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# Homeschooling: All the Things BOOTCAMP

## Day 2 ---Your Children

Congratulations for sticking with this journey of digging deeper and rooting yourself and your children into the type of nourishing mindset that will launch your homeschool year strong. So often we think we have to pour into the minds of children, like they are sponges and we are the 'informational juice' that they need. Oh how big we think we are. The truth is that if we just stop, think, and really take stock of WHO our children are, WHAT they love to learn about, and HOW they learn best we can be facilitators who provide avenues for them to navigate the various juice aisles in life rather than having to BE THE JUICE!



**My Child has these AMAZING QUALITIES THAT I LOVE....**

My Child Has These Amazing Qualities...	This is displayed in the following ways in everyday life...	What ways can you help them to do this in their homeschooling life? (Daily, Weekly, Monthly)

It is equally important that as parents and facilitators for our children's learning we recognize areas of our relationships that cause us difficulties. Owning those personality traits, learning difficulties, and known triggers can help us to develop strategies to better cope with stressful situations moving forward.

### Areas of Concern that Need Attention

What difficulties does your child or children have that have proven problematic in your relationship?	
How have you handled these situations in the past? Have the outcomes been what you wanted?	
Are these difficulties damaging the relationship you want to have with your child?	
How would your heart feel if these areas were not so stressful? How would that change the dynamic between you and your child?	
Are there local groups, co-ops, or specialized support that could aid you and your child? Are there podcasts or audiobooks on this topic?	

The next step in a positive mindset when supporting our CHILDREN is what they LOVE. Oftentimes parents feel they have to provide ALL THE THINGS for their children to learn when in reality they already have a ton of things they are longing to learn more about. Dive into those and watch as your children's thirst for more and more information goes from a small spark of interest to a burning inferno of deep learning.

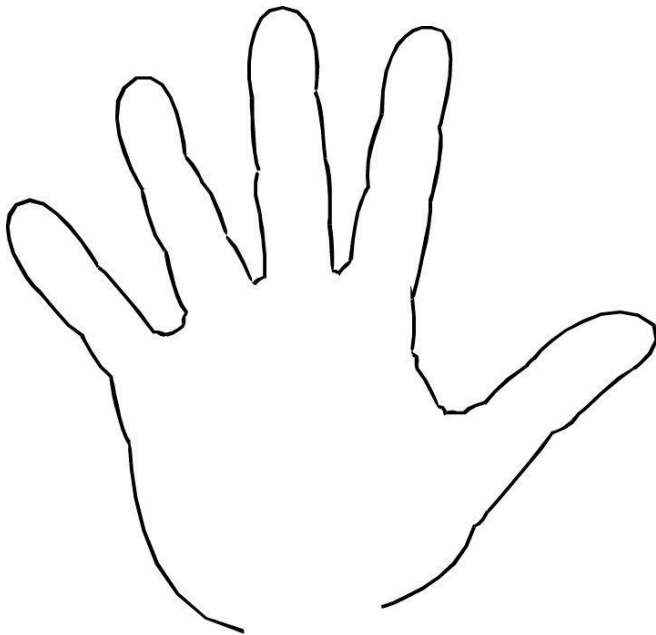
### What does my Child LOVE?????


My Child LOVES...	How does your child like to learn about this topic?  How much time do they normally get to spend on their own on this topic?	What other areas of this topic could you branch off on? (ie Love of trains could lead to history of trains, engines of trains, the making of the railroad.)	Are there books you already have about this? Could you go to the library, download audio books, or watch movies about this topic?	How could I get more support to help me with this topic? (Museums, Documentaries, Experts, Books, Places, Local Groups)

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It is important that our children lead us in their learning in many ways. This goes against the grain of how many of us were taught in the traditional way. However, when we 'follow' the child and have them choose what they love and want to learn more about, we can barely keep up with them. Then our homeschooling day is filled with their pursuit rather than our constant preparation. Do you remember having to follow after the infant who just learned to crawl? How about the toddler just learning to walk? We didn't have to 'set' stuff up for them to make these milestones. However in traditional schooling it is like our children are 'automatic' learners until kindergarten. Then we change them to 'manual learners' where we take the stick shift and think we are in charge. Your child is capable because they are constantly absorbing their surroundings. The more independence they have in choice of learning, the more fun it will be for all involved.

(Have your child draw an outline around their own hand. Then have them either draw pictures of what they love and want to learn more about, or write sentences if they are older.) This is a great way to also teach brainstorming of ideas for future writing work.





Now that you have reminded yourself about the amazing qualities your child already has, and what they love, now you must focus on HOW they learn. Too often as parents we know that our children learn in certain ways, however, we fall into the trap of making them 'do school' the way we were taught or the way other people are 'doing school'. The beauty of homeschooling is that YOU DECIDE how you are going to expect your child to show mastery. The various ways of learning will dictate HOW your child learns best naturally. Are they Visual learners, Auditory learners, Read/Write Learners, or Kinesthetic Learners? Why fight that? That is how they have been navigating their world from day 1. It is how they were created. Embrace that. Celebrate that. Help them to own that and HONE that!!!

**Visual Learners:** Use images, maps, graphic organizers to access and learn new information. Prefers watching things on television or movies to learn about various topics. Usually highly observant of their surroundings in terms of color, shape, and relationship to other things. These students are often good at spatial puzzles and problem solving.

**Auditory Learners:** Uses listening and speaking to absorb information best. Audio books, music, and verbal repetition will aid in retention of new information for understanding. Talking about what they have learned and explaining it to someone else helps to cement this information for these learners.

**Kinesthetic:** Learn best using tactile techniques for learning new information. These are hands-on learners who learn best when doing. These are the students who will learn about radios by taking one apart and putting it back together again.

**Read and Write:** These students learn best through words. They are strong readers who grow to be avid note takers and often are good writers naturally.

## My Child's Learning Style(s) is....

My Child's Learning Style(s) is....	
What evidence shows me this from past experience?	
How can we use this learning style(s) to best support their learning?	
How can we weave this learning style(s) into the topics they already LOVE?	
How could this learning style(s) benefit them in their daily life? Future goals? Future careers?	

