

Investigation theme: Raising Poultry

Time

Keeping chickens presents a wide range of integrated learning opportunities. We have a small flock and will aim to improve how we care for them.

10 weeks

Previous investigation	Resources for present investigation	Monitoring for present investigation
<p>(You decide)</p> <p>We are new to homeschooling and do not have any previous topic of investigation.</p>	<p>Excursions: Egg Farm https://south-east-queensland-qld-region.infoisinfo-au.com/search/egg-farming farm produce shops, tip shop & hardware shops</p> <p>MOOC: <i>Chicken Behaviour and Welfare</i> https://www.coursera.org/learn/chickens</p> <p>Books: <i>This chicken life: stories of chickens and the Australians who love them</i> by Scott-Norman. <i>The chicken whisperer's guide to zero-waste chicken keeping: reduce, reuse, recycle</i> by Schneider & McCrea</p> <p>Visual Media: <i>The Natural History of the Chicken</i> – Kanopy.com <i>Chicken Run</i> - Dreaworks,</p> <p>Websites: in context below</p>	<p>MOOC outcomes (test results)</p> <p>Comparative Evaluation</p> <p>Personal stories</p> <p>News Article</p> <p>Photos of Chicken Tractor & original designs (Chook Majal)</p> <p>Samples from Chicken Journal</p>

Investigation activities, knowledge and skills

Chicken Behaviour and Welfare: (MOOC from Coursera & University of Edinburgh). This is an 8 week course teaching the general principles of chicken behaviour and welfare, and the behavioural and physiological indicators that can be used to assess welfare in chickens kept in hobby flocks through to commercial farms. *The aims of the course are as follows;*

- Describe avian sensory perception and motivation
- Explain the main behaviour patterns of poultry
- Define welfare and explain the bases of welfare standards
- Assess chicken welfare, using behavioural and physiological means
- Understand common welfare problems of chickens

... our agenda is also to work on transferring the theory into practice so each week we will examine the information and relate it directly to our birds to assess whether it is possible to improve their conditions.

Egg Ethics: (Comparative Evaluation) After finishing the MOOC, take an excursion to an egg farm, do some research and compare the different methods of egg farming. Design a list of features (based on MOOC) to assist with comparing the methods of egg production and write a conclusion justifying your decision as to the best method.

This Chicken Life: (Reading/Personal Narratives) While reading together *This Chicken Life*, we will discuss the stories, and then write our personal experiences with the chickens. Our purpose is to gain a sense of empathy, learning to recognise and respond to the needs of others while emphasising story structure and the elements of good writing. Here we will also work on emotions and expressing how **s/he** feels and how to understand the emotions of others.

<https://www.therapistaid.com/therapy-worksheet/printable-emotion-faces/emotions/none>

Chickens2Love: (News article) Following our story writing we will look at Summer Farrelly's business, *Chickens 2 Love*, whose story is in *This Chicken Life* which she formed to help others on the Autism spectrum. We will do a web search for articles and stories about Summer and use these to model our own news bulletin. This will initially be written and then recorded as a video. <https://www.facebook.com/Chickens2love/> , <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=473026993330329> , <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBPIAD1mtxFodFSKj5043mw/videos> , <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1723733857645255>

Chook Majal: Using scavenged materials, we will design and build a poultry tractor and add artistic elements to make it interesting. <https://morningchores.com/chicken-tractor-plans/> <https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/399131585705741070/>

Future investigation activities

We will continue to keep poultry and there are many directions we can go e.g. we can expand into other birds, breed, show and build gardens for chickens