



Action Plan Lesson #1

Love of Learning

By

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Foreword

Welcome to your first ***Dynamic Theme Units Action Plan*** lesson!

I'm excited to have you as a valued member of our 3-month Action Plan and looking forward to seeing your own *Dynamic Theme Units* (DTU) program "come to life" over the next few days and weeks.

Before we begin with the inaugural training, there are three important things that I need to mention to you...

1) Time-Released Bonuses Every 30 Days.

Once per month, you'll automatically receive a FREE bonus as an active ***Dynamic Theme Units Action Plan*** subscriber. This will appear in your inbox approximately every 30 days and will include accessories and training materials to further streamline your program. Additionally, there are some built-in "*surprises*" (templates, tools, resources, etc.) along the way at unspecified intervals. And, finally, there is a SUPER "*graduation*" bonus at the completion of your 3-month training that is worth more than the entire program's subscription dues ... so look for that on graduation day. 😊

2) What's In Store The First Few Weeks.

I want to give you just a quick look at what we'll be covering during the first 3 lessons in your training...

Lesson #01: Love of Learning

Lesson #02: Why Dynamic Theme Units Work

Lesson #03: How to Use Dynamic Theme Units to Help Strengthen Your Family

Lesson #04: Ways to Use DTUs to Promote Your Child's Personal Development

The first month will be the basic steps involved in getting things up and running, and the next month will be advanced strategies for expanding and improving the foundation of your DTU program.

3) Why You Should Never Cancel. There are many reasons why you should stick with your membership, but there is an all-important reason that I have to warn you about from the beginning. Each of your lessons is sequential and delivered by

email autoresponder. ***That means, if you decide to cancel and rejoin at some point in the future, you'll have to start all over again with the very first lesson.*** There is no "picking up where you left off" with this training program. I ****strongly**** encourage you to stick with this for the entire 3 month duration ... trust me when I say that you'll thank me in the end.

Now that we've gotten the housekeeping out of the way, let's get to the reason why you're here ... the lesson!

Introduction

Does your child have a Love of Learning?

If you list the things you want for your child, educationally speaking, chances are that somewhere on that list will be...

A Lifelong Love for Learning

Why? Because you know that your child was born with a love for learning. And because you know that people who love to learn will find creative solutions to life's challenges, whether in family matters, health concerns, career choices, or other endeavors. And then, there's the best reason of all: what they love, they will do without coercion, without complaint. Really, who wants to stand over their child with a stick all day, insisting they study? (If that were the only way to get them to learn, you could have let the school teachers do it).

SO...How do we encourage a love for learning in our children?

Anyone who has observed babies and young children will agree that they come into this world eager to learn, indeed even *voracious* for new knowledge, skills and experiences. If they have lost this inborn quality, it is because something has happened to it.

It is, in fact, nothing short of a miracle that the modern methods of education have not yet entirely strangled the holy curiosity of inquiry; for this delicate little plant, aside from stimulation, stands mainly in need of freedom; without this it goes to wrack and ruin without fail. It is a very grave mistake to think that the enjoyment of seeing and searching can be promoted by means of coercion and a sense of duty.

--Albert Einstein

As Einstein was aware, traditional educational methods are extremely likely to stunt the desire to learn. If homeschooling mimics most educational institutions, it will be likely to foster boredom and resistance. Certainly, spoon feeding information and skills, then requiring them to regurgitate what we have given

them, does nothing to foster a love of learning. It also does nothing to build confidence, since the child is put in a passive position.

Chances are, this is one of the reasons you are home schooling:

Traditional educational methods are not producing the results you want for your child!

Dynamic Theme Units

That is why we utilize what we call Dynamic Theme Units (DTUs). Simply stated, a DTU is a central theme around which a variety of learning activities takes place. They are similar to a Unit Studies approach in that:

- they are **geared to the interests** of the child or children
- they encompass a **large range of learning areas and activities** tied into the theme and
- they lend themselves to a great deal of **individualization**

They differ from traditional "Unit Studies" in some important ways:

- there are **no day-by-day lesson plans**
- they encourage a more **holistic family approach** to living and learning together and
- they are as **learner-directed** as your child is ready for

Dynamic Theme Units provide the framework within which children's interests drive their need and desire to acquire knowledge and skills, so that they can learn and do more of what they really desire to know and do. Not only does such learning meet with enthusiasm rather than resistance, it will also be most likely to be retained, because it is actually being used in a child's life, in a way that is meaningful to the child.

Anything that catches a child's interest can be the start of a wonderful learning adventure.

- A bug found in the driveway may need to be identified.
- A desire to learn to cook a favorite treat might lead to a recipe search and a cooking lesson.

- A neighbor who grew up in another area of the U.S. or in a different country might offer fascinating information about life in different places.
- A family vacation can involve everyone in planning, budgeting, mapping, packing, and learning about history, geography, weather, flora and fauna, and other items of interest en route and at the destination point.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- 1. Expect children to take personal responsibility for learning and achieving.** When adults want to learn something, they begin to ask themselves where they might find the information. They may look for resources on the internet, find books in the library or at a bookstore, find someone who already knows something about the subject, watch, ask questions, or take a class. They may brainstorm or conduct a trial-and-error experiment. If we encourage our children to utilize these learning strategies, we will begin to build their learning skill base and confidence.
- 2. Encourage and build upon sparks of interest and excitement while they are still alive.** This makes learning an exciting journey instead of boring drudgery. A child's inborn urge to learn new things will be cultivated and nurtured.
- 3. Build their confidence in their own ability to find out what they want and need to know.** Give as many hints, as much guidance as they need, even sit beside them as they search the web or call for information. Encourage them to come up with ideas. Teach them to brainstorm. If they run into problems, express your confidence that answers must exist and that they can eventually find some of those answers. This will help them to put forth the effort to effectively problem-solve.
- 4. Let them witness your own learning process.** Be open about solving money problems, finding a book you want at the library, deciding on nutritious meals and snacks, scheduling family chores, etc. Let them see that adults need to seek information, get help from experts, brainstorm, and sometimes take their best guess. This is all part of learning and living in the real world.

This Week:

So, how do you start?

This week, take the pressure off. Let yourself and your children decompress. Put away anything that looks like "school" and concentrate on each other.

In many ways, the oft-quoted phrase, "all I really need to know I learned in kindergarten," contains a lot of truth. The most important foundation for success lies in a wholesome, balanced, joyful family life where a child learns to share, care, contribute and solve problems constructively. With Dynamic Theme Units, your schooling will be a contributing part of this kind of holistic, healthy lifestyle.

So, each day, strive for a happy routine: pleasant mealtimes, time for chores and play, alone time and together time, maybe a bedtime story or cozy cuddle time or time to talk in private.

Show, and tell, each child not only that you love him, but that you like him and enjoy his company.

Reread this week's article a couple of times to let the information sink in. If you wish, you could jot down things that come to mind about ways to implement the tips listed above.

Then, just relax. It takes some time to switch gears, to let go of old habits and internalize a new way of doing things. Let this week be your time to be gentle with yourself and your child.

Warm Regards,



Meredith Nation
Publisher, ***Dynamic Theme Units***

Coming Up Next ...

Lesson #2: *Why* Dynamic Theme Units Work

In next week's lesson we'll be taking a look at **11 great things** that Dynamic Theme Units will do for your child.