

Please Note:

What unschooling looks like in practice is unique to every family. We are only sharing our experiences on our journeys so far.

Katelynn, Hadiya, and Habiba



What does unschooling mean?

- the opposite of "school at home"
- giving your child a say in their education, rather than setting them on a fixed path
- putting your child's interests and curiosities first
- prioritising your relationship with your child
- a natural and organic way of learning using "real-life" instead of a predetermined curriculum



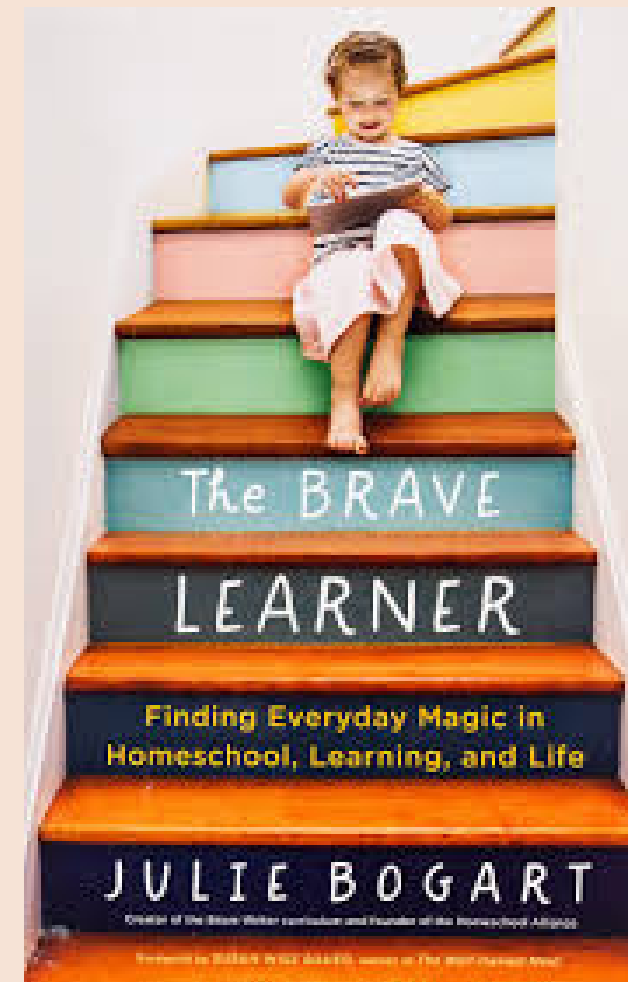
**"Learning and teaching that does not
resemble school learning and teaching"**

JOHN HOLT

(doesn't that make us ALL unschoolers...?)

Unschooling YOURSELF!

- reflect on your own educational experiences and relationships with teachers, parents and guardians
- think of yourself as a student too
- believe in yourself (and your children) and trust that you're capable of knowing what's best for your family





But how does it actually work?

- make learning materials accessible and allow them to use their imagination with them (aka "strewing")
- prioritise making good quality (ie. living) books available on subjects they want to learn about
- use the best free resource constantly available to you: NATURE!

Understanding the importance of **PLAY**

- stop viewing "play" as something detached from learning
- uninterrupted and open-ended play is highly beneficial in the early years
- "play" is now being used in corporate settings to build skills too



Some of the ways that unschoolers **USE NATURE TO LEARN**

Islam

Observing adaptations in plants and animals to show how perfectly-designed Allah's creations are

Science

observing seasonal changes; moon phases; plant anatomy; habitats; experimenting with natural materials; gardening

Maths

patterns in nature; using natural manipulatives to teach arithmetic, such as rocks, sticks, pinecones, leaves, seeds



Seasonal examples of learning through nature

- In autumn, pick leaves and preserve them in beeswax
- in winter, weave yarn onto sticks; make pinecone bird feeders
- in spring, observe dandelions and how they change; go butterfly and bird spotting.
- in summer, climb trees and make bark rubbings; learn the names of all the trees in your street; cool down with water play outside

The unschooling way of running a **CO-OP**

- choose an open-ended activity
- remember: a co-op does NOT have to be a class
- prioritise socialisation and free-play during the meet-up
- start small and keep showing up
- a nature walk is a fulfilling type of co-op that benefits YOU too



To conclude: unschooling
is more than an
educational approach.
It's a lifestyle

Thank you

