

# Unschooling Cheat Sheet

**Unschooling:** a method of informal homeschooling that trusts children will learn organically and allows them to follow their interests and curiosities, rather than following a curriculum or set days/times for learning.

**Deschooling:** separating the idea of education from institutionalized learning. For example, learning happens everywhere, all the time and there are no time limits for learning. Learning is for every age and gender. There is no hierarchy of learning: no subject/topic is more important than another. Children have a choice over what they learn and can say “no” without punishment. Everyone is both teacher and student.

**Strewing:** deliberately leaving out items around the home for children to spark an interest or encourage learning (books, art supplies, toys, etc).

## Benefits:

- Children take radical responsibility and initiative for their own learning
- Led by natural curiosities, they learn critical thinking and problem solving
- Deep dive into topics of interest, just get the jist of some topics, skip over topics of no interest
- No marks/grades or assessments to add stress, pressure or competition to reach goals
- Learn more life-relevant information, learning what you need when you need it means more efficient learning
- Children keep their natural curiosities, creativity, and love of learning because learning is enjoyable
- Less power struggle between parent-child improves connection and relationship

## Challenges:

- Feelings of pressure or criticism for your decision to unschool
- Deschooling yourself and changing the way you’ve been conditioned to think about learning

## Ways of learning organically/ How to make learning opportunities available:

- Strewing
- Going to museums, art galleries, libraries, community centers
- Running errands/ doing chores
- Listening to audio books and podcasts, watching documentaries, reading living books
- Exploring your neighbourhood
- Computer access for research
- Play sports, join clubs, co-ops, and other extracurricular activities
- Enroll in a course

## Are unschooled children successful?

Because unschooled children are following their interests, they can take any necessary courses/examinations required to enter post-secondary institutions. Furthermore, the unschooling mindset understands that success is subjective; therefore, a child may pursue a trade, art, or other trainings/certifications based on their passions which is also a marker of success. Studies of unschooled children have found that they lean more towards the arts, entrepreneurship, or STEM careers.

## To learn more:

- Books by John Holt
- Books by Peter Gray
- Books by Pam Laricchia and her podcast: Exploring Unschooling (@pamlaricchia)
- Books by Daniel J. Siegel
- The Unschooled Mind by Howard Gardner
- Unschooled by Kery McDonald
- Unschooling Rules by Clark Aldrich
- The Unschooling Handbook by Mary Griffith
- The Unschooling Unmanual by Van Gestel
- The Brave Learner by Julie Bogart and her youtube chanel
- Fare of the free child Podcast (@fareofthefreechild)
- Happinessishereblog.com
- @unschoolstory on Instagram
- @thenaturallearner on Instagram
- @untigering on Instgram
- @unschoolvillage on Instagram
- @the\_hippee\_homeschool on Instagram