

Deschooling in School

Written by David Lane

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On the other hand, there are a growing number of students who determine their own learning based on their interests and choices. They homeschool or unschool or belong to one of hundreds of other alternatives to school all around the world. A few of these attend Ingenuity Hub: Per

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Something else pretty great happens, too. We realize rather quickly that doing nothing is rarely doing nothing, especially when it is an active choice students can acknowledge without fear of getting in trouble. When doing nothing becomes a valid choice, rather than an escape from onerous homework or classroom activities, students begin to see the process of learning differently.

They can say, Let me take a break, or step back and take a look at what I've been working on, or consider a different direction. Maybe I can come back to this in a day or two with fresh eyes and see something new in it. Maybe I'm happy with where I've gotten with this particular skill or idea or story or program. Let me enjoy it for now and worry about next steps later.

When a young person says, I think I'll take a break, without fear of getting in trouble, it is a sign she realizes she is in control of her time and is free to decide how to use it. It is also often a sign that she is aware of her own needs, and values what her own body and mind are telling her.

In my practice, examples of this abound. It happens all the time. A student told me recently she needs to take breaks frequently from the learning she has decided to do because it involves test tech and original homework around depression and related events in her life that have been emotionally painful. I just can't spend all my time working on it. It's just too draining to think

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