can use photos or scrapbooks to show the daily learning that takes place in the life of your home. You will need to be able to show some work examples. This does not need to be kept separately in a folder – it can just be the work they have done in books/ computer powerpoints / artwork / projects / skills etc

## WAYS TO RECORD PROGRESS

This is a statement explaining how you will take note of your child’s progress. To record progress of your child’s work and ability, you may (or may not) choose to use the diary as a way to add comments on what they enjoyed, what they need work on, etc. You can add results of tests if that is a part of what you do; You may also choose to add journal comments on learning that has taken place at home every month/ bi-monthly / half yearly / yearly. If **you’re able** to comment on the learning experiences from year to year, place it in a scrapbook, journal, blog or diary, it will be a lovely family memory.

*If the way you will do this will be similar across the subject areas, (observation, adding comments to diary, work samples, journaling…), you may choose to add this to your Philosophy of Education instead. Otherwise, leave it generic and attach it underneath each KLA.*

*If you want to have one broad statement to use in your Philosophy of Education to describe the ways you may record progress and achievement – here is an example:*

*Since we are working so closely with our children on a daily basis, we are very aware of the difficulties – their strengths and weaknesses, and can easily move them ahead or work on a certain skill if necessary. We can see their progress in a concrete way from their work samples and comparing what they did at the beginning of the year and what they were able to do at the end of the year. We will take mental notes and may take written notes of their achievements and struggles.*

Although, the first reason to write what you are doing should be for your family’s sake, this program of study will also be a useful document to show the Board of Studies when you need to register.

I have now added a Comments on Learning Activities Section following each KLA – which you may choose to use to record learning progress and a place to add in comments against the Stage Statements. This is not for weekly recording, but could perhaps be done once or twice a year. If you want to use this comment form, I would suggest you just use one form for the family as they are in the stage – and use your children’s initials when commenting on a particular child. (Keep it simple and write it for your family!)

# How do I display the Program of Study?

For the purpose of registration, you may like to use this format and display the pages in a plastic binder. This is not how you MUST prepare your program of study. It is a suggestion and a way in which you can describe what homeschooling means to you and the methods you will employ within your family. I have used this format so that individual families can show that home education is different for each family and so the reasons, methods, resources and experiences will be different. I hope that you find it a flexible document which helps you think through home education and allows you to express it in your own way.

1. **Your Philosophy of Education** (see the page below on how to write your own Philosophy of Education)
2. **Key Learning Area**s – Each Stage is divided into the Key Learning Areas and contains these pages:
   1. Stage Statements from BOS syllabus.
   2. Foundation Statements,
   3. Methodology,
   4. Resource list
   5. Ways to record learning.
   6. Ways to record progress (or add this to your educational philosophy instead)
3. **Skills and Strategies Appendix** - This is a separate document which you can refer to in your educational philosophy or in your statements as needed.

Our Philosophy of Education

Some Ideas to put into a Philosophy of Education:

Reasons why you choose to home educate your family:

* Keep your words positive and affirming and avoid negative or accusatory comment on any other form of education.
* Write your big aims, objectives and desired outcomes –

For example:

* + *To strengthen and equip your children to be successful in all areas of life – socially, academically, spiritually*
  + *To develop a love of learning*
  + *To enable children to pursue their own interests and develop their strengths;*
* If you have had a bad experience you could say “It (whatever it is) didn’t work out for us.” or “We are going see if my child is better suited to homeschooling.”

Educational Approach

Write a way in which you may approach the learning in your home, what it might look like in practice ( a typical day??) and reasons why this may suit your family;

* For example:
  + Unit studies across curriculum subjects
  + Delight Directed learning
  + Natural learning
  + Self-directed studies
  + Charlotte Mason Approach
  + Living Books approach
  + Use of Textbooks as appropriate
  + Classical Approach

Add books you may be reading which help to develop your educational approach.

Express how various parts of your home will be a rich, learning environment (art supplies available, garden beds for vegetables, garage for projects, science corner, reading areas etc) and how normal daily activities will be included as part of their learning. (chores, gardening, cooking, developing helpful systems etc)

You also may wish to include parts of the program of study which will be similar in each KLA. For example, you may find that it is better to include a simple outline of how you will take note of your child’s progress in your educational approach statement – rather than including this under each KLA.

An example may be:

*WAYS TO RECORD PROGRESS: Since we are working so closely with our children on a daily basis, we are very aware of the difficulties – their strengths and weaknesses, and can easily move them ahead or work on a certain skill if necessary. We can see their progress in a concrete way from their work samples and comparing what they did at the beginning of the year and what they were able to do at the end of the year. We will observe our children and take mental note and may take written notes of their achievements.*

## Employ a quote

Read good books and make a collection of relevant quotes that you find helpful for yourself or for telling others (and then remember where they are!)

“*Education is not the filling of a bucket but the lighting of a fire”.* W.B.Yeats

*“Self-education is the only possible education; the rest is mere veneer laid on the surface of a child's nature.”* Charlotte Mason

More good quotes to be found here: http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/homeschooling

Social Interactions

Express the ways in which your children will interact with a broad cross-section of the community during the family’s normal daily and weekly activities.

For example:

*Our family relates to, and are enriched by, a broad cross-section of the community including, but not only, our neighbours and other homeschooling families.. The social interactions of our children during the family’s normal daily and weekly activities are rich in variety and interest such as….*

## Education Act 1990 (NSW Legislation)

It is good to mention these parts of the Act to show that we are aware of the legality of Home education and that education is recognized as being primarily the responsibility of the child’s parents:

**Part 2** **Objects of Act**

**4**   **Principles on which this Act is based**

In enacting this Act, Parliament has had regard to the following principles:

(a)  every child has the right to receive an education,

(b)  the education of a child is primarily the responsibility of the child’s parents,

**5**   **Principal objects of this Act**

The principal objects of this Act are as follows:

(d)  to allow children to be educated at home,

Stage 4

Key Learning Areas

# The educational program for a home schooled child in NSW must be based on six of the eight Board of Studies key learning areas for secondary education (Year 7 to Year 10). The program must include English, Mathematics, Science and Human Society and Its Environment and courses in another two of the Board’s key learning areas.

# English:

* 1. stage statements,
  2. foundation statement,
  3. methodology,
  4. resources,
  5. Ways to record learning
  6. Ways to record progress

# Math

1. stage statements,
2. foundation statement,
3. methodology,
4. resources,
5. Ways to record learning
6. Ways to record progress

# Science

1. stage statements,
2. foundation statement,
3. methodology,
4. resources,
5. Ways to record learning
6. Ways to record progress

# HSIE

1. stage statements,
2. foundation statement,
3. methodology,
4. resources,
5. Ways to record learning
6. Ways to record progress

# The educational program for a home schooled child in NSW must be based on six of the eight Board of Studies key learning areas for secondary education (Year 7 to Year 10). The program must include English, Mathematics, Science and Human Society and Its Environment and courses in another two of the Board’s key learning areas.

# Languages other than English

# Technological and Applied Studies

# Creative Arts

# Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

# The syllabuses for secondary education are available on the Board’s website <www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus\_sc>.

You can choose to teach from two out of the four Key Learning Areas listed above and then document it in a similar way.

English Stage 4 Stage Statements:

By the end of Stage 4 students respond to a variety of texts critically, imaginatively and interpretively and compose accurate, clear and coherent texts. They use English in personal, social and learning contexts with increasing control and understanding of the form and features of language and structures of texts, and with increasing awareness of purpose, audience and context. Students make connections between texts, they recognise the main ideas and points of view, and the ways in which texts seek to position responders. They make decisions about whether content and language are appropriate to purpose, audience and context.

In speaking, writing and representing, students shape meaning through the thoughtful selection and ordering of appropriate content and by drawing on a widening repertoire of language choices. They can express a personal point of view, give words and images to their imaginings and compose logical argument. They experiment with form and language in different modes and technologies to produce various types of texts for specific purposes. As appropriate, they plan, draft and edit to produce polished texts.

Students apply their knowledge of textual features and conventions to their texts. They constructively analyse and evaluate their own and others' compositions and they articulate their response to texts and to the process and experience of composing. Students reflect on their learning, becoming aware of how they learn and identifying what they have learned, effective ways to learn and what they need to learn next.

Students who have achieved Stage 4 respond to literary and other texts for enjoyment and to expand their perspectives on their own lives. They engage with images of their real and imagined worlds and explore the relationship between them. They explore texts critically, evaluating content, differentiating between fact and opinion, challenging points of view and identifying, considering and appreciating cultural expressions. They respond to imagery and symbolism in verbal and visual forms. They engage with print, film and digital texts with an informed awareness of the language forms and features and structures of those texts. Students develop personal preferences in what they hear, read and view, and are able to articulate their preference in personal and critical responses.

Language Arts / English

Foundation Statement

This is a broad statement explaining why this will be taught in your home – the purpose/vision of this subject.

For example:

We teach our children to read so they may enjoy literature, read widely, read for pleasure and research. We teach reading so we may grow in knowledge and understanding; so we may learn from others who have walked before us;

We teach our children to write so that they can interact with others- near and far. The world has become so close through the internet, and to avoid mis-understanding, we must write clearly; We want our children to be able to persuade; to encourage; to respond to news and editorials; to critically analyze information; to add information; to lead and guide others.

We teach our children to listen so that they may develop the skill of communication. By listening well, we can better understand what is being said; We can profit from someone else’s knowledge; We can gain understanding; We can learn to be careful listeners and be discerning.

In speaking, we teach our children to engage with others. We use speech to clarify our thoughts; to persuade; to encourage; to debate; to give answers and clearly expound our own beliefs, views and opinions; to enjoy good communications and to interact with a wide range of people of differing ages, cultures and walks of life.

Methodology in our Home

This is a statement explaining how you will teach this in your home – the types of strategies and activities, the practical expression of what it would look like.

For example:

*These are some of the methods we will use to teach language arts in our home:*

*Read to the children from a variety of literature including fiction and non-fiction, as well as poetry, quality prose and the Scriptures. Discuss some of the literature readings in more depth according to literary qualities such as – character, plot, themes, setting*

*Encourage personal reading from our own library and from the public library.*

*Attend dramatic performances, plays and musicals to promote a variety of literary expression.*

*Encourage our children to express themselves through narration and written expression, either with a retelling of factual events, narration of literature they have listened to, or writing their own stories based on experience or imagination to a variety of audiences (home, extended family, groups, church, nursing home etc.)*

*Teach our children to use a dictionary at the level of their ability.*

*Encourage a variety of communication methods including letter writing and emails.*

*Teach the elements of handwriting that encourage neatness and legibility, including posture.*

*Give the opportunity to use a computer keyboard, and do a typing course at the level of their ability.*

*Expose the children to foreign languages through our own use of foreign words, possible lessons in another language and through interaction with others who speak a foreign language;*

*Extend and practise their word use and spelling by playing games such as Scrabble, Upwords, Boggle, Mad Gab, Hangman, Taboo, Random writing, crosswords, wordsearch, wordfit, Rummy Roots and other word games.*

Resources:

These will change depending on the year level, topics of interest, what you have in the home, programs you use:

For example:

*Easy readers from home and local libraries*

*Phonics – Teaching Reading programs*

*Reference books, 'living books', and other books from our library and the local library.*

*Family, friends, acquaintances*

*Computer and Internet*

*Writing in context of subject areas – narrations, stories, copywork;*

*Use of Reference books to develop writing forms, correct grammar, punctuation etc – such as Write Source Books appropriate to age level;*

Ways to Record Learning:

This is a way to record what is being learned; You need to keep a diary of the learning activities of the family; It can be a teacher diary or each child can keep a record of what they do; You also need to have sample of what they have done; This does not need to be kept separate, but just accessible to demonstrate learning.

*Example of what to write:*

*A selection of the children’s dated work will be kept.*

*- A diary may be kept of significant learning activities completed by each child.*

*- Dated samples of story writing, narrations, and other English related activities will be kept, either on the computer or in each child’s folder.*

*- Each child may keep their own dated log of learning activities, either daily or weekly.*

Ways to Record Achievement and Progress

*Example:*

*A combination of approaches will be used to record the achievement and progress of the children in their education.*

*- We will observe and record the children’s achievements as they occur - for instance, language development, oral narrations, letter writing etc*

*- We will map the progress of the children by collecting samples of their work over a period of time;*

*-Written work may be displayed across the subject areas such as Personal Journals, Story Writing Books, History and Science Notebooks, Writing Copybooks – Writing Treasures, Bible Memorization books,*

*- We will assess the children’s progress over a period of time through observation and take mental notes and we may give an overview statement outlining achievement, progress and areas of need.*

*- We may add comments about learning activities we have done which meet the Objectives of the syllabus twice each year.*

English – Comments on Learning Activities

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Stage 4 Statements** | **Comments / Date** |
| By the end of Stage 4 students respond to a variety of texts critically, imaginatively and interpretively and compose accurate, clear and coherent texts. They use English in personal, social and learning contexts with increasing control and understanding of the form and features of language and structures of texts, and with increasing awareness of purpose, audience and context. Students make connections between texts, they recognise the main ideas and points of view, and the ways in which texts seek to position responders. They make decisions about whether content and language are appropriate to purpose, audience and context.  In speaking, writing and representing, students shape meaning through the thoughtful selection and ordering of appropriate content and by drawing on a widening repertoire of language choices. They can express a personal point of view, give words and images to their imaginings and compose logical argument. They experiment with form and language in different modes and technologies to produce various types of texts for specific purposes. As appropriate, they plan, draft and edit to produce polished texts.  Students apply their knowledge of textual features and conventions to their texts. They constructively analyse and evaluate their own and others' compositions and they articulate their response to texts and to the process and experience of composing. Students reflect on their learning, becoming aware of how they learn and identifying what they have learned, effective ways to learn and what they need to learn next.  Students who have achieved Stage 4 respond to literary and other texts for enjoyment and to expand their perspectives on their own lives. They engage with images of their real and imagined worlds and explore the relationship between them. They explore texts critically, evaluating content, differentiating between fact and opinion, challenging points of view and identifying, considering and appreciating cultural expressions. They respond to imagery and symbolism in verbal and visual forms. They engage with print, film and digital texts with an informed awareness of the language forms and features and structures of those texts. Students develop personal preferences in what they hear, read and view, and are able to articulate their preference in personal and critical responses. |  |

Maths Stage 4 Stage Statements:

By the end of Stage 4, students use mathematical terminology, algebraic notation, diagrams, text and tables to communicate mathematical ideas, and link concepts and processes within and between mathematical contexts. They apply their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding in analysing real-life situations and in systematically exploring and solving problems using technology where appropriate. Students develop fluency with a range of algebraic techniques and in the solution of familiar problems. In solving particular problems, they compare the strengths and weaknesses of different strategies and solutions.

Students develop a range of mental strategies to enhance their computational skills. They operate competently with integers, fractions, decimals and percentages, and apply these in a range of practical contexts, including problems related to GST, discounts and profit and loss. Students are familiar with the concepts of ratios and rates, and apply these when solving problems. They investigate divisibility tests, use index notation for numbers with positive integral indices, and explore prime factorisation, squares and cubes, and related square and cube roots, and the concept of irrational numbers.

Extending and generalising number patterns leads students into an understanding of the use of pronumerals and the language of algebra. They simplify algebraic expressions, substitute into algebraic expressions and formulas, and expand and factorise algebraic expressions. Students solve simple linear and quadratic equations. They develop tables of values from linear relationships and illustrate these relationships on the Cartesian plane, with and without the use of digital technologies.

Students calculate the perimeters and areas of a variety of polygons, circles, sectors and simple composite figures, and solve related problems. They calculate the volumes and capacities of right prisms and cylinders, and solve related problems. They convert between units of area and units of volume, and connect units of volume and capacity. Pythagoras' theorem is used to calculate side lengths in right-angled triangles and solve problems in two dimensions. Students calculate time duration and apply their understanding of Australian and world time zones to solve problems.

Knowledge of the properties of two-dimensional geometrical figures, angles, parallel lines, perpendicular lines and congruent figures enables students to apply logical reasoning to solve numerical exercises involving unknown lengths and angles in figures.

Students construct, interpret and compare data displays, including dot plots, stem-and-leaf plots, sector graphs, divided bar graphs, and frequency tables and histograms. In analysing data, they consider both categorical and numerical (discrete and continuous) variables, sampling versus census, and possible misrepresentation of data, and calculate the mean, mode, median and range. Students represent events using Venn diagrams and two-way tables, and calculate the probability of simple and complementary events in single-step chance experiments.

Mathematics

Foundation Statement

This is a broad statement explaining why this will be taught in your home – the purpose/vision of this subject.

For example:

*Personalize your statement here…*

Methodology in our Home

This is a statement explaining how you will teach this in your home – the types of activities, the practical expression of what it would look like.

For example:

*Maths will be taught through everyday experiences and in a hands-on approach. We will use living books, concrete examples, day to day experiences developing number, space and measurement*

*We will encourage the children to learn about the world round them through real life including cooking, shopping, playing with sand and water, counting and so on.*

*Everyday measuring tools, including kitchen and bathroom scales and implements, rain gauge, thermometer, timepieces, rulers and tape measures, calendars will be used and applied in a natural context.*

*We will use and teach abstract concepts when the children are developmentally ready and work through an appropriate workbook to reinforce thinking skills learned and to give the opportunity to do repetitive maths exercises when necessary.*

Resources:

These will change depending on the year level, topics of interest, what you have in the home, programs you use:

For example:

*Everyday measuring tools*

*Life of Fred Mathematics*

*Base Ten Blocks (MAB)*

*Resources and education materials from the International Year of Astronomy website.*

*Computer*

*Calculator*

*Construction toys including Lego, Duplo, wooden blocks, and craft materials*

Ways to Record Learning:

This is a way to record what is being learned; You need to keep a diary of the learning activities of the family; It can be a teacher diary or each child can keep a record of what they do; You also need to have sample of what they have done; This does not need to be kept separate, but just accessible to demonstrate learning.

Example of what to write:

*A diary may be kept of significant learning activities completed by each child.*

*- Dated work throughout the maths workbooks.*

*- Each child may keep their own dated log of learning activities, either daily or weekly.*

*- Photographs may be taken of various learning activities or constructions.*

Ways to Record Achievement and Progress

Example:

*A combination of approaches will be used to record the achievement and progress of the children in their education.*

*- We will observe and may record the children’s achievements in number, space and measurement as they occur.*

*- We will map the progress of the children by collecting samples of their work over a period of time - including dated workbooks*

*- We will set tasks that incorporate the children applying their understanding and skills outlined in the objectives and learning activities.*

*- We will assess the children’s progress over a period of time and may give an overview statement outlining achievement, progress and areas of need.*

*- We may add comments about learning activities we have done which meet the Objectives of the syllabus twice each year.*

Maths – Comments on Learning Activities and Progress

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Math Stage 4 Stage Statements** | **Comments / Date** |
| By the end of Stage 4, students use mathematical terminology, algebraic notation, diagrams, text and tables to communicate mathematical ideas, and link concepts and processes within and between mathematical contexts. They apply their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding in analysing real-life situations and in systematically exploring and solving problems using technology where appropriate. Students develop fluency with a range of algebraic techniques and in the solution of familiar problems. In solving particular problems, they compare the strengths and weaknesses of different strategies and solutions.  Students develop a range of mental strategies to enhance their computational skills. They operate competently with integers, fractions, decimals and percentages, and apply these in a range of practical contexts, including problems related to GST, discounts and profit and loss. Students are familiar with the concepts of ratios and rates, and apply these when solving problems. They investigate divisibility tests, use index notation for numbers with positive integral indices, and explore prime factorisation, squares and cubes, and related square and cube roots, and the concept of irrational numbers.  Extending and generalising number patterns leads students into an understanding of the use of pronumerals and the language of algebra. They simplify algebraic expressions, substitute into algebraic expressions and formulas, and expand and factorise algebraic expressions. Students solve simple linear and quadratic equations. They develop tables of values from linear relationships and illustrate these relationships on the Cartesian plane, with and without the use of digital technologies.  Students calculate the perimeters and areas of a variety of polygons, circles, sectors and simple composite figures, and solve related problems. They calculate the volumes and capacities of right prisms and cylinders, and solve related problems. They convert between units of area and units of volume, and connect units of volume and capacity. Pythagoras' theorem is used to calculate side lengths in right-angled triangles and solve problems in two dimensions. Students calculate time duration and apply their understanding of Australian and world time zones to solve problems.  Knowledge of the properties of two-dimensional geometrical figures, angles, parallel lines, perpendicular lines and congruent figures enables students to apply logical reasoning to solve numerical exercises involving unknown lengths and angles in figures.  Students construct, interpret and compare data displays, including dot plots, stem-and-leaf plots, sector graphs, divided bar graphs, and frequency tables and histograms. In analysing data, they consider both categorical and numerical (discrete and continuous) variables, sampling versus census, and possible misrepresentation of data, and calculate the mean, mode, median and range. Students represent events using Venn diagrams and two-way tables, and calculate the probability of simple and complementary events in single-step chance experiments. |  |

Science Stage 4 Stage Statements:

By the end of Stage 4 students use scientific inquiry by actively engaging in using and applying the processes of Working Scientifically. They identify questions and problems that they can test or research scientifically. They select and use appropriate strategies, understanding and skills to generate creative plausible solutions to identified problems. Individually and collaboratively they plan and conduct a range of types of first-hand investigations, including fieldwork and controlled experimental methods, ensuring that fairness, safety and ethical guidelines are followed.

Students process and analyse data and information from first-hand investigations and secondary sources to identify trends, patterns and relationships, drawing relevant, evidence-based conclusions. They reflect on how the methods, strategies used and the quality of data obtained could be improved. Their ideas, methods and findings are communicated to a given audience using appropriate scientific language, representations and text types, with information sources acknowledged using a recognised method.

By engaging in scientific inquiry, students develop their knowledge of and about science ideas and concepts, as well as the nature, development and importance of scientific evidence. They explain how scientific knowledge changes as new discoveries and technological developments are made available, appreciating that new evidence leads to an improved understanding of the world.

Students describe the action of unbalanced forces on the motion of objects in everyday situations, including the Earth's gravity. They discuss how developments in scientific knowledge and technology have contributed to finding solutions to problems involving the use of energy transfers and transformations in simple systems and how the solutions may impact on other areas of society.

Students relate the structure and function of living things to their classification, survival and reproduction. They predict the effects of environmental changes on ecosystems and how scientific understanding influences the development of some management practices. They explain the contribution and influence of scientific knowledge and technological advances in finding solutions to contemporary issues and that these solutions may involve ethical considerations.

Students describe the dynamic nature of models, theories and laws in developing scientific understanding of the Earth, solar system and observed properties and behaviour of matter. They describe processes occurring in and on the Earth and the time scales involved, as well as situations where understanding and skills from across the disciplines of Science are used in exploration for resources and obtaining and processing of materials. They explain how advances in scientific understanding influence the choices people make about resource use and management practices in shaping sustainable futures.

Students relate the physical and chemical properties of matter to how materials are processed and used by society in everyday life. They describe situations where scientific knowledge and collaboration between scientists generates solutions to obtaining and making new substances from the Earth's spheres.

Science

Foundation Statement

This is a broad statement explaining why this will be taught in your home – the purpose/vision of this subject.

For example:

*As we teach Science, we will break it into its units and topics and we want our children to enjoy investigating things around them, researching, experimenting and discovering …..*

*Personalize your statement here…*

# Methodology in our Home

This is a statement explaining how you will teach this in your home – the types of activities, the practical expression of what it would look like.

For example:

*To study Science includes observation of nature around us, (sketch, look up field guides, research plants and animals); applying our knowledge in practical ways such as raising animals and planting and tending a vegetable patch; recording findings and information in Science notebooks by sketching and writing; reading and researching from a variety, age appropriate science resources, including interest/ topical books from the library, home school science textbooks; Viewing appropriate TV shows, documentaries and videos; Giving kids science experiments to do and find out science truths.*

Resources:

These will change depending on the year level, topics of interest, what you have in the home, programs you use:

For example:

*Reference books, 'living books', and other books from our library and the local library.*

*Resources and education materials from the International Year of Astronomy website.*

*Science Kits*

*Internet*

*Television where appropriate*

*The world around us*

*Apologia Science Curriculum – for different ages (both independent study and family study)*

*Supercharged Science – Website, Experiments, DVDs, Lesson Notes, Tele-classes and email a professor*

*Chemistry Kit – Chem3000*

*Can you feel the force? DK Physics book by Richard Hammond*

*Other DK Science Books*

Ways to Record Learning:

This is a way to record what is being learned; You need to keep a diary of the learning activities of the family; It can be a teacher diary or each child can keep a record of what they do; You also need to have sample of what they have done; This does not need to be kept separate, but just accessible to demonstrate learning.

Example of what to write:

*A diary of significant learning activities completed by each child.*

*Dated samples narrations, writing and projects will be kept*

*Each child may keep their own dated log of learning activities, either daily or weekly.*

*Photographs may be taken of specific learning activities or projects*

Ways to Record Achievement and Progress

This is a way to record the children’s achievement and progress through the years;

Example:

*A combination of approaches will be used to record the achievement and progress of the children in their education.*

*- We will observe and may record the children’s questions, observations, and projects and their understanding of scientific concepts and technology.*

*- We will map the progress of the children by collecting samples or photos of their work over a period of time - including dated nature journal entries and projects*

*- We will assess the children’s progress over a period of time and may give an overview statement outlining achievement, progress and areas of need.*

*- We may add comments about learning activities we have done which meet the Objectives of the syllabus twice each year.*

Science – Comments on Learning Activities and Progress

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Science Stage 4 Statements** | **Comments / Date** |
| By the end of Stage 4 students use scientific inquiry by actively engaging in using and applying the processes of Working Scientifically. They identify questions and problems that they can test or research scientifically. They select and use appropriate strategies, understanding and skills to generate creative plausible solutions to identified problems. Individually and collaboratively they plan and conduct a range of types of first-hand investigations, including fieldwork and controlled experimental methods, ensuring that fairness, safety and ethical guidelines are followed.  Students process and analyse data and information from first-hand investigations and secondary sources to identify trends, patterns and relationships, drawing relevant, evidence-based conclusions. They reflect on how the methods, strategies used and the quality of data obtained could be improved. Their ideas, methods and findings are communicated to a given audience using appropriate scientific language, representations and text types, with information sources acknowledged using a recognised method.  By engaging in scientific inquiry, students develop their knowledge of and about science ideas and concepts, as well as the nature, development and importance of scientific evidence. They explain how scientific knowledge changes as new discoveries and technological developments are made available, appreciating that new evidence leads to an improved understanding of the world.  Students describe the action of unbalanced forces on the motion of objects in everyday situations, including the Earth's gravity. They discuss how developments in scientific knowledge and technology have contributed to finding solutions to problems involving the use of energy transfers and transformations in simple systems and how the solutions may impact on other areas of society.  Students relate the structure and function of living things to their classification, survival and reproduction. They predict the effects of environmental changes on ecosystems and how scientific understanding influences the development of some management practices. They explain the contribution and influence of scientific knowledge and technological advances in finding solutions to contemporary issues and that these solutions may involve ethical considerations.  Students describe the dynamic nature of models, theories and laws in developing scientific understanding of the Earth, solar system and observed properties and behaviour of matter. They describe processes occurring in and on the Earth and the time scales involved, as well as situations where understanding and skills from across the disciplines of Science are used in exploration for resources and obtaining and processing of materials. They explain how advances in scientific understanding influence the choices people make about resource use and management practices in shaping sustainable futures.  Students relate the physical and chemical properties of matter to how materials are processed and used by society in everyday life. They describe situations where scientific knowledge and collaboration between scientists generates solutions to obtaining and making new substances from the Earth's spheres.  Within the Made Environment students explain how production systems are used to manufacture products. They explore changes that have occurred in the design of products over time and the social and environmental factors that influence the design of products. Students investigate how systems in built environments are designed to meet the needs of people, in response to social and environmental influences. They explain how systems can be used to transfer information and support communication, and how social influences impact on the design of a range of emerging information products. |  |

Human Society and Its Environment Stage 4 Stage Statements

History

By the end of Stage 4, students describe the nature of history and archaeology, and explain their contribution to an understanding of the past. They describe major periods of historical time and sequence events, people and societies from the past. Students recognise and explain patterns of change and continuity over time and explain the causes and consequences of events and developments. They describe and assess the motives and actions of people in the past. Students demonstrate an understanding of the causes and effects of events, past societies and developments over time.

Students sequence events and developments within a chronological framework with reference to periods of time. They select and organise information from primary and secondary sources and use it as evidence to answer inquiry questions. They identify and describe the meaning, purpose and context of historical sources and use the evidence from these sources to support historical narratives and explanations. They identify and describe different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past. Students identify and explain different points of view in sources. They develop texts, particularly descriptions and explanations. In developing these texts, and organising and presenting their findings, they use historical terms and concepts. They use evidence in sources and acknowledge their sources of information. They select and use appropriate oral, written, visual and/or digital forms to communicate about the past. Students undertake a relevant site study either by visiting an actual site or through a virtual source.

History

Foundation Statement

This is a broad statement explaining why this will be taught in your home – the purpose/vision of this subject.

For example:

*As a family, we want our children to learn …..*

*Personalize your statement here…*

Methodology in our Home

This is a statement explaining how you will teach this in your home – the types of activities, the practical expression of what it would look like.

For example:

*We intend to look at time periods chronologically, and explore the events, geography and the characters therein.*

*Using this framework, we will read and may memorize some important facts and dates. We intend to use a variety of resources such as living books, historical fiction novels, atlases and interesting information books such as Usborne Time Traveller series. We will read books together as a family, orally narrate from them, create written narrations, draw pictures and maps, make projects from the time period being studied, visit museums and at times, make costumes and celebration feasts – live out the time period in a variety of ways; We will include Australian and Aboriginal studies in this manner, reading Australian history books such as “The Wide, Brown Earth” as well as going to local history museums when we explore different parts of the Australia.*

Resources:

These will change depending on the time period being studied/ what you have in the home, programs you use:

For example:

*Our Sunburnt Country, 1964. Arthur Baillie.*

*Reference books, 'living books', and other books from our library and the local library.*

*The Bible*

*Newsademic - a Children's newspaper used for educational resources, home schooling and English study -* [*http://www.newsademic.com/*](http://www.newsademic.com/)

*Behind the News*

*Television where appropriate*

*Internet*

*Museums*

*Family, friends and acquaintances.*

For example:

*Read aloud Historical Fiction and Literature according to the time period;*

*Spine books include: Greenleaf Famous Men Books, Story of the World;*

*References: Streams of Civilization; Kingfisher History Encyclopedia;*

*Usborne Time Traveller Series;*

*Independent Reading books include: Leif the Lucky, Knights, Adam of the Road, A Minstrel in the Tower, The Door in the Wall, Under Drake’s Flag, River of Grace (John Calvin), The man who laid an egg, Squanto, friend of Pilgrims, If you lived in Colonial times…. Etc*

*Exhibitions available in the year;*

*Videos on the time period being studied;*

*Cultural activities such as festivals;*

*History Days and celebrations such as creating a medieval feast, including food, costumes, speeches and presentations;*

Ways to Record Learning:

This is a way to record what is being learned; You need to keep a diary of the learning activities of the family; It can be a teacher diary or each child can keep a record of what they do; You also need to have sample of what they have done; This does not need to be kept separate, but just accessible to demonstrate learning.

Example of what to write:

*A diary of significant learning activities may be completed by the parent or child.*

*Dated samples narrations, writing and projects will be dated and kept*

*Each child may keep their own dated log of learning activities, either daily or weekly.*

*Photographs may be taken of specific learning activities or projects*

Ways to Record Achievement and Progress

Example:

*A combination of approaches may be used to record the achievement and progress of the children in their education.*

*- We will observe the children as they act and interact within their family, amongst their friends and acquaintances and with society*

*- We will map the progress of the children by collecting samples of their work over a period of time - including projects, narrations and writing etc*

*-Some work will be kept in a History Notebook – with narrations, maps, essay writings, pictures, artwork, period art work, examples of life at the time period being studied;*

*-Photographs may be used to document projects, special days, outings, presentations, excursions;*

*- We will assess the children’s progress over a period of time and may give an overview statement outlining achievement, progress and areas of need; This may be included in the diary;*

*- We may add comments about learning activities we have done which meet the Objectives of the syllabus twice each year.*

HSIE – Comments on Learning Activities and Progress

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| --- | --- |
| **History Stage 4 Stage Statements** | **Comments / Date** |
| By the end of Stage 4, students describe the nature of history and archaeology, and explain their contribution to an understanding of the past. They describe major periods of historical time and sequence events, people and societies from the past. Students recognise and explain patterns of change and continuity over time and explain the causes and consequences of events and developments. They describe and assess the motives and actions of people in the past. Students demonstrate an understanding of the causes and effects of events, past societies and developments over time.  Students sequence events and developments within a chronological framework with reference to periods of time. They select and organise information from primary and secondary sources and use it as evidence to answer inquiry questions. They identify and describe the meaning, purpose and context of historical sources and use the evidence from these sources to support historical narratives and explanations. They identify and describe different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past.  Students identify and explain different points of view in sources. They develop texts, particularly descriptions and explanations. In developing these texts, and organising and presenting their findings, they use historical terms and concepts. They use evidence in sources and acknowledge their sources of information. They select and use appropriate oral, written, visual and/or digital forms to communicate about the past. Students undertake a relevant site study either by visiting an actual site or through a virtual source. |  |

Other Resources

Skills Ideas and Possible Strategies in the Key Learning Areas

This document and other resources can be found on my website: <http://www.design-your-homeschool.com/homeschool-planning.html>

If you have suggestions or comments, I am happy for you to contact me.

Please use the contact form on the website: [www.design-your-homeschool.com](http://www.design-your-homeschool.com)

I hope this has been a helpful planning resource for your family,

Marianne Vanderkolk