

Against the current (home education)

My name [i write my essay](#) is oline Ponomarenko, I'm a mom of three boys 18, 16 and 8 years. By education I am a philologist Estonian language and a psychologist. Born and raised in Estonia, then in St. Petersburg. The idea of a family learning visited me for the first time when my oldest was in elementary school, but only a couple of years ago I finally decided to leave the school, aligning a transition to the family learning with the move to Malaysia. Why I thought so long? In short — fear, lack of family support, information and like-minded people.

But for the same reason, much deliberation and brooding, I was able to avoid many mistakes, and our transition to WITH get an easy, harmonious and in my opinion, very successful. Now we live in Malaysia, the eldest son has recently returned to Estonia, he entered the music school.

We, the parents of children who do not go to school, in fact — discoverers, at least, I exactly feel. We are the ones who are not afraid to look at life with a different look to go against the majority opinion. We all look for, learn, learn life together with their children. And that's fine, I think.

How have we come to this

When my oldest child went to first grade, homeschooling, I thought. The son was determined to obtain new knowledge and love to come to school. The weirdness began almost immediately, and the first shock for me was the fact that the teacher reduced the rating for a single blot in a carefully written text (and boy I tried). Another shock — in the open class, the teacher unceremoniously compared students. They say that Ivan reads better than Peter. Someone might say — little things, but I do not think so. You might think, not lucky with the teacher (honored teacher, by the way), but this was only the beginning.

We changed teachers, then school. In the end, after several schools, including one private, in Estonia and in Russia, I had two teenagers who absolutely don't want to learn and go to school. They were boring and not interesting.

I was worried, I was forced to do homework, but increasingly came to believe that children-the right and need to do something.

At parent meetings, I have heard stirred the hair on the head, and in addition to the outright nonsense that teachers voiced as usual, rained constant reproaches: — Your son doesn't... doesn't ... He should ... You should... (Why? Who should?) — We give him the knowledge... (Knowledge without interest?)

The questions I have accumulated, there was no answer.

Isn't it strange that students need to download the complete training short-term memory and honing the ability to complete the tests and follow the instructions?

But this man came into this World to meet everyone's expectations, to fulfill someone else's instructions to do something that he is not interested in and get a valuation?

Schools differ little from each other, everywhere ruled by the System. The child is not interesting to anyone. Neither his talents nor interests, the more its uniqueness and features. And knowledge? Do we need these dead knowledge, which just put children in the head, not interested in their opinions, vision, and even make exactly to memorize and not to think with your head? Yeah, I realized that all my knowledge of the two state universities, have nothing to do with real life, and often hinder the understanding of life. Conscious life.

I do not remember under what circumstances I came across information about real homeschooling, but this idea I immediately liked. Ahead were years of doubt, hesitation, fear to change something, but these thoughts have always been with me. Exacerbated by the fact that my environment not only supported me, but was set strongly against.

Plus, it turned out that the stereotypes and the imposed myths and rules to get rid of the not so simple, lacked confidence and just information and like-minded people.

However, by the time I was on the side of the children as they could support them, were allowed to skip school to resolve conflicts with teachers. But finally to leave school I was not ready.

Logout — a tough decision

When my husband offered to go live in Southeast Asia (we traveled a lot and we loved Southeast Asia), I realized that this is our chance to make some important steps and regain their freedom. Husband was almost to the end against home schooling, but here in Malaysia, some aspects of British-Chinese education is still an unpleasant surprise, and not cheap it all. So he agreed and now pretty much deals with his young son. Basically, they talk on various pseudo-scientific topics, read and do sports.

And here we are in Malaysia. The eldest son by the time the creaking finished 9 grades, middle — 7, Junior school has not gone. In international school on arrival we went for a while, so it was easier to settle visa issues, "start" is English, and the children was interesting to compare. But very soon the day came when we finally and irrevocably left the school.

What's next?

And then it started to happen, literally, miracles. I didn't even have to wait (and I'm expecting kids not to rush and give them rest). Children hit a creativity, became engaged in music, drawing and sports.

It turned out that they like the Chinese language. Junior and intermediate happy to teach him so far. It turned out that the middle son draws well, I had no idea! And now he decided to get my Ged and preparing for exams almost independently.

The eldest son suddenly decided to play the saxophone, we found the city's only teacher, and he began to practice every day(!). But after 10 months prepared and entered the school of music. It was a real shock, because musical education had not only two classes of musical school in the childhood, talent (what a blessing that is not lost!) and a great desire.

But most of all, lucky Junior. He does what he likes. Like him and all to read in English and Russian, write books and comics, to study anatomy, geography, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics and the universe, to prepare the salad, to make a video about your new design LEGO, singing, dancing... just not listed.

He's always busy and everything is interesting to him, obviously, as all children until they went to school!

And no schedule! The son of two consecutive weeks to examine the man's inner self, and then sit down to write his book. Another week. In between singing, swimming, walking in the "March" and the dancing.

And so without a break. Isn't it wonderful? He gets the real Knowledge, their own, answering their own questions, embodying their own ideas. I don't believe there's negative experience of home education, because a parent who has come to this, thinks with his head, lives consciously and most importantly-take responsibility for the children, for their education. And is the key to freedom and happiness.

The most important thing

What is most important to the process of family formation? For me it is not try to follow some system, method, mode, ambitions, and follow your natural intuition, your heart. Because every child is a separate universe with their talents, dreams, mistakes and life lessons, and our task is to help him to be himself, to be confident, to live in harmony with the world and in harmony with other people. In other words — to be happy, because it wants every parent?

Of course, I can understand parents who try to fill a child's academic knowledge, make a daily schedule and try to consistently follow the established rules, but is, thereby, we don't miss something very important, something unique and natural, what is inherent in this child, in this wonderful age?

Don't deprive it of self-expression, finding their own questions and self-realization as its unique way?

And then, this daily activity, we programmed the child to the same life. Agree, there is a difference between doing something because it accustomed to, or useful to do because the Soul asks and sings.

I'm watching my 8-year-old child when he does what he loves to do — he is passionate, he is free, he does, with pleasure, with joy, with shining eyes. And it seems that there are for him no obstacle to such moments. These States can last for hours, days and even months. It is in these moments all my fears, doubts and worries seem so worthless, and I rejoice! You know, we are on the right track.

That me still surprises and delights — that children, not embedded in the frame, always know exactly what they need at the moment, just amazed how confident they all do, and if I have my child something requests, I have no doubt that for him it is now very important and necessary. Because I understand that it is not a whim or immediate desire, and part of his Grand creative plan.

There is one more thing — we discussed with the children our life without school. Shared ideas and doubts.

I gave them to understand that they themselves can take responsibility for their lives and I trust them completely. I'm sure this is very important, especially with older children.

Sometimes I regret that we spent so much time on school, as much as we could during that time to make interesting, but obviously no other way could happen, and I thank the Universe for what we came all this way and not turned.

Don't like to use foreign words, but to our life more suitable word unschooling. Only this way of life gives the child the freedom to develop in accordance with its interests, features and talents. Here in Malaysia, we are friends with the family who are also on unschooling and our children are friends. It's important to me, as they came to understand the free development earlier than we are and I learn a lot from them and get inspired. The middle son also have friends who homeschool and in General, all of these children just amaze with their development, intelligence, inner freedom and confidence. It can be seen immediately with the naked eye.

I believe that, whatever my children in the future, they will do what they really like, will not be afraid to make a mistake and get your own experience, be confident and live your unique Life.

In the process of home schooling is important:

1. To trust the child and to it. When it is busy — do not disturb him when he asks for help to respond.
2. The spontaneous activities of the child to put the above scheduled classes and not to focus on your plans or expectations.

3. Not to check (and let's repeat what we studied today) and did not appreciate. Quite.
4. Remember what is most important is the interest, not the amount of information a child can remember. Therefore, sometimes the question posed to the child is more important than the answer. So he learns to think and draw their own conclusions, not simply to absorb information.
5. Participation in the daily Affairs of the family is no less important than the study subjects, and in fact it's the same education. Because the child prepare for life, not for tests or exams.
6. To give the child to understand that everything he finds out, it is not ultimate knowledge, but perhaps only speculation or someone's opinion (though generally accepted) and there is always the possibility of their own experience and their own conclusions.

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