

Hello from Joy!

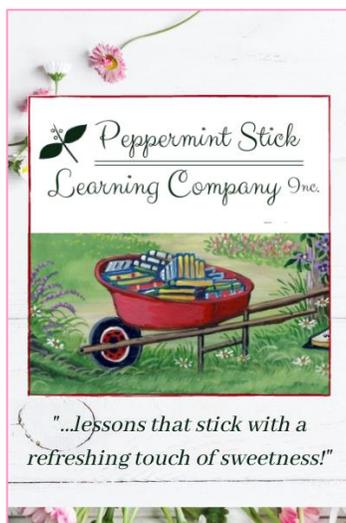
Thank-you for downloading this printable from my session notes from a workshop I presented to homeschooling parents about learning environments! It co-ordinates with the video clip on my blog post.

Disclaimer: The information presented in my comments reflects my personal understanding and experiences. This workshop has not been evaluated by medical or legal professionals. I am not a medical doctor. This is a simple reminder that you remain entirely responsible for your own opinions, conclusions, and actions and that you should always aim to research matters further if it is important to you.

My "bio" in brief:

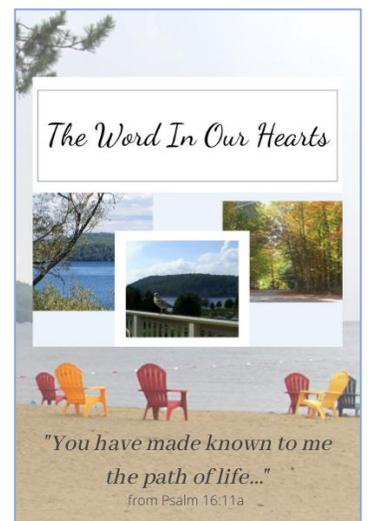
I'm a Christian writer/illustrator/blogger and homeschool mom in Canada. In some of my "extra time", I design curriculum, in what we call a "Peppermint Stick" style of education! ☺ My husband and I have a couple of websites to offer various blog articles with teaching tips, products for sale, audios, and printables:

<https://www.peppermintsticklearningco.com/>



and

<https://thewordinourhearts.com/>



Notes about... CHEMICALS : "non-toxic" + good ventilation

Check that all ingredients of supplies are...

SAFE to breathe or touch skin for the student's age + individual comfort levels.

(Note: Some art or science supplies are only intended for adults, or perhaps teens, to be around, not because a child/teen can't be skillful but rather because of the chemical safety issue. We can't avoid all pollution, of course, but we can try to limit at least some exposures in our air, water, soil, or food supply. The amounts of "how much" you aim for being acceptable in YOUR family's learning environment will depend on the range of ages of your kids (who are in the same environment as anyone working with an ingredient), your personal needs/allergies and "comfort" level (i.e. level of how much you're concerned about it). As one example, our family personally keeps our printer (ink) far away from our main living area to avoid exposures to the off-gassing as it dries; we also rarely print anything in colour ink from the computer.)

Examples: markers (e.g. xylene? scented perfumes?)

glues (e.g. off-gassing until dry)

liquid paints (e.g. darker colours can have more VOCs off-gassing)

cleaners

construction/renos

Borax (e.g. slime recipe now considered very dangerous)

dissection specimens (chemically-preserved versus "fresh")

field trips

HOW? You can often find MSDS (material safety sheets) online to say what chemicals are in the products you want to use and any related health concerns – simply type in the product name including brand and the letters "MSDS" in keyword searches. Occasionally, you might find blogs about issues with some products in school settings. Health concerns for common products include both immediate symptoms (e.g. fatigue, weakness, headaches, dizziness) and the eventual wearing-down of an individual's health, years after toxic exposures. There ARE relatively safe markers, paints, and glues to use with children but you can't always trust the marketing. Here are some example websites related to safety issues with school supplies:

- <https://www.ewg.org/childrenshealth/22196/school-supplies-laced-toxic-chemicals-make-sure-your-school-avoids-these>,
- <https://www.acmiart.org/index.php/art-material-safety/safety-tips-what-you-need-to-know>,
- <https://www.lesstoxicguide.ca/index.asp?fetch=hazards>,
- <https://www.environmentalhealth.ca/w9495pens.html>,
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/reports-publications/industry-professionals/art-class-teachers.html>
- Also, available is this printable on my website: [The Ultimate Homeschool Mom's Back-to-School Supplies List](#) (It's in a blog post about organizing homeschool supplies.)

Notes about "Essential Oils" and Other "Natural Products" Offered for Use in Homes:

1. Remember to dilute according to manufacturer or health professionals' recommendations.
2. The term "natural" does not always mean "safe or harmless". We live in a world that is still exhibits the effects of sin (cf. Romans 8:19-22). We still need to think wisely, even about "natural" products.