



10 Things about Unschooling

Unschooling is a philosophy and a lifestyle of educational freedom, on the basis that the natural curiosity of a healthy child, given access to a rich and stimulating environment, will lead the child to learn what he or she needs to know, in the timeframe that he or she needs it, with the resources/curriculum he or she chooses to use. The learner is totally self-directed and often, but may not always be, self-taught.

1. Unschoolers don't need a diploma to enter post-secondary. Students need to consult the websites of the program they are hoping to enter and see which courses are needed. For most post-secondary, four core courses and one option at the grade 12 level is required.
2. The minimum resources for unschooling are a library card, an internet connection, unstructured time and a facilitator to help access resources.
3. Unschoolers can challenge the grade 12 diploma exam if they are age 19 or older as of Sept 1. The exam mark will account for 100% of the final course mark.
4. Unschooling is not uneducated. It is still meeting the Alberta Program of Studies outcomes but in different ways and within a time period suitable to the learner. Most outcomes will be reached by the age of 18.
5. Unschooling is not homeschooling. Homeschooling is school replicated in the home. Unschooling is child-directed and often self-taught learning.
6. Unschooling is not the same as "self-directed, inquiry-based, or self-paced" courses offered by school. Unschooling is truly the learner's agenda, not the government's and is best done on a traditional program where the parent or child has total control of educational philosophy.
7. Unschoolers can choose to use any resource, including video games, curriculum, classes, textbooks and teacher to learn a subject, as long as the learning is desired and motivated by the student. Learning is never forced, coercive or bribed.

8. Unschooling is perfectly legal and protected in Alberta under the Home Education Act and supported by all Alberta supervising school boards and authorities.
9. Unschooling is not neglectful. Unschooling is supported by a parent who enhances learning by providing the child with resources that the child may not otherwise get.
10. Unschooling is a valid educational option for any child.

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