



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

**Learning Improvement Service**

# **Elective home education in Westmorland and Furness**

Ideas for learning in Year 10 and Year 11

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# Ideas for learning in Year 10 and Year 11

## Learning

Learning must be full-time and take a significant amount of your child's day. Whatever you choose, it must be suitable for their age, ability and aptitude and enable your child to make progress. It needs to prepare them to function as a member of society, when they are an adult. The learning needs to include literacy and numeracy, although this might not mean following English and maths National Curriculum.

## Qualifications and college applications

You may wish your child to study GCSEs or functional skills – outlined on our webpage [Home education | Westmorland and Furness Council](#) although this is not compulsory. The education you provide for your child must support their future wishes. If they plan to attend college or sixth form, they will need to meet the college's entry requirements. You should look ahead at these and check the requirements to access their chosen course.

Below are other options for learning opportunities in real-life opportunities:

## Literacy

### Oracy/communication

Discuss with your child the news. How do we know it's true?

Watch a documentary together, Google things you don't understand and find out about them.

Talk to your child about their gaming/Lego building/scootering – get them to teach you. Discuss Podcasts together. Hold debates, discussions or use 'what would you rather?' questions.

Talk about the car needing an MOT – what happens, look at the MOT check sheet, talk about car insurance and road tax.

### Reading

Choose games (online /offline) that require reading to enable them to play them. Read together instructions/recipes/newspapers.

Use critical reading – explore how you would check whether the information is accurate?

Does the text have bias?

Discuss the authors of texts that they are familiar with and why they enjoy those texts?

Read formal texts, such as, a rental agreement, job contract, mobile phone agreement.

Demonstrate that if you don't know what the content means, that you will find out what it means.

## Writing

Provide positive writing examples – writing a postcard or letter to distant friends.

Plan together how to write a college application letter/CV – formal.

Look at how to write an informal example – a Blog/script for a podcast - informal.

Ask them to write a review for a visit or event you have attended.

Organise for them to write a persuasive or descriptive piece – for example, if they want something new. Ask them to provide reasons why they should have it?

Set the task of creating a comic strip and illustrate it or retell a series they have been viewing on screen, perhaps they could take the role of one of the characters?

## Numeracy

Look into time and distance – how long does it take to get to ...? Set questions such as, what happens if you are travelling on a bus, walking or in the car? Can you read a bus timetable and work out how long you have until you need to catch the return bus?

Ask them to analyse and make sense of information, for example, how many wins does my team need to get to the top of the league?

Understanding patterns – ask them to spot numbers on house doors, distances on road signs to hazards, slicing cakes/pizza in half or sharing between family members.

Work on making numerical choices i.e. which mobile phone deal is the best? During a retailer's sale, does a 10% reduction in price mean that much? Booking tickets to see a band, how much does a 2% administration fee increase the cost?

Consider financial planning – what kind of bills do we pay? How much does it cost weekly to pay for the electricity? How much of a budget do we need for food in a week?

Ask them to study exchange rates – if you are going on a trip where is the best place to exchange pounds into the local currency?

Using cooking or baking – can you scale up a recipe to feed more people?

Construction/home improvement – if planning on painting a bedroom, how much paint is needed? Can you calculate the square footage? Can you follow instructions to build a new bookcase, for example.

Use of numbers, recognising larger numbers, place value, percentages, currency or time.

Symmetry and measurements – use of coordinates and scale on maps, symmetry, 2D, 3D drawings.

Music and exercise – time, speed, fractions, sport, scores or even darts to practise addition.

## Science

Organise for your child to participate in a project of their interest. Use research, find examples, develop hypothesis, explain how things work and how they are an advantage to our society? Visit real-life examples, take photographs, make working models to show concepts.

Set up opportunities for your child to conduct their own observations/measurements to show the effects over time, for example a growing seedling, a growing puppy or the temperature change of cooling bath water.

Ask them to watch online videos of experiments which show concepts, for example BBC Bitesize or Oak Academy.

Work with them to create a project to show scientific discoveries, for example the position of the planets or shooting stars, what fossils tell us or why we know we should eat vegetables and fruit?

Look for examples of science in the news, for example the Artemis II rocket launch or climate change and how we could manage this?

Help them look for challenges and enrichment projects with STEM [Enrichment activities for secondary schools](#)

## Art

Art on canvas

Digital art [Sketchpad - Draw, Create, Share!](#) Or create animations or graphical novels or comics.

Build up a portfolio of different art types.

Explore the history of art.

## Archaeology/history

Visits to local attractions: Furness Abbey, The Hoad, Kendal/Lowther Castle, the World of Beatrix Potter.

Ask them to make scrapbooks of their interests of areas of history.  
Watch historic films/documentaries and discuss how well they portray the historical elements?

Go for a walk and find out the history in your local area, for example, street names, missing iron railings, design of buildings, canal routes, products that were/are made locally.

## Animal care/horses/dog grooming

Guide your child to do a project on a particular animal or breed that they are interested in.

Find out about its biology/diet/history/how to look after them?

From visits to local farms/zoos, learn about the animals there and use this information as a stimulus for a project.

## **Beauty/nails/lashes**

Use NVQ textbooks on beauty therapy and design different nails in a scrapbook.

Buy a nail kit and practise applying them or volunteer at a local salon, once a week.

## **Hairdressing**

Learn about the human body, hair growth and care.

Volunteer to work at a local salon and learn sign language to communicate with customers.

NVQ textbook 'diploma in hairdressing' use this to write about techniques and designs you could create.

Use mannequin heads to practise different designs.

## **Cars/mechanics**

Watch Top Gear and make a fact book of cars from the series.

'Machine Works V8 Engines' Haynes – build your own. Or borrow from the library 'Haynes repair manuals' to find out how to repair an old car.

Learn about how gears work – LEGO Technic.

Use online car mechanic simulators to observe mending broken parts.

## **Catering**

Help them to grow their own vegetables and fruit.

Make their own recipe book, hold a bake off and take photos of the created dishes.

Cook from a weekly budget.

## **Childcare**

NVQ textbook 'Children's care, learning and development'.

## **Construction/joinery**

Use YouTube videos for established methods, for example: Bricklaying tutorials, Bricklaying with Steve and Alex or Stu Crompton.

## Painting/decorating

Design some interior walls or create various looks and settings for a scrapbook.

Use some sample pots from DIY shops to create their own styles.

## Computing/coding/game design

Use free programming software, for example Scratch, to create their own stories, games or animations.

Teach themselves coding or develop a game – for example using Python.

Research the advantages and safe use of AI and the jobs that could be created in the future.

## Engineering

Join an inventor club – for example Innovation Ben's Inventor's Club.

Get involved in different challenges, use various learning resources and print certificates – Institute of Engineering and Technology or Dyson Engineering Challenges.

## Fashion design

Make wearable technology – MIT [Girls Who Build: Make Your Own Wearables Workshop | Mechanical Engineering | MIT OpenCourseWare](#)

## Other interests

- Introduction to health/sport/psychology [Health, Sports & Psychology - Featured content | OpenLearn - Open University](#)
- Investigating a murder with forensic psychology [Investigating a murder with forensic psychology | OpenLearn - Open University](#)
- Guess where you are in the world game? [WorldGuessr - Play Geoguessr for free](#)
- Learn basic first aid skills, for example, the British Red Cross.
- Learn how to manage your money [Managing my money for young adults: Introduction and guidance: What is a badged course? | OpenLearn - Open University](#)
- Fire safety awareness course on Alison [Fire Safety Awareness | Free Online Course | Alison](#)