

Time to Think

... or the ways time weaves so significantly through thinking, learning, and unschooling



The Window of Presence

Living mindfully walks hand-in-hand with unschooling because they both call us to:

- ❖ be **observant** and make conscious choices
- ❖ become more aware of our **filters**
- ❖ notice **clues** about our experiences
- ❖ catch the good moments, the small acts of **kindness**
- ❖ give **space** for being wrong: don't leap so quickly into moments to try to "fix" or direct them
- ❖ be **selective** in what we share
- ❖ keep an eye out for our unthinking **reactions**—what was once was a knee-jerk reaction can become a choice
- ❖ recognize the many **choices** available to us every day

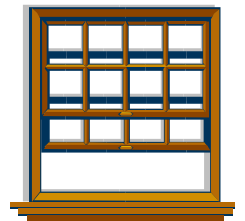


"Christopher Robin came down from the Forest to the bridge, feeling all sunny and careless ... and he thought that if he stood on the bottom rail of the bridge, and leant over, and watched the river slipping slowly away beneath him, then he would suddenly know everything that there was to be known, and he would be able to tell Pooh, who wasn't quite sure about some of it."

~ *The House at Pooh Corner* by A.A. Milne, 1928
illustration by Ernest H. Shepard

The Window of Patience

Patience is important for unschooling because it helps us parents move at our child's pace of exploration and discovery. It is a visible display of respect for, and understanding of, the child.



Considerations for practicing patience:

Is it a real time commitment or a habit you're stuck in?

If it's a habit, is it worth the challenge to your relationship?

If it's a need, brainstorm ways to ease the transition.

Check your own physical state. Tired? Hungry? Thirsty?

Take care of your needs and share what you're learning with your kids with an eye to helping them discover their own mind-body connections.

Still stuck?

Look at the situation from your child's perspective.



The Window of Process

The time to process, to contemplate, to turn things over, to add our own spark of creativity to the mix, to mentally skip down unconventional paths and see where they may lead: that is where real thinking lives—real learning. It's all about having and making choices. *Why?* Because making choices and seeing how they play out and then doing it all over again is how we, and our children, gain experience and learn. It's living in its fullest sense.

Remember,

every day is full of choices.

Pam Laricchia
Free to Learn & Free to Live books
Exploring Unschooling intro email series
Living Joyfully blog

livingjoyfully.ca