

# Geek Schooling

Digital Homeschool Convention Presentation

by Kimberly Charron

End the frustration with your obsessed, geeky child! Learn how to enjoy easy, delight directed learning with your child, centred on their passions and fandoms, whether they're into Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, or super heroes.

## Video Games can teach your child ...

- How to read
- Critical thinking/logic
- Applied math and science
- Physical education
- Strategic thinking

### Video games mentioned:

Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic, Star Wars: The Old Republic, Myst, realMyst, Portals, Angry Birds, Pokemon Go!

### To read:

[\*What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy\*](#) by James Gee

[Learning with Angry Birds](#)

[In Praise of Video Games](#)

## Star Wars can teach your child ...

- All about special effects in film making
- Science and math concepts
- Physical education

### To read:

[Learning with Star Wars](#)

## What geeky pursuits or fandoms does your child engage in?

Take some time to write them down, whether they love comic books, superhero movies, The Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, or Doctor Who.

## What is your child already learning?

Video game time can go under math or critical thinking. Comic books can go under reading in language arts. If they are learning about filmmaking through Star Wars, it can go under fine arts.

English class consists of two basic elements: reading and writing. Reading comic books for half an hour a day, and writing a Harry Potter fan fiction for another half hour a day can add up to one English credit.

Pokemon Go! and lightsaber battle time can count toward a credit in physical education.

## Comic Books/Graphic Novels + Shakespeare

If your older teen is a big comic book fan who has their nose in comics constantly, but you can't get them interested in reading Shakespeare, hand them the first book in the Canadian series, [Kill Shakespeare](#), to draw them into Shakespeare's world and characters.

## Star Trek + Science

If your child can't get enough of Star Trek but couldn't care less about science, use Star Trek to teach them science. Read: [The Biology of Star Trek](#) by Susan Jenkins

## Star Wars + Math + Language Arts + Science

Play math games with the [Star Wars Math CD-ROM](#) (look for it used).

If you want to read more about teaching the lower grade levels math using only math games, read Delay Formal Math?

More Star Wars resources:

[Star Wars Math Workbooks](#)

[Star Wars novels](#)

[Star Wars: A Study of the Hero Myth](#) from Live & Learn

[The Science of Star Wars](#)

[Learning with Star Wars](#)

## Home Economics/Culinary Arts

Make some Star Wars concoctions in the kitchen. Learn to make a Yoda cake, Wookiee cookies, Clone War cupcakes, and more at [StarWars.com](#) – search for “baking”.

Enjoy reading and studying Harry Potter while sipping on some butter beer you've made together.

Check out [Nerdy Nummies on YouTube](#) as well for some more ideas for yummy, geeky creations.

## Cosplay

Cosplay is short for “costume play” and it can be a fantastic learning exercise. Make it part of a unit study.

Resources:

[Knits for Nerds](#)

[Pinterest](#) – to organize the design

[Cosplanner app](#)

## Theatre Arts

Act out a favourite scene from movies, books, comics, or an animated series. Put this together with art and home economics and you can act it all out complete with costumes and props, for theatre arts in your homeschool.

## Art

Encourage your child to draw some of their favourite characters from their fandoms for art class. Grab books from your local bookstore or look up tutorials on YouTube.

Sew or knit some geeky creations with your kids.

Paint intricate designs with nail polish.

Decorate geeky Easter eggs using food colouring and markers

## Unit Study

Take any of these ideas and your child's favourite geeky endeavour or fandom and create a unit study.

## Conventions

At sci-fi/fantasy/gaming/comic cons, your child can learn about and engage in sessions on science, art, literature, creative writing, math, music, home economics, drama and the performing arts, physical education,

Our favourite cons:

[Hal-Con](#)

[CaperCon](#)

**[10-day Geek Schooling Challenge](#)** starts in the fall. We will be exploring the world of geek schooling together. I'll share more tips, tricks, and strategies, along with discussion topics, mini-challenges, recommendations, and more.

Here are just a few topics I'll be discussing:

- The importance of play
- Building your cosplay collection on a budget
- Finding time to geek school
- Ages and stages
- Geek Schooling ideas for each subject
- and more

Go to [GeekSchoolingGuide.com](http://GeekSchoolingGuide.com) to sign up for my email list so you don't miss it. And if you or your child is into space or time travel, be sure to watch for my upcoming book, *Geek Schooling through Space and Time*. In the meantime, if you have a Geek Schooling question, please feel free to contact me at [kimberly@geekschoolingguide.com](mailto:kimberly@geekschoolingguide.com). You can also find Geek Schooling on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Pinterest](#).

May the Force be with you!