

How to Shake Your Homeschool Out of a Rut

○ TINA SMITH · MONDAY, 1 MAY 2017 ·

These are notes I started from watching [Julie Sweeney Bogart's](#) video “[How to Shake Your Homeschool Out of a Rut](#)” (Day 14 in a Gracious Space Winter)...

It occurred to me that the ideas Julie mentions in this video, to make your homeschooling more interesting, more meaningful, more FUN...are things she talks about all the time...and many of us may have other ideas as well...and certainly we all feel stuck in a rut at times and unable to think of these ideas. So why don't we pool these ideas in one place, sort them by topic, and have a place to go when we are stuck in a rut, to help ourselves out and liven up our homeschools?

I hope you all will add to this list that I'm starting here and grow this list to exponential proportions... and JULIE ESPECIALLY...please add your ideas in the appropriate sections! We NEED these ideas to draw from! Perhaps she can even gather all this and publish in a nice tidy file or book at some point so we can all have something lovely and printable.

But basically, I think we all need a cheat sheet...so since I scrolled through all currently available files on the group and don't see one there currently...let's build one, shall we?

I'm sure she has tons of these sort of ideas scattered through all her videos, so as you find them, can you please add them below? And as you have your own...please add those here too!

IT'S THE CONTEXT!!

If your homeschool feels stale and

*you're in a rut, bring new energy
to any subject area through
refreshing the context of learning.
--Julie Bogart*

Questions to ask yourself:

- What would interest me right now? (Refuse to teach a subject until it interests YOU.)
- Why is this subject interesting?

LANGUAGE ARTS IDEAS:

- [Poetry Tea Time!](#) (Dress up the table!)
- writing for the day only on rainbow post-it notes scattered around the house
- writing for teens: ONLY in the dark by candle, at midnight
- act out prepositions with a chair
- tired of writing with pencils? use markers/white boards (or markers/windows!)
- writing at table boring? write on a clipboard UNDER the table! (or in bed!)
- play nature sounds during copy work time
- before a read aloud, face paint. Pick an image or symbol from the book and put it on each child's cheek.
- use a typewriter for writing
- write at a nature center
- instead of writing, draw

- instead of reading aloud, use audio books and go for a long drive
- write with gel pens on black paper
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MATH IDEAS:

- shout out math problems while jumping on trampoline
- create a centerpiece before math...scavenge rocks, pine cones, wild flowers, shells, moss on bark, driftwood, and ask your kids to arrange them...perhaps in geometric shapes. Maybe they can go in a triangle, then halfway through the lesson your kids can rearrange them into another shape...then at the completion of the lesson, another. Perhaps the centerpiece represents the 2s as times tables.
- make calculations at the grocery store
- skip count in Spanish
- instead of calculating with a calculator, use an abacus, or measuring cups, or rods
- skip counting with jump rope, frisbee or lacrosse stick (get the body engaged!)
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SCIENCE IDEAS:

- write at a nature center
- set up ranger talks at a local national park
- raise caterpillars, silk worms, ladybugs, praying mantises, tadpoles, or any other metamorphosing creature your kids show interest in. Draw pictures/take pictures as they develop...whatever they prefer. Make a book or video at the end as a final project.
- do bark rubbings

- make silly rhymes/tongue twisters around tree names
- play a tag game running from tree to tree (**Julie!** Tell us the details of your mom's tree game!)

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HISTORY IDEAS:

- wear dress up clothes
- build time lines, either paper on the wall or string across a room with people/events hanging from them...

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CRANKY/RESTLESS CHILDREN IDEAS:

- jump it out on a trampoline
- if teen drives: send to museum or library or local deli or Starbuck's or park to study alone

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GENERAL IDEAS TO HELP WITH ALL SUBJECTS:

- sounds can change everything: play recordings of nature (rainfall, crackling fire, waves lapping on a beach)...use jazz music when cleaning up! Add salsa to bath time or lunch or art.
- allow ear buds for music

- light a fire
- sit outside on a blanket
- study at a coffee shop
- use British accents for all school related activities for an afternoon
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