

## Tammy - a parent's view

### Home Schooling during the Pandemic

I must say this experience is fast becoming my favourite kind of lifestyle. It has allowed us more family time and is proving to be a unique opportunity to teach and interact with our children like we have never been able to before. Using the school curriculum as a guide, I have tailored this to create my 'hands on' learning program. Our days have a routine, however this is always subject to life and its many obstacles, with three children of different ages at home and parents who come and go from their ever changing work regimes.

We start with some exercise followed by some sit down formal learning such as reading writing, mathematics, history, and geography or life skills! Our afternoons often consist of outdoor activity, craft, exploring, building, music or playing. This is generally teamed with lots of discussion, photos, reviews of some sort and involved experiences. The children have set up a Ballarat East Exchange shop. This needs daily maintenance and has proven to be a very useful learning tool, promoting an important sense of community and togetherness.

We have gardened, recycled and discussed ways of caring for our environment. When the children were asked to think of ideas to be sustainable in our world they came up with a poo powered car!! Apparently they learnt about this at school! I was very impressed and they are still laughing about it now!

The children recently spent time making an Easter story poster, although it may have been somewhat factually incorrect, as my youngest son, aged three, is adamant that C3PO was definitely at the last supper!! We are sending letters to friends and family across the country and world and tracking their destinations on maps. Over the weekend the children are planning on opening a home restaurant. They will be responsible for preparing, serving and entertaining us, I am looking forward to a romantic night in and have been promised a disco and dancing - I can't wait!

With a one to one home teaching style it has been ideal for providing our children with extra help in tasks they have previously struggled with. Our scheduled life just did not offer time for this important factor. The gift of time has been invaluable in our house and I feel our children as well as us as parents are thriving because of this time. I am hoping our children will look back over their pandemic experience with fond memories. I dare say we will struggle to go back to a fully scheduled routine but we will always remember this time as a special moment in our family, where we made significant changes to the way we live for the better and developed a connectedness we would never had experienced if not for the pandemic.

