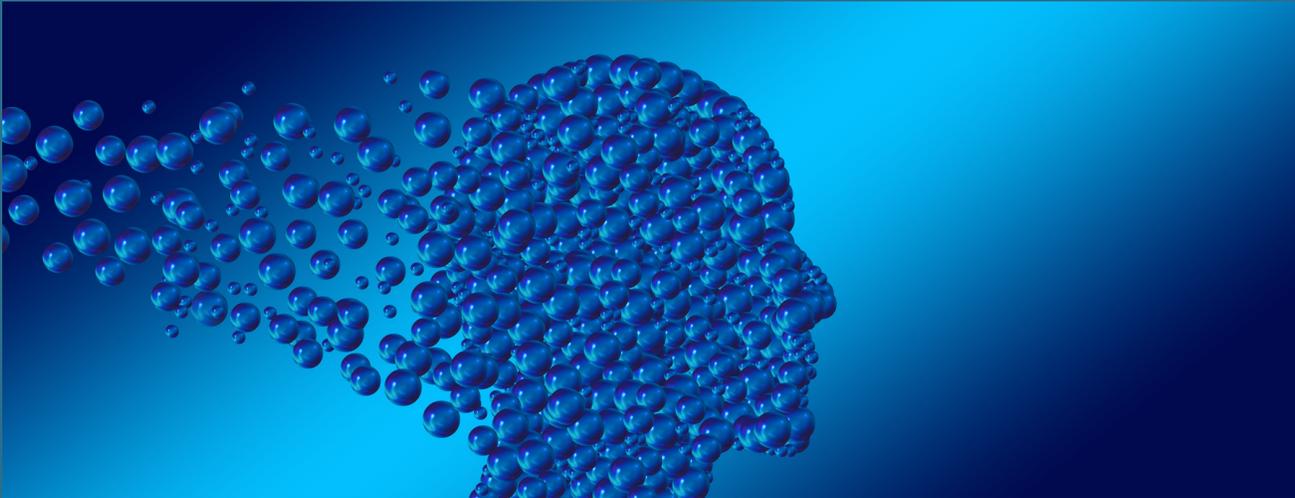


THE HELM

PERSPECTIVE & ENVIRONMENT

CASCO LEARNING COLLABORATIVE



A New Era for Education

WRITTEN BY MARIA J. CASCO

Out with the old and in with the new!

It is a very exciting time for the future of education. In some way, it feels as though our educational community is at the forefront of this new era of education.

The term for what "school" means is slowly changing. Schooling refers to the method of instruction, yet the concept of "learning" refers to how we absorb the world around us. And learning isn't exclusive to school.

Therefore, the learning spaces we are creating for our children should be synonymous to that idea. Learning happens everywhere, and it happens differently for everyone. So, where did our society go wrong in funneling children through a "one size fits all" model?

We believe children who are learning to teach themselves are simultaneously teaching themselves to learn.

As adults, that is what most of us are required to do as we maneuver through the complexities of our world. Many of us had an abrupt transition to this framework from traditional schooling, where everything was scripted for us, to the self-directed world of higher education, the workforce, or running your own business.

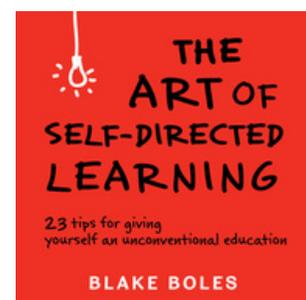
With this in mind, why wouldn't we give our children a head start? Imagine how far they'll be able to go!

PARENTING HELM

PERSPECTIVE &
ENVIRONMENT



A FASCINATING
BOOK FOR LEARNERS
OF ALL AGES



Learning to Deschool Ourselves

By Jenna M. Hill

Deschooling?! Have you ever heard of that before?

Neither did we, until we began a study of alternative models in education along the route of self-directed learning. This led to our discovery of deschooling, which I hope to shed some light on to start this conversation in our own educational community.

Deschooling is moving away from school as we know it, to a world where school does not follow a neat, linear pathway. It adopts more of an unpredictable, spontaneous approach which will look different for every individual. After all, learning isn't the same process for everyone, right?

The shift begins with identifying our personal beliefs about school and education. It leads us to step outside of our comfort zone and learn about the possibilities of what education CAN be.

This is an important step in the process because the decisions we make for our children will continue to be driven by our own assumptions, such as "my child needs to play a sport in high school and participate in service projects to add to their college applications."

Still, following?!!

Education should be about the learning experience as a whole! How does rote memorization in traditional schooling foster this concept? We can answer that.

It doesn't.

So, what did school look like for you? What memories come to mind when you think about your school experiences?

Take it a step further, did you enjoy your process of learning? Did you look forward to it every day? Was your overall experience meaningful?

It helps to think about this because reflection challenges personal assumptions in the deschooling process and helps break the cycle if you are looking for something fresh, something different.

What is the cycle? Making decisions based on societal expectations, experiences from the past, and our fears for the future. Deschoolers believe this way of thinking and living is less about the child in front of you at that very moment.

Talk about this process with your children, and relax! We have created an environment where your children are safe, loved, and can choose how they learn and what to learn with our guidance.

Yes, our model may be different from your own school experiences, but that is a GOOD THING! You can bet we are creating a meaningful learning experience for each of your children.

The world is changing, the workforce is changing, and the global approach to quality of life in education should change too.

Shifting Our Thinking

(From "The Art of Self-Directed Learning")

| Cage | Key |
|--------------|------------------|
| I can't | I could if I |
| I should | I choose to |
| I don't know | I'll find out |
| I wish | I'll make a plan |
| I hate | I prefer |
| I have to | I get to |

