

WHAT IS YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION?

Directions: For each activity, Circle the number if you Agree with the statement. Don't spend time analyzing all the possible considerations, just go with your first reaction.

1. In independent study, it is important to give students textbooks and/or workbooks (either paper or computerized) to do at home.
2. Memorization is a key to learning, and between the ages of 6-10, children should use their ability to memorize in order to learn the basic facts for the subjects.
3. Instead of schooling by subjects, schooling using a thematic approach (integrating the subjects) assists in learning.
4. It is OK for a kindergarten student to do **no** math nor language arts studies and focus on art, music, gardening, foreign language training, community studies, health, and PE.
5. Education is not separated from life, it is the process of life.
6. Students should be expected to do their work at a scheduled time each day.
7. Students should study the classics of literature.
8. It is a good idea to study history by studying the art, music, culture, and literature of the time.
9. It is better to have no textbooks at the primary elementary level and use materials, especially manipulative materials, from the real world instead.
10. Children are naturally inquisitive and will readily learn the basic subjects on their own if given the time and opportunity.
11. It is important to test students when you see them each week.
12. When the student is ready to think abstractly, Abstract thought and logic should be pursued as the main emphasis of education.
13. To study science, history, and the minor subjects as a family instead of by grade level is a better use of time than to have each member of the family on a different lesson.
14. At the elementary years, hands on activities should be implemented in all subjects in place of written work.
15. Education is a natural and ongoing endeavor, not a thing that happens at a certain time and in certain ways.
16. Grades should be assigned to all, or most, work.
17. The study of philosophy should be an important part of a teen's education.
18. Students can become just as educated by learning from various sources (online search, library books, community members) as from a textbook.
19. Grades should not be given in the elementary grades, a teacher should write up an evaluation instead.
20. Children should apprentice in chosen careers by the time they reach their teens.
21. Homeschool means to "school at home" and the home environment should be as reflective of the classroom environment as possible.
22. Emphasis should be placed on the use of language, both written and spoken.
23. A fifth grade student who, as part of her science experiment, averaged data, found percentages, extrapolated the data, and graphed the results, has completed her math for the week even though she was supposed to be working on fractions in the textbook.
24. A child should be taught to read when he shows interest, not at a predetermined age.
25. Math should be taught by using it in a real-world setting, not as numbers on a paper.

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Analysis: add up how many circled numbers (agrees) in each of the sets below. Those in which you score a total of 5 are the philosophical modes with which you feel most comfortable. Not everyone will have just one dominant philosophy. There is nothing to preclude holding several philosophies about which you feel strongly (with a score of at least a 4). In fact, it is quite possible to believe in “eclectic” education and score well in all of the areas above. The point is simply to be aware of the philosophies you hold about how to best educate students so that you may build an educational style that best suits you and your family.

SCORE

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

_____ A-1, 6, 11, 16, 21

Schoolroom Style

_____ B- 2, 7, 12, 17, 22

Classical Education Style

_____ C- 3, 8, 13, 18, 23

Theme Unit Studies Style

_____ D- 4, 9, 14, 19, 24

Interactive Learning Style (Montessori; Waldorf)

_____ E- 5, 10, 15, 20, 25

Natural Schooling Style

Note to Teachers:

You may use this test for evaluating your families so you may better serve their needs, and to assist them in building a program which works well for their family. Some families are ready to give up on homeschooling after a year or two because they are struggling with educating in a manner in which they do not wholeheartedly believe. When they go with the method most comfortable for them, they find education a joy.

You may also use this as a self-test so that you can identify your own beliefs about education. In those in which you score only a 1 or 2, you will need to stretch to accommodate parents who prefer this philosophy of education. It is important to realize that we can prepare students educationally no matter what philosophical mode the parent may use with the child. It is our job to support the parents with their educational endeavor without belittling their educational philosophy or requiring that students complete activities contrary to their beliefs. Tests are not the end result of a good education, but a well prepared child should do reasonably well on a test regardless of his/her educational style!