



MIDAS@HOME

Transforming everyday life into golden learning opportunities!

Parents are a child's first teachers providing a foundation for lifelong learning, success and happiness but parents struggle to create meaningful learning activities. Educators can play a key role in guiding parents how to bring out the best in their child and set a firm foundation for the future achievement. Learning at home should not be coercive, boring or frustrating. MIDAS@HOME guides parents and children in four directions: enhancing strengths; study strategies; and strength-based activities to build academic skills and career exploration. The process begins with The MIDAS Profile that helps parents understand the unique multiple intelligences profiles of their child. Second, activities to maximize the child's strengths' development are described. Third, example activities for using strengths to enhance academic skills (reading, math, study, test taking, etc.) are provided. Fourth, interactive monitoring, discussion and reflection activities / formats are included to facilitate program success.

The goal is to create a guide for parents/students in the creation of home-based learning projects and activities that maximize the development of student strengths and also the use of those strengths to enhance academic skill development. The aim is to spark the imaginations of students/parents to create "not boring" learning activities around the home and community. The goal is to spark intrinsic motivation for activities that promote achievement in target skills. These activities may be "blended" with web-based guidance and "hands on" and experiential learning.

Basic Principles

The MIDAS@HOME activities are rooted in a few simple and profound ideas. The better that a parent knows a child the better a parent they will be. When a parent focuses attention and appreciation on a child's strengths the stronger their relationship will be. A strong parent-child relationship is the nurturing ground that feeds a child's development, creativity and overall health.

There are four main components to this endeavor.

1. The idea of multiple intelligences;
2. Each child has his or her unique profile of MI strengths and limitations;
3. Strengths can be activated to achieve success.
4. Parent /child can collaborate to create meaningful and engaging learning projects/activities.

At present, the basic components of MIDAS@HOME include:

1. MIDAS Profiles for students of all ages
2. MI learning activities on a website
3. Guidance books for parents and students

The ultimate goal of MIDAS@HOME is to create user friendly online guidance materials and activities.

MIDAS@HOME COMPONENTS

1. Welcome letter to parents

2. MIDAS Profile: Login info.

3. What are the multiple intelligences?

- A. YOUR AMAZING BRAIN (for child)
- B. ONE FAMILY (for parents)
- C. WWW.MIRESEARCH.ORG

4. Project Plan

Part 1. A. Activity planning

B. Academic extensions

Part 2. A. What do you already know?

B. What do you *want* to know/do?

C. Investigate!

Part 3. A. Just do it!

B. Winding down . . .

Part 4. A. Discussion

D. Post-reflections

5. Focus strengths activities

6. Academic skill building extensions

7. Topic resources