

WHAT IS REALEXP?

ABSTRACT

This is not another homeschooling method. This is a supplemental approach for any schooling (homeschooling, public school, private school, etc.). This could be led by a relative or friend of the family with the parent's or guardian's permission.

Author

The material presented in the paper is from a chat with ChatGPT from OpenAI and Ben Krakora. Thanks to Joe Krakora and others for reviewing the paper.

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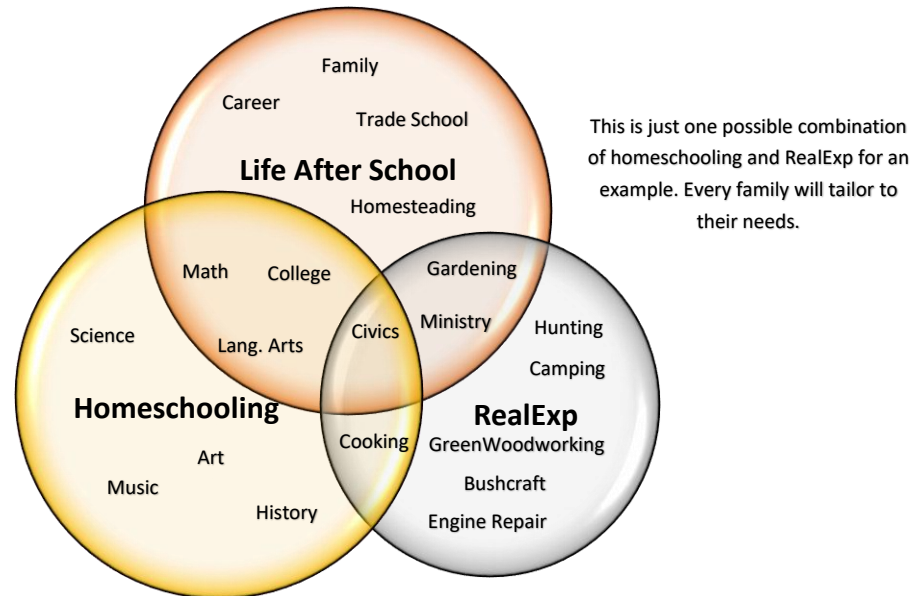
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Quick Summary: The goal

The goal of RealExp (real experience) is to help families intentionally engage in experiences outside the classroom for their children and to prepare them for life after school.

How does it fit with homeschooling?

It is a supplement, not a replacement. Do as much or as little as you want.



Three elements to RealExp

- prioritizing hands-on, firsthand learning opportunities
- educational programs designed to prepare students for life outside
- providing a more meaningful learning experience that is engaging for students

It's not new:

The activities discussed are not new. Families on farm may be doing almost all of them. The only 'new' part is the call for parents and older students to intentionally approach the activities. If it is a camping trip, then the parent should research camping and the area, join a local group, collect supplies, plan a trip, and then go. This is intentionality.

Bonus at the end: Read in any order you wish. Jump to the end and look at nine examples of what RealExp could look like if you want (starting on page 10).

Introduction

RealExp (Real Experience) can be a fun and engaging way for kids to learn practical life skills while also developing key character traits like responsibility, resilience, and self-reliance. This approach to skill building can be particularly beneficial for children who enjoy learning by doing and may struggle to engage with more traditional lesson based learning models. The parents may pickup some skills along the way too.

This paper will quickly review what RealExp is and isn't. It will also review who can do it, how they can do it, why they should do it, and will end with what it might look like in some basic variations. While it may seem like second nature to some who grew up doing many of the elements as part of life on a farm or in a rural community, to others these will be unfamiliar.

I wish you the best of luck pursuing this!

Is RealExp a thing?

As of this writing, I'm not aware of a widely recognized term or concept called RealExp. It's possible that it's a term that is used in a specific context or by a particular group. However, it's not a commonly used term in the broader education community. However, as I discuss more about RealExp it will overlap with some familiar schooling methods, and I'll attempt to point out the differences.

This is not another homeschooling method. It is supplemental, that is, added to any schooling approach (homeschooling and its various methods, public school, private school). With the parent's or guardian's permission, a trusted relative or friend of the family could lead this. As such, someone who adopts these ideas may say they homeschool + RealExp, or perhaps they unschool + RealExp.

Why should you consider this?

I often hear parents talking about 'how will my child learn to socialize?' In my view, parents are not simply asking for their children to make small talk at gatherings. I feel parents want something they may not have heard about before, which is mental resilience. In short, someone who is mentally resilient has self-control, self-belief, social support networks, the ability to solve problems, emotional awareness, and optimism¹. Someone who is mentally resilient likes themselves, adapts to change, sets boundaries, tries challenging things, takes the bad with the good, sets goals, takes care of themselves, and asks for help when needed. There is no promise that following this approach will produce all those

¹ <https://www.verywellmind.com/characteristics-of-resilience-2795062>

qualities. However, once you read the sample activities, I hope you will agree many of the activities if done on a regular basis with intentionality will foster mental resilience.

Who can do it?

As a supplement to any schooling method, anyone the parent or guardian trusts can do it, including the parent or guardian. RealExp could certainly be offered by a grandparent or other family member, as well. This would be a great way to incorporate intergenerational learning and strengthen family bonds. It could also provide opportunities for older family members to share their knowledge and skills with younger generations in a practical and meaningful way.

This paper is just an outline of the concepts and suggested activities. It is not a one-stop shop for all information on activities. It is critical for parents and students to take ownership of the learning process. Research for children and adults (parents, guardians, grandparents, etc.) could include reading books, watching videos, finding local experts, etc. This approach can also help foster a sense of independence and self-directed learning.

How does someone take ownership of learning?

There is a process to learning. The outcome will not look the same for everyone, but the process is similar. Here are the steps for parents of young children to take ownership of the learning process, and older children can follow these steps as well. This is not a grab and go approach. This is intentional learning first by the parent or guardian and then passed onto the child.

1. Select a topic that might interest the student, let's pick *tree identification* for this example.
2. Find resources on the topic, such as books from the library or a DVD series. The librarian can help you find the right material for your and the child's level (beginning level, etc.). Other sources include 4H books for this example, <https://shop4-h.org>. (Why not YouTube? The answer is you want reliable material. While some experts might be on YouTube, it's better to find material published by trustworthy sources.)
3. Read or watch the material to understand the topic. This is for the parent or adult diving in first and then sharing with child. When you come across a word you don't know, then look it up in the dictionary. If the definition of the word has a word or words you don't recognize, look those up. Continue until you know what every word in the tree identification material means. Will that take forever? It might if you didn't pick the right level of material for beginners, step #2. Look for things you need to get started, like a hunting license or safety courses, which don't apply to tree identification for this example.

4. Depending on the topic, you may need to seek a local group to help you understand the topic the first few times. Tree identification maybe not so much, but if you're going to be hunting, hiking in unfamiliar woods, boating, etc. you want to be with someone experienced. In time, you can become an expert and help others.
5. Keep repeating the steps as you and the child grow in this area. Go back to step 2 for more books that are more advanced, and so on.

What is RealExp?

RealExp has three elements. These elements overlap in some areas but are different. The parent or guardian should customize the elements as needed for their child.

- The 1st element prioritizes hands-on, firsthand learning opportunities that reflect real-world situations and challenges. In this sense, "real" emphasizes practical skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving.
- The 2nd element is a focus on educational programs or initiatives that are designed to prepare students for life outside of the classroom or home. This might involve partnerships with local businesses or community organizations, internships or apprenticeships, or other firsthand learning opportunities that provide students with practical skills and knowledge that they can apply in the real world.
- The 3rd element is a viewpoint that traditional methods are disconnected from reality. A different approach is needed to provide students with a more meaningful learning experience. In this sense, RealExp represents a criticism of traditional educational practices and attempts to create an alternative model that is more relevant and engaging for students.

These are short starting descriptions of the three elements. As with any new concept, its meaning will be shaped by the people who are using it.

It's worthwhile to note that these three elements of RealExp also represent distinct perspectives and priorities. People will apply more of one element over the other two or combine them all. For example, an educational program that emphasizes hands-on, firsthand learning opportunities (element 1) might also partner with local businesses or organizations to provide students with real-world exposure and practical skills (element 2). Others might see RealExp to provide a more rounded, student-centered educational experience that considers the unique interests and needs of the child (element 3).

Ultimately, the concept of RealExp is a flexible one that can be adapted to suit the needs and preferences of individual families. Whether a family chooses to homeschool, unschool, or pursue other

educational options, the idea of RealExp can serve as a framework for prioritizing authentic, engaging, and meaningful learning experiences in a intentional way.

How would RealExp work with other schooling methods?

Many homeschooling methods already emphasize hands-on learning, real-world applications, and student-centered education. These are all elements central to the idea of RealExp. It's possible that RealExp overlaps with other homeschooling methods. For example, a family that follows the Montessori method of homeschooling might see RealExp to further emphasize hands-on learning, practical skills, and the real-world applications. Similarly, a family following the Charlotte Mason method might see RealExp to incorporate more hands-on learning opportunities and real-world exposure into their child's education.

It's also possible that RealExp could conflict with homeschooling methods that prioritize a more structured education. For this reason, it is appropriate to view RealExp as an addition to those methods, like a weekend activity. For families who are focused primarily on academic achievement and test scores, the emphasis on hands-on learning and real-world application might not align with their school priorities. However, these even families can still benefit from incorporating some elements of RealExp into their child's education. Ultimately, the extent to which RealExp conflicts or overlaps with other homeschooling methods will depend on how it is used by individual families.

The key to incorporating RealExp into any type of schooling is to prioritize authentic, meaningful learning experiences that connect with students' interests and needs. This might involve thinking creatively and outside the box and seeking out opportunities for hands-on learning and real-world exposure wherever possible.

Isn't this just another name for...?

The idea is not original for 2023. We've had long time advocates for the skills covered in the three elements. Booker T. Washington was a strong advocate for vocational education and believed that it was important for African Americans to gain practical skills that would enable them to become self-sufficient and economically independent. He founded the Tuskegee Institute, which emphasized vocational education and training in trades such as carpentry, farming, and mechanics. RealExp, with its emphasis on practical, hands-on learning experiences and the development of real-world skills, aligns with Washington's views on education, as far as I understand his views. It shares his belief that education should be relevant to the needs of individuals and society. In addition, the gaining of practical skills and knowledge is essential for success in life. While it may seem like second nature to some who

grew up doing many of the three elements as part of life on a farm, etc. to others these will be unfamiliar. The only 'new' part is the call for parents and older students to intentionally approach the activities.

RealExp isn't a whole schooling method (covering all subjects/areas of knowledge), even though some similar methods exist. Two similar methods are lifeschooling and tradeschooling. *Lifeschooling* is a term that describes a homeschooling approach that emphasizes learning through real-life experiences and practical skills. It shares some similarities with the concept of RealExp, but it is not the same. While both prioritize practical skills and real-life experiences, my understanding is lifeschooling tends to focus more on the home environment and the parents as the primary educators, while RealExp can be seen as an add-on or supplement focusing outside of the home. *Tradeschooling* is typically focused on developing specific skills and knowledge related to a particular trade or occupation, such as welding, plumbing, or electrician work. It often involves formal training programs or apprenticeships and is geared towards preparing individuals for a career in a skilled trade. RealExp, on the other hand, is more focused on providing students with practical skills and knowledge that they can apply in everyday life, but apprenticeships are encouraged in element 2. However, the other activities are outside of a specific trade or career path, so RealExp can be viewed as a supplement to tradeschooling.

RealExp overlaps Wildschooling a lot, but there are some differences. Wildschooling² is focused on studying and being in nature, allows the child's interests to direct outdoor activity and learning, has the parent or educator research, and support the child's interests, can be supplemental or a full education approach, and can include local gatherings, called forest schools. RealExp on the other hand is not designed to be a whole schooling approach (only supplemental), does not always have to happen in nature (could include introduction to trades, civic activities, etc.), and there are no RealExp clubs. As mentioned with all other education methods, RealExp is to add a little or as much as the parent or guardian wants to the child's education. [This paragraph was the update for version 1.5 of this document shortly after I learned about Wildschooling.]

There's a host of other terms that convey similar concepts to RealExp, but the uniqueness of RealExp is the flexibility and intentionality of the approach. Other terms may include experiential, practical, real world, hands-on, bushcraft, community connection, skills for life education, active learning, authentic learning, career/life preparedness, and outside the classroom.

² As I understand from reviewing the website <https://wilderchild.com/pages/wildschooling>

How would realshcooling be different from a student being in 4H or boy scouts?

RealExp is focused on providing hands-on learning opportunities that prepare students for real-world challenges and skills that they will need in their future lives. Organizations like 4H and Boy or Girl Scouts offer some similar activities and opportunities, and each could be a great resource. However, the main difference is that RealExp is designed to be an add-on program to schooling and 4H and Boy Scouts are independent organizations existing outside of the home and school. RealExp is envisioned to provide a more comprehensive and integrated approach that complements and enhances the parents' or guardians' goals for training up their child.

There is another program, which has very similar goals to RealExp. It is Keepers of the Faith Clubs, at <https://keepersofthefait.com>. Keepers Club ministry is like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts with activities, awards, club meetings, etc. The main difference to RealExp is the same difference as to 4H or Scouts. Keepers Clubs are designed to be a club with regular meetings and RealExp is parent driven at first, then student driven. However, the Keepers Clubs' affordable PDF guides could be useful as they outline the first few steps to getting started in many of the same activities as RealExp.

Is this secular or religious?

RealExp is what parents or guardians make of it. As mentioned, it's critical for parents and students to take ownership of the learning process and research topics of interest to them. If that direction includes religious studies, then by all means add those activities. Many of the activities listed in the examples could be done with a church group.

What's the next step?

There are nine examples in the following pages. Each one is only an example of focusing on a single element for an age range. As mentioned before, parents can mix the elements as they see fit.

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Best luck and success!

Appendix A: Example annual activities focus on element 1 ages 5-8

Fall (September-November):

Community Service: Take your child to a local community center or organization to volunteer their time. This can include activities like cleaning up a park, delivering food to the elderly, or visiting a nursing home to spend time with residents.

Gardening: Teach your child about gardening and have them help plant and maintain a small garden in your backyard or at a local community garden. This activity can help teach children about the life cycle of plants, the importance of caring for the environment, and the value of hard work and patience.

Hunting/Fishing: Take your child on a hunting or fishing trip, if appropriate and legal in your area. This activity can teach children about the natural world, the importance of respecting animals and the environment, and the value of patience and perseverance.

Winter (December-February):

DIY Crafts: Have your child work on a few simple DIY craft projects at home. This can include activities like making homemade holiday ornaments, creating a picture frame, or building a birdhouse. DIY crafts can help teach children about creativity, problem-solving, and the value of working with their hands.

Snow Play: If you live in an area that gets snow, take your child outside to play in the snow. This can include activities like building a snowman, making snow angels, or going sledding. Snow play is a great way to teach children about the natural world, the importance of physical activity, and the joy of spending time outdoors.

Repairing a Bicycle: Teach your child basic bike repair skills and have them help you fix up an old bike. This activity can teach children about the importance of taking care of their belongings, the value of problem-solving, and the joy of working with their hands.

Spring (March-May):

Nature Walks: Take your child on a few nature walks in your local area. This can include activities like bird watching, tree identification, or exploring a nearby park or nature reserve. Nature walks are a great way to teach children about the natural world, the importance of observation, and the value of curiosity and exploration.

Camping: Plan a camping trip with your child, if possible. This activity can teach children about the natural world, the importance of respecting nature and the environment, and the value of self-reliance and teamwork.

Culling a Chicken: If you have a backyard chicken coop, teach your child about the process of culling a chicken and have them help you with the process. This activity can teach children about the importance of respecting animals and the value of responsible animal husbandry.

Summer (June-August):

Reading: Encourage your child to read a few books that are related to their interests or hobbies. This can include books about animals, science, history, or any other topic that your child is curious about. Reading is a great way to expand children's knowledge, vocabulary, and imagination.

Cooking: Have your child help prepare a few simple meals and snacks at home. This can include activities like making homemade pizza, baking cookies, or preparing a salad. Cooking is a great way to teach children about nutrition, following directions, and the importance of taking care of themselves and others.

Swimming: Take your child swimming or enroll them in swimming lessons. Swimming is a great way to teach children about physical fitness, water safety, and the joy of learning new skills.

Appendix B: Example annual activities focus on element 1 ages 9-12

Fall Semester:

Hunting and fishing: Teach kids about responsible hunting practices and fishing techniques. Take them on a hunting or fishing trip and teach them how to clean and prepare the fish or game they catch.

Car maintenance: Teach kids how to change a tire, check the oil, and other basic car maintenance tasks. You could also take them to a mechanic to learn more about car repairs.

Woodworking: Teach kids how to safely use woodworking tools and create their own projects, such as a birdhouse or a small piece of furniture.

Dirt bike or small engine repair: Teach kids how to diagnose and fix basic issues with a dirt bike or other small engine, such as changing the spark plug or cleaning the carburetor.

Spring Semester:

Boating: Teach kids about boating safety and navigation. Take them on a boating trip and teach them how to pilot the boat, tie knots, and other boating skills.

Camping: Take kids on a camping trip and teach them how to set up a tent, build a fire, and cook over a campfire.

Cooking: Teach kids how to plan and prepare meals over a campfire or on a camping stove. You could also teach them more advanced cooking skills, such as baking bread or making pasta from scratch.

Culling a chicken: Teach kids about the importance of humane animal treatment and how to cull a chicken. You could also teach them how to clean and prepare the chicken for cooking.

These are just a few examples of activities that could be included in a RealExp program for ages 9-12. The specific activities could be customized based on the child's interests and the family's resources and values.

Appendix C: Example annual activities focus on element 1 ages 13-18

Fall Semester:

Hunting, hiking, and fishing: Teach kids advanced hunting, hiking, and fishing skills, such as tracking animals, using a compass and map, and fly fishing. You could also teach them how to process and preserve the game or fish they catch.

Car maintenance and repair: Teach kids advanced car maintenance and repair skills, such as changing the oil, replacing the brake pads, and troubleshooting electrical issues.

Woodworking and metalworking: Teach kids how to create more complex woodworking and metalworking projects, such as building a piece of furniture or welding a metal sculpture.

Dirt bike or small engine repair: Teach kids more advanced dirt bike or small engine repair skills, such as rebuilding an engine or fabricating custom parts.

Spring Semester:

Boating: Teach kids advanced boating skills, such as navigating in open water, using marine electronics, and towing water sports equipment.

Camping and outdoor survival: Teach kids how to survive in the wilderness, including building a shelter, finding and purifying water, and identifying edible plants and animals.

Cooking: Teach kids how to cook a variety of dishes, including international cuisine, and how to plan and execute a multi-course meal for a large group.

Construction and home maintenance: Teach kids how to lay block for a building, build a shed, and complete other construction project. You could also teach them how to maintain a home, such as repairing plumbing, electrical, and HVAC systems.

Personal finance and life skills: Teach kids how to balance a checkbook, pay bills, and manage a budget. You could also teach them how to write a resume, prepare for an interview, and succeed in the workplace.

Butchering and food preservation: Teach kids how to dress a hog, butcher a deer, and preserve meat through smoking, curing, and canning.

The specific activities could be customized based on the child's interests and the family's resources and values.

Appendix D: Example annual activities focus on element 2 ages 5-8

Fall:

Visit a local farm to learn about how food is grown and harvested

Volunteer at a community garden to learn about gardening and composting

Attend a field trip to a local business to learn about different jobs and careers

Winter:

Participate in a toy or food drive to learn about giving back to the community

Practice basic cooking and baking skills, such as measuring and mixing ingredients

Attend a workshop on basic sewing or knitting skills

Spring:

Plant a small garden or flower bed to learn about planting, growing, and caring for plants

Visit a local library or bookstore to learn about different types of books and reading

Attend a workshop on basic woodworking or carpentry skills

Summer:

Participate in a community service project, such as cleaning up a park or beach

Learn about basic financial literacy skills, such as saving and spending money

Attend a workshop on basic coding or programming skills

These activities are just a starting point and can be adapted or customized based on the interests and needs of the individual child. The goal is to provide children with hands-on, real-world experiences that help prepare them for life outside of the classroom and inspire them to pursue their passions and interests in a meaningful way.

Appendix E: Example annual activities focus on element 2 ages 9-12

Grade 3:

Fall:

Visit a local fire station and learn about fire safety and prevention

Participate in a community garden project and learn about growing vegetables and herbs

Take a field trip to a local manufacturing plant to learn about the production process

Winter:

Attend a cooking class or workshop and learn how to prepare simple and healthy meals

Visit a local animal shelter and learn about animal care and welfare

Participate in a volunteer project with a local charity organization

Spring:

Take a tour of a local museum or historical site to learn about the community's history

Participate in a job-shadowing or internship opportunity with a local business or organization

Attend a financial literacy workshop and learn about budgeting, saving, and investing

Grade 4:

Fall:

Attend a community meeting or event and learn about local government and civic engagement

Participate in a group project to plan and carry out a community service initiative

Visit a local nature center or park to learn about conservation and environmental science

Winter:

Attend a home repair or DIY workshop and learn basic repair skills

Participate in a job-shadowing or internship opportunity with a local business or organization

Attend a media literacy workshop and learn about responsible online behavior and digital citizenship

Spring:

Participate in a mock trial or debate to learn about the legal system and public speaking

Take a field trip to a local farm or agriculture business to learn about food production and sustainability

Attend a leadership or team-building workshop to develop interpersonal and communication skills

Grade 5:

Fall:

Attend a local festival or cultural event to learn about diversity and multiculturalism

Participate in a group project to plan and carry out a fundraiser for a local charity organization

Visit a local trade school or vocational school to learn about career and technical education opportunities

Winter:

Participate in a job-shadowing or internship opportunity with a local business or organization

Attend a personal finance workshop and learn about credit, loans, and debt management

Take a field trip to a local university or college to learn about higher education opportunities

Spring:

Attend a public speaking or debate workshop to develop communication and persuasion skills

Participate in a mentorship or apprenticeship opportunity with a local professional or tradesperson

Volunteer with a local political campaign or advocacy group to learn about civic engagement and advocacy

Appendix F: Example annual activities focus on element 2 ages 13-18

Internship or Apprenticeship Program: Partner with local businesses or community organizations to provide students with internships or apprenticeships in fields they are interested in pursuing. This will give them real-world experience and exposure to the professional world.

Job Shadowing: Allow students to shadow professionals in their desired fields for a day or a week. This will give them an idea of what it takes to work in that field and what skills they need to develop.

Community Service Projects: Engage students in community service projects that allow them to give back to their community and develop skills like leadership, teamwork, and communication.

Entrepreneurship Program: Provide students with the opportunity to start their own businesses by giving them the necessary resources and guidance. This will teach them about budgeting, marketing, and other essential skills for running a successful business.

Mock Trials: Create a mock trial program where students can learn about the legal system and participate in mock trials. This will teach them about critical thinking, public speaking, and other important skills.

Civic Engagement: Encourage students to get involved in local politics by attending city council meetings, participating in political campaigns, and engaging in activism. This will teach them about the importance of civic engagement and how to effect change in their community.

Career Fairs: Organize career fairs where students can meet professionals from various fields and learn about different career paths. This will help them make informed decisions about their future.

Personal Finance Program: Teach students about personal finance by providing them with lessons on budgeting, investing, and saving. This will help them make responsible financial decisions in the future.

Cultural Immersion Programs: Offer cultural immersion programs where students can learn about different cultures by living with host families or studying abroad. This will help them develop cultural competence and empathy for people from different backgrounds.

Health and Wellness Programs: Provide students with programs that promote physical and mental health, such as yoga classes, mindfulness training, and nutrition education. This will help them develop healthy habits and lead fulfilling lives.

Appendix G: Example annual activities focus on element 3 ages 5-8

Field trips: Plan regular field trips to local museums, cultural centers, and community organizations to expose children to real-world experiences and expand their knowledge beyond the classroom.

Community service: Get involved in local community service projects such as volunteering at a food bank or participating in a community clean-up day. This will teach children the importance of giving back and connecting with their community.

Nature exploration: Encourage children to spend time outdoors exploring nature and observing the environment around them. You could take nature walks, visit local parks or nature reserves, and do simple experiments to learn about ecology and the natural world.

Experiential learning activities: Plan hands-on learning activities that allow children to explore different concepts and skills in a meaningful way. For example, you could have them plant a garden, cook a meal from scratch, or build a simple machine using recycled materials.

Cultural experiences: Expose children to different cultures and ways of life through art, music, literature, and food. You could plan multicultural potlucks, read books from diverse authors, and learn traditional crafts or dances from different cultures.

Remember, the key to creating a successful RealExp program is to focus on providing meaningful and authentic experiences that connect children with the world around them. By incorporating these types of activities into your annual plan, you can help children develop important skills and knowledge while fostering a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

Appendix H: Example annual activities focus on element 3 ages 9-12

Fall Semester:

September: Partner with local businesses to organize job shadowing experiences for students

October: Organize a community service project in which students can participate, such as volunteering at a local food bank or animal shelter

November: Arrange for guest speakers to come and talk to students about their careers and how they got started in their field

Spring Semester:

January: Plan a field trip to a local college or university to learn about higher education opportunities

February: Host a career fair at the school, inviting local businesses and organizations to come and talk to students about potential career paths

March: Set up an internship or apprenticeship program with local businesses or organizations to provide hands-on experience in various fields

Summer:

June: Organize a summer camp focused on entrepreneurship and business skills

July: Plan a field trip to a local trade school or vocational school to learn about different career paths

August: Hold a mock job fair in which students can practice their interview skills and learn about the hiring process

This annual plan incorporates a variety of opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning and gain real-world skills and knowledge. It also fosters connections between students and local businesses and organizations, providing opportunities for networking and future job prospects.

Appendix I: Example annual activities focus on element 3 ages 13-18

Fall Semester:

Research project: Students will choose a topic of their interest and conduct research using primary and secondary sources. They will be encouraged to think critically and analyze the information they gather.

Debate club: Students will participate in a debate club where they will learn how to present their arguments, listen actively, and respectfully disagree with others.

Community service project: Students will work with local organizations to volunteer and learn about the needs of their community.

Winter Semester:

Entrepreneurship: Students will be tasked with creating a business plan, conducting market research, and pitching their idea to a panel of judges.

Public speaking: Students will learn the art of public speaking and give several speeches throughout the semester.

Internship or apprenticeship: Students will have the opportunity to intern or apprentice with local businesses or organizations in their field of interest.

Spring Semester:

Civic engagement: Students will learn about the political process and how to become involved in local government. They will be encouraged to attend town hall meetings and write to their representatives.

Leadership development: Students will participate in team-building exercises and learn about different leadership styles.

Personal finance: Students will learn about budgeting, saving, investing, and managing credit.

This annual plan is designed to provide students with a range of experiences that will help them develop skills and knowledge that are relevant to the real world. It emphasizes critical thinking, communication, and civic engagement, and offers opportunities for students to explore their interests and gain real-world experience through internships and community service.