

Edmonton Islamic Academy

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WRITING A HOME EDUCATION PLAN

Bloom Home Education

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Home Education Tip Sheet

Home Education Plans – What are they?

Curriculum/Outcomes: What will you teach?

Schedule of Outcomes

Resources: How will you teach in your homeschool?

Assessment: How will know your child is learning



Home Education Plan Tip Sheet

- Home Education Plans are to be submitted prior to **September 30, 2021**. Please read through this document carefully before you reach out to your facilitator for assistance. We have included several suggestions in this document to assist you with your planning.
- The learning outcomes for Home Education students are a requirement of Alberta Education. Students are required to meet all outcomes by the end of grade 12; however, many of these outcomes can be met each year. The Bloom Home Education Plan template has included most of these learning outcomes with the corresponding subjects. Please aim to complete all or most of the 22 outcomes in one year. Please be sure to include the outcomes that are missing into the areas that fit with your child's learning (you will find these listed at the bottom of the Home Education Plan template).
- Please use our Home Education Plan template OR a written Home Education Plan that encompasses all required information (please see Home Ed Plan examples). We strongly suggest that you fill out your Home Education Plan electronically making it easier to update if need be. If you need to update your plan, please do so and then email it to your facilitator.
- **It is VERY important that the 'Materials/Resources' you are claiming are listed in your Home Education Plan.** We cannot reimburse you if it is not listed in your Home Education Plan. Please see the Standards for Reimbursement form to learn what can be claimed.
- Materials will be reimbursed upon submission of receipts at the given time. Please see our reimbursement sheet for additional information.
- Your plan is a living document. This means that it can be updated to reflect your changing plans over the course of the year.



Home Education Plans: What are they?

Under the Home Education Regulation, any family enrolled in Home Education is required to submit a Home Education Plan. This is a requirement of Alberta Education. A Home Education Plan will need to be reviewed and accepted by a Bloom facilitator.

A Home Education Plan **MUST** include: **what you plan to teach** (curriculum/outcomes), **how you will teach** (activities/instructional methods and resources), and **how you will know what your child has learned** (assessment). Home Education allows parents the most flexibility. This means that you can decide **WHAT** you are going to teach by following:

- **the Alberta Program of Studies**
- **your own curriculum that you will create**
- **a boxed curriculum that has their own set of outcomes**

If you are not following the Alberta Program of Studies, you will need to meet the outcomes described in the Schedule of Learning Outcomes. These outcomes are available in the Home Education Regulation and are listed below.

We suggest that you create a plan that will encompass all three elements:

What you plan to teach: The learning outcomes

How you will teach: Learning activities and the resources you plan to incorporate: books, materials, activities, instructional methods

How you will know they are learning: Assessment. This can include formal and informal methods: observation, discussions, quizzes, tests, written records.

Your Home Education Plan is a living document. This means that it can change and be adjusted to reflect your child's progress throughout the year.

Below you will find helpful information to assist you with these three elements in your Home Education Plan.



GOALS/OUTCOMES

What will you teach or what will your child be learning?

This is the WHAT you will teach portion of your Home Education Plan. All core subjects are REQUIRED: LA, Math, Science, and Social. You can break them down further if you wish: geography, history, Seerah, Islamic Studies etc.

Your outcomes can follow the Schedule of Outcomes that are a requirement of Home Education. All of these outcomes must be met over 12 years of schooling. Most of these objectives are provided on the Bloom Home Education template to allow for easier planning. You may choose to add additional outcomes if you wish.

Please note that outcomes O through T are not on the template as you will know where these items fit best in your plan. You will need to include these outcome letters in your plan under “outcomes”.

If you are adding your own outcomes to your education plan, please keep in mind that these outcomes should focus on what your child will be able to understand/do or accomplish at the end of each unit.

An example of an outcome would be:

“Solve given word problems using addition and subtraction facts”

This would NOT be an outcome:

“My daughter will be using the Math-U-See curriculum” (this would be the HOW not the WHAT)

If you are following a boxed (pre-purchased program, for example: Math-U-See, Saxon, Institute for Excellence in Writing, Apologia etc), you can often find skills or outcomes in the table of contents. This will include strands/goals/skills/scope and sequence that will be met at the end of each unit or chapter. Including these in your Home Education Plan is a great start.

If you are following your own curriculum using your own resources, think about what you want your child to learn or do by the end of each unit of study (“My child will....”)

- identify the elements of a story: beginning, middle, end and write their own story using these elements
- represent numbers to 10 using pictures, manipulatives and written numbers
- describe various mammals and their characteristics
- describe the life cycle of a butterfly and frog



Schedule of Outcomes

These learning outcomes are contained in the Home Education Regulations and list the minimum requirements for a basic education and your Education Plan (over 12 years of schooling).

Learning Outcomes for Students Receiving Home Education Programs That Do Not Follow the Alberta Programs of Study:

1. A basic education must provide students with a solid core program including language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.
2. 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:
 - (a) read for information, understanding and enjoyment,
 - (b) write and speak clearly, accurately and appropriately for the context,
 - (c) use mathematics to solve problems in business, science and daily life situations,
 - (d) understand the physical world, ecology and the diversity of life,
 - (e) understand the scientific method, the nature of science and technology and their application to daily life,
 - (f) know the history and geography of Canada and have a general understanding of world history and geography,
 - (g) understand Canada's political, social and economic systems within a global context,
 - (h) respect the cultural diversity, the religious diversity and the common values of Canada,
 - (i) demonstrate desirable personal characteristics such as respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, caring, loyalty and commitment to democratic ideals,
 - (j) recognize the importance of personal well-being and appreciate how family and others contribute to that well-being,
 - (k) know the basic requirements of an active, healthful lifestyle,
 - (l) understand and appreciate literature, the arts and the creative process,
 - (m) research an issue thoroughly and evaluate the credibility and reliability of information sources,
 - (n) demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in problem solving and decision making,
 - (o) demonstrate competence in using information technologies,

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- (p) know how to work independently and as part of a team,
- (q) manage time and other resources needed to complete a task,
- (r) demonstrate initiative, leadership, flexibility and persistence,
- (s) evaluate their own endeavours and continually strive to improve
- (t) have the desire and realize the need for life-long learning.



LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Your choice and emphasis of learning activities; the “how” of your child’s learning, relates directly to your goals and beliefs as a home educator. You and your child may have specific interests that you want to explore or major projects that you want to use to meet learning outcomes. Considering what you know about your child as a learner, you will probably want to emphasize learning activities related to how your child learns best by seeing, by listening, by doing or moving. The following chart has been designed to help you plan learning activities related to our child’s learning style (*Home Education Handbook, Alberta Education 2010*).

The following chart has been designed to help you plan learning activities related to your child (*Home Education Handbook, Alberta Education 2010*).

SEEING	DOING or MOVING	LISTENING
Videos	Labs	Panel discussions
Painting	Dioramas	Discussions
Timelines	Dramatization	Oral directions
Diagrams	Experiments	Story telling
Charts, graphs, maps, pictures	Puppetry	Direct instruction
Displays	Demonstrations	Choral reading
Computer graphics	Constructing	Debates
Exhibits	Games, puzzles	Tape recordings
Note taking	Field Trips	Interviews
Models	Drawing	Music
Microscopes	Mime	Lectures
	Movement of objects or shapes to learn mathematical concepts	Songs
		Reading aloud

Wherever possible, please expand on these activities. For example, rather than saying “timeline”, you may want to say “create a historical timeline of ancient times”. Remember that your activities are a means to reach the goals or outcomes outlined in your Home Education Plan.

Below you will find a list of common instructional methods that can guide your activities. Feel free to include some of these in your child’s Home Education Plan. This is not an exhaustive list. Please try to be as specific as possible. For example, instead of “Mental Math” indicate “Practice daily mental math skills in addition and subtraction”



INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS - EXAMPLES

MATH

- Lectures
- Direct Instruction
- Problem Solving
- Mental Math
- Practice Drills
- Math Worksheets
- Oral Discussions
- Hands on Manipulatives
- Real World Experiences
- Speed Drills
- Reading
- Games

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Personal Reading
- Lectures
- Oral Discussions
- Formal Lessons
- Direct Instruction
- Memory
- Online Resources
- Group Learning
- Literary Analysis

SCIENCE

- Lectures
- Worksheets
- Online Resources
- Direct Instruction
- Oral Discussions
- Inquiry Learning
- Project-Based Learning
- Online Resources
- Memory Work
- Lessons

SOCIAL

- Lecture
- Worksheets
- Online Resources
- Oral Discussions
- Inquiry Learning
- Book Report
- Field Trips
- Memorization
- Articles (newspaper)
- Project-Based Learning
- Research
- Online Resources
- Memory Work (mapping, historical events: places/people)
- Lessons
- Periodicals
- Discussions



When you are listing “activities” in your Home Education Plan, you may find it helpful to think about the ‘action’ or ‘doing’ in your activities. For example, your activities may begin with:

- *List the continents of the world
- * Label the map of Canada
- *Design a brochure
- *Create a powerpoint presentation on the seerah
- *Spell word lists accurately
- *Manage time using a set schedule
- *Complete a novel study on Animal Farm
- *Write a narrative story on a topic of choice
- *Solve various addition problems
- *Add country information to a world map
- *Memorize subtraction facts 0-10
- *Describe the human body systems
- *Calculate math word problems involving the four facts

REMEMBER!

Your activities are how your child will reach the outcomes outlined in your Home Education Plan. For example:

Your **outcome** may be:

- learn about the human body and its various systems

Corresponding **activities** may be:

- Read various book on the human body
- Create a human body display that will outline the major organs
- Label and describe the body systems on the human body display
- Watch related videos from Bill Nye: Digestion, The Brain, Blood and Circulation, Bones & Muscles



RESOURCES/MATERIALS

Below you will find a list of common “Resources/Materials” for the core subjects. Feel free to use these in your child’s Home Education Plan. This is not an exhaustive list. Please remember to try to be specific as possible. Please don’t say “textbooks”, please include the name of the textbook.

MATH

- Workbooks
- Textbooks
- Online Materials
- Workshops
- Manipulatives
- Games
- Geometry Set
- Calculator
- Books
- Subscriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Books
- Textbooks
- Dictionary
- Thesaurus
- Encyclopedia
- Workbooks
- Articles
- Games
- Online Materials
- Subscriptions
- Computer Apps
- Workshops
- Art Supplies

SCIENCE

- Textbooks
- Workbooks
- Workshops
- Books
- Telescope
- Microscope
- Science Labs
- Science Kits
- Periodicals
- Computer Apps
- Biographies
- Field Trips

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SOCIAL

- Books
- Textbooks
- Workbooks
- Online Materials
- Subscriptions
- Atlas/Globe
- Games
- Periodicals
- Computer Apps
- Biographies
- Workshops
- Field Trips

If you're looking to purchase homeschool resources in Alberta, CHER (Canadian Home Education Resources) in Calgary has a great selection.

If you are wondering what items can be purchased for reimbursement, please see the Standards for Home Education Reimbursement form.



ASSESSMENT

How will know your child is learning

Assessment tools vary and are found in many forms. Regularly assessment will guide your home education – should we progress to the next unit? Do we need to review certain concepts? Does my child need more assistance? Does my child find this too easy? Do I need to provide my child with more opportunities to explore this topic? Parents will choose what assessment tools work best in their home education. Some may choose a more informal approach, while others prefer more formal assessments. This can also vary depending on grade level or preferred method of home education. You may prefer informal assessments in younger grades and work towards more formal assessments as your child progresses through the older grades. Some assessment forms include:

Informal Assessment

- observation
- narration
- Discussions
- informal questions
- projects
- journals
- checklists and written records
- reading logs
- questions/answers

Formal Assessment

- essays
- descriptive reports
- exams/Tests
- assignments
- portfolios
- evaluations

Below you will find samples of common “Assessment” strategies for the core subjects. Please feel free to include some of these in your Home Education Plan. This is not an exhaustive list.

Math

- Worksheets
- Memory Work (mental math)
- Games
- Quizzes
- Unit Tests
- Word Problems (worksheets and real world)
- Tests

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Language Arts

- Journals
- Anecdotal Notes
- Observations
- Presentations
- Oral Responses
- Quizzes
- Worksheets
- Written Assignments
- Verbal Assessment
- Competitions
- Projects – lapbooks, essay, poster project
- Final Exams
- Written Compositions
- Research Projects
- Unit Exams
- Rubrics
- Discussions

Science

- Written Assignments
- Worksheets
- Observations
- Presentations
- Oral Responses
- Quizzes
- Projects
- Written Assignments
- Science Fair
- Final Exams
- Unit Exams

Social

- Observations
- Presentations
- Assignments
- Worksheets
- Quizzes
- Projects
- Unit Exams
- Final Exams

How often do I need to assess?

A mix of informal and formal assessments is typically conducted daily, weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly. If you are using any of the tools listed above, you are using an assessment tool in your home education.

If you have any questions about Home Education Plans, please contact tasha.dawn@islamicacademy.ca