



Guidelines for Proposed Educational Plan

The attached form has been designed to include the required components as outlined in the Home Education Regulations in a concise manner. Families have found the attached directions helpful; your Educational Assistant is also available for your questions or concerns. If you'd like to attach additional informational papers for your Educational Assistant, please feel free to do so. As well, we encourage you to make a copy for your own records.

Can you give me some examples of terminology I could use?

Alberta Education's new Home Education Regulations require:

1. Resource Materials (possible terminology includes: curriculum titles, classes, vague references i.e. library books for research or assorted classics, physical items such as art supplies, reference materials, computer software, science equipment, etc.)
2. Instructional Method (some examples include: workbook approach, textbook studies, computer studies, research-directed projects, delight-directed, tutored, Alberta Distance Learning, name of well-known curriculum supplier such as ABeka or Sonlight, parent-designed unit studies, etc.)
3. Activities Planned (for example: workbooks, reading textbooks, listening to books on tape, experiments, research, discussion, language-rich environment, field trips, hands-on experiences, drama, report writing, creative writing, dictation, creative projects, etc. or very specific activities such as research, plan and complete a butterfly garden for our backyard.)
4. Evaluation Method & Frequency (these examples will hopefully give you some ideas: ongoing informal evaluation, text-supplied tests at the end of units, oral discussions, unit reviews, projects for each chapter, by instructor (for class), self-assessments, completion of daily, weekly, or unit assignments, rubrics, CAT-3 tests in February, etc.)
5. How these plans address the Learning Outcomes (choose from list of outcomes listed on page two of this document, filling in the chart as appropriate for your plans for your child THIS year.)

What additional information would be helpful for our educational assistant?

1. Your philosophy of home education. The better your educational assistant understands your goals, the easier it is for her to help you meet those goals.
2. A note if your child is gifted or if he/she has special physical or educational needs.

What are some other areas that may be beneficial for my spouse and me to consider when we write our plans for the year?

1. Character traits your family plans on making a priority this school year
2. Skills you're working to develop i.e., independently cooking supper once a week, doing own laundry, growing seedlings, ability to write a five paragraph critical essay with a thesis statement, increasing speed and accuracy in keyboarding skills, etc.
3. Special projects
4. Service project or travel your family is planning

What is a common mistake new homeschoolers make when they write their plans?

1. New parents frequently plan to do more than their child can manage. Remember, you have twelve years in which to complete your formal homeschooling program.
2. It's not unusual for parents to plan an excessive amount of workbook activity for their young son. Most young boys require considerable activity built into their studies.
3. Plans frequently change during the school year. Parents need to know that this is acceptable. Major changes should be reported to your Educational Assistant. Plans are made to give guidance, not to command obedience.
4. Skills like reading, writing and math take considerable practice to develop fluency. Developing academic skills compares to learning how to hit a baseball; the more your practice the better you become. Give yourself time and ample practice.
5. If your child is overly frustrated, look to see if they have the preliminary skills for the task required of them. It may be necessary to allow your child additional time to mature before he/she is ready. Your EA can help you in this area.
6. These plans serve you best if you have them easily available to you and use them as a tool. Too many families pack them away until their second EA visit, instead of making them work for their family.



What do I do with my plans once they're complete?

Mail or e-mail your plans to your Educational Assistant and she will accept them. She needs to accept them before your acceptance into Roots is complete. However, if there are only some minor changes needed, these can be completed during the fall home visit. Your plans must be signed by you, so if you e-mail them, please sign them during your first EA visit.

How do I e-mail my plans?

The necessary form is available on the Roots website in either Word or PDF format. The Word document can be completed on your computer and e-mailed to your EA.

Schedule of Learning Outcomes for Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow the Alberta Program of Studies (Outcomes contained in the Schedule included in the Home Education Regulation – to be worked on continually until a student graduates. Therefore, your child has until grade 12 to meet all of these goals; he/she isn't expected to meet every goal every year.)

Students are expected to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will prepare them for life after high school. A basic education will allow students to:

1. read for information, understanding and enjoyment
2. write and speak clearly, accurately and appropriately for the context
3. use mathematics to solve problems in business, science and daily-life situations
4. understand the physical world, ecology and the diversity of life
5. understand the scientific method, the nature of science and technology, and their application to daily life
6. know the history and geography of Canada and have a general understanding of world history and geography
7. understand Canada's political, social, and economic systems within a global context
8. respect the cultural diversity and common values of Canada
9. demonstrate desirable personal characteristics such as respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, caring, loyalty, and commitment to democratic ideals
10. recognize the importance of personal well-being and appreciate how family and others contribute to that well-being
11. know the basic requirements of an active, healthful lifestyle
12. understand and appreciate literature, the arts and the creative process
13. research an issue thoroughly and evaluate the credibility and reliability of information sources
14. demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in problem solving and decision making
15. demonstrate competence in using information technologies
16. know how to work independently and as part of a team
17. manage time and other resources needed to complete a task
18. demonstrate initiative, leadership, flexibility, and persistence
19. evaluate their own endeavours and continually strive to improve
20. have the desire and realize the need for life-long learning

From School Act, Alberta Regulation 126/99

SAMPLE

| Resource Materials | Instructional Method | Activities Planned | Evaluation Method & Frequency | How these plans address the Learning Outcomes |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Subject or goal: Early World History | | | | |
| - <u>Mystery of History, Volume I</u> - <u>Cat of Bubastes</u> on tape -Internet resources -Library books | - textbook studies - research | - reading textbook - listening to book on tape - research - lead discussion w siblings - field trip - PowerPoint project | - completion of unit assignments - text generated tests - project evaluation - self assessment | 1, 2, 6, 8, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 |



Student's Legal Name: _____ Also known as _____

Grade: _____ School Year: _____

* Optional disclosure

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*Other things you'd like Roots to know:

Parent's signature: _____

Educational Assistant's signature: _____

Office use only
 At the time of the second EA visit, indications are that this student [___will] [___will not] meet the goals of this program plan, with any modifications shown, by September 1.

 EA initials