**"Living is learning, and when kids are living fully and energetically and happily they are learning a lot."**

From *A Life Worth Living, Selected Letters of John Holt*

It is wonderful that you are giving your child the gift of time, time with you and your family to learn and explore the world together. We hope you will use this time outside of school to find the joy in learning. There is so much to discover!

First, the requirements and the law:

* Every 4 weeks, you must turn in a Calendar of Learning and a PE log to your child’s teacher.
* Every 8 weeks, in addition to the Calendar and PE log, you must turn in a work sample for each subject area: language arts, math, social studies and science
* Every 8 weeks, you must meet with your child’s teacher.

Work samples may, but do not need to, take the form of:

* Photos

Student Mind Map:

(Brainstorm interests, goals, learning activities)

* Dictation
* Writing
* Projects
* Drawings
* Journals
* Descriptions
* Essays
* Experiments
* Worksheets
* Puzzles
* Games
* Timelines
* Reading
* Research
* Portfolios
* Multi-Media Presentations

We hope the work samples will:

* Show GROWTH over the year – how has your child’s writing improved over time?
* Be AUTHENTIC examples of the way he/she learns during his/her days at home.
* Address topics that INTEREST the student. (See the Mind Map above as a way of brainstorming interest with your child.)
* Demonstrate that your child is working towards mastery of the California State Standards.

We are learning all the time. The trick, then, is to document that learning so that you can meet state standards while enjoying the wonderful learning that happens all the time.

You may be able to talk to your child’s teacher and find work samples from the projects completed in class.

You should also be able to follow your child’s interests, live your life, learn as you live, and document that learning for the state.

Think: What subject area learning is addressed by this activity? How can I show that?

**Find the**

**JOY & FUN in LEARNING!!**

**Science**

* Work in the garden
* Grow roots on a bean or potato or garlic
* Watch a documentary
* Do an experiment (look online)
* Cook
* Go to a museum or the aquarium
* Go to the zoo
* Explain how things work
* Draw what is under the hood of the car
* Draw a picture to show science in action
* Find forces in action
* Use the scientific method
* Watch the tide, go tide-pooling
* Create a catapult
* Go on a hike and study rocks

**Language Arts**

* Independent reading
* Read aloud
* Write a story
* Dictate a story
* Illustrate a story
* Give a speech
* Ask questions, and answer them
* Discuss
* Compare a book and a movie
* Watch a play
* Create a newspaper
* Write and illustrate a comic
* Listen to the radio
* Draw pictures to the mood of music
* Play Mad Libs

**Social Studies**

* Map your house
* Lead your family using the map at the zoo
* Create a family tree
* Watch a historical documentary
* Read a biography of your hero
* Make a timeline of your life
* Make a timeline of a period in history
* Visit Old Town San Diego
* Play Trivia games
* Create a scene from history
* Visit the Midway or the Maritime Museum
* Visit the Balboa Park Museums and Cottages
* Explore a career that interests you
* Follow the election

**Math**

* Create a tally chart of dice rolls
* Create a bar chart of paper airplane distances
* Graph the scores of the Chargers games
* Add the mileage you drive
* Figure out the gas mileage
* Measure the driveway
* Calculate the perimeter of your bedroom
* Calculate the area of your kitchen
* Create geometric shapes out of toothpicks
* Do Sodoku puzzles
* Do other logic puzzles
* Play checkers or chess or other board games
* Go shopping, add prices, figure out tax
* “Buy” a stock and watch your money
* Sell lemonade on the corner and figure change