Week 3

Learn through life

Learning doesn't only happen at a desk. This week you'll prove it to yourself with one outing, a simple monthly library routine, and one thing your child already loves.

YOUR WEEK 3 CHECKLIST

- [ ] Watch Video 4: Learn Through Life
- [ ] Plan and take one outing (page 2)
- [ ] Set up your monthly library routine and place your first holds (page 3)
- [ ] Follow one interest and see where it goes (page 4)
- [ ] Week 3 check-in (page 5)

1 video	*1 outing*	*~30 books*
about 10 minutes	free or low-cost	a month, free

Your bonuses this week: the Free Community Resources Guide (outing ideas near you) and the 3-Day Unit Study / Field Trip Guide (120 field trip ideas).

Learning is everywhere

Watch: Video 4, Part 1 — Learning Is Happening Everywhere

> **Do this:** Skim your Free Community Resources Guide, then pick **one** outing that's realistic this week. Not the most ambitious one. Just one you'll actually do.

IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED

- ☐ Library story time or program
- ☐ Nature center or trail
- ☐ Museum (ask about free library passes)
- ☐ Farm or orchard
- ☐ Fire station or police station
- ☐ Hardware store workshop
- ☐ Grocery store: compare prices
- ☐ Local historical site
- ☐ Park + a nature scavenger hunt

MY PLAN

Where we're going: _____

When: _____ Cost: _____

What I hope my child notices or wonders about:

_____

_____

One question we could ask while we're there:

_____

AFTER WE WENT

What did my child light up about?

_____

_____

What did they learn that I never planned to teach?

_____

_____

Your monthly library routine

Watch: Video 4, Part 2 — The Library

> **Do this:** Once a month, pick a theme, grab about 30 books from a trusted booklist, and put them on hold at your library. A week later you start the month with a fresh stack, without wandering the aisles.

1. **Get set up.** Get a library card and your library's app or website for placing holds. Add Libby or Hoopla for free audiobooks.
2. **Ask your librarian** how many books you can check out at once, how long you can keep them, and whether holds can be sent to your branch.
3. **Pick this month's theme** (ideas below).
4. **Go to a booklist** and choose about 30 books on your theme. No need to reinvent the wheel; these lists are already vetted.
5. **Place a hold on each book** in your library's app, to pick up at your branch.
6. **Pick them up** about a week later. Keep them in one spot, like a basket or a shelf, so your kids can grab them.
7. **Set a monthly reminder** in your phone, like the 15th, to pick next month's theme and place holds.

THEME IDEAS

- ☐ A season or holiday
- ☐ Something your child is into
- ☐ Something you want them to learn about
- ☐ A time period in history
- ☐ Biographies of real people
- ☐ A place in the world

TRUSTED BOOKLISTS

BOOKLIST	GO HERE FOR
Read-Aloud Revival (Sarah Mackenzie)	Great literature by age, season, holiday, and topic. Start here.
All Through the Ages	History and biographies, sorted by time period
Around the World with Picture Books	Countries and cultures
Let's Play Math	Math picture books and living books

This month's theme: _____ My monthly hold day: _____

From interest to learning

Watch: Video 4, Part 3 — Turn Interests Into Learning · **Bonus:** 3-Day Unit Study / Field Trip Guide

> **Do this:** Pick one thing your child already loves and follow it down this page. Use the example as a guide. You don't need to plan by subject: one good topic naturally covers reading, math, history, geography, and science.

1 My child is into...
Example: *The Oregon Trail (after playing the computer game)*

2 What could we explore about it?
Example: *Why families went west, what they packed, the route on a map, what life was like for kids*

3 Questions we could ask
Example: *How long did the trip take? What did they eat? How far could a wagon go in one day?*

4 Books or videos
Example: *Pioneer books from a booklist (try If You Traveled West in a Covered Wagon by Ellen Levine) and a short documentary*

5 One activity
Example: *Pack a pretend wagon with a weight limit, make johnnycakes, or map the route and figure out miles per day*

6 A real-world experience
Example: *Visit a living-history museum or historic site, or take a hike and talk about how far wagons traveled in a day*

7 What did we discover?
Example: *Let them tell it back to you, draw it, or build it. That's your record.*

Week 3 check-in

> **A quick pause**, not a test. Notice where you are before Week 4.

Something we tried this week that worked better than I expected:

What I learned about how my child engages with real-world learning:

What I'm still unsure about:

ONE HONEST NOTE FROM ME

If a trip to the grocery store or a walk in the woods doesn't "feel like school," that's the point. Write down what your kids did and learned. When you look back at the end of the month, you'll be amazed how much counts.

— *Cheryl*

Notes