



**Envision a world where
young people's human rights are**

Valued & Respected

*We
Believe*



Young people are people, with the right to choose their own education.



The path towards collective liberation & anti-oppression lies in action against oppression, in all its forms.



Learning, growth, and support happens in collaborative community and is vital for SDE, as a way of life, to thrive.

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our online magazine designed to amplify and celebrate the voices of Self-Directed Education



THE ALLIANCE FOR SELF-DIRECTED EDUCATION'S QUICKSTART GUIDE TO SELF-DIRECTED EDUCATION

THE PRINCIPLES OF SDE

Self-Directed Education is education that derives from the self-chosen activities and life experiences of the learner, whether or not those activities were chosen deliberately for the purpose of education.

Check out the **Optimizing Conditions of SDE** and the **Four Educative Drives** as defined by The Alliance for Self-Directed Education



CENTER COLLECTIVE LIBERATION

Our rights, liberation, and freedom are intertwined with one another; one group of us cannot be free while another is oppressed. While this applies to all areas of life, it is prevalent in SDE due to the intersecting marginalizations affecting how people relate to one another, access resources, and are harmed by school.

Collective Liberation **must** include an understanding of and commitment to fighting against adultism or more precisely, anti-child ageism.

Whose knowledge and wisdom are given priority?

How familiar are you with global and indigenous perspectives?

TAKE TIME TO DESCHOOL

Deschooling begins before we know it! If you are seeking out alternative solutions, you've already taken the first step. As you begin to divest from school-centric culture, question power systems, and establish consent-based partnerships and community connections, you'll also discover connections to the legacy of colonization.

The way that we (as adult parents, caregivers and facilitators) were parented have deeply impacted the way we see children, the way we communicate with them, and what we expect of them. While you begin to examine your past and present, you may also start to dream up new futures.

CULTIVATE A CONSENT-BASED ENVIRONMENT

Consent-based learning environments are necessary for young people to have the time and space to follow their interests without pressure.

Unstructured Time: let young people have ample unstructured time to engage their surroundings, play, and allow their curiosity to guide them. Play is children's work.

Partnership in Interests: instead of imposing lessons, allow young people to show you what they're interested in. Embrace exploration wherever it leads: comics, video games, YouTube channels, outdoors adventures, tv shows, festivals, community activities, and aimless wandering.

Remember to invite young people into daily life tasks and respect their "no"

USE RESOURCES AROUND YOU

Create spaces where young people can be comfortable, have access to multiple types of materials, and feel inspired. This can be cozy reading corners, an outdoor space for nature learning, or a DIY science lab setup.

Set up access to diverse learning materials. Think beyond textbooks—tap into fiction and non-fiction books, documentaries, artmaking, tinkering, and digital tools like coding platforms or creative apps, building toys, loose parts for play, and dress-up materials; the public library is a robust resource for you!

"Real-Life" Learning: visit museums, art galleries, makerspaces, farmers' markets, nature trails, and community events that can serve as living classrooms.

This is especially valuable in decolonizing education, as it exposes learners to diverse cultural and historical perspectives.

Remember to filter what you do through the principles of consent shared above

SEEK SUPPORT

This work is often hard, underlying the need for community and a sense of belonging, to have places of comfort, to play and re/connect.

Our young people need community as part of their lives; this is especially important when opting out of the school system, as finding people takes more of an active effort. However, us caregivers also need community: people we trust to hold us in this work, who support and understand our decisions, who can be there for validation when much of society is questioning us. This support is essential nourishment as we engage in and commit to this work and way of living.

ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Partnership with the Alliance is the first step toward advocating for lasting, systemic change. Together, we are gathering momentum to reach a Tipping Point, when Self-Directed Education is accessible worldwide and embraced as a legitimate way to learn and live.

Next, engage in a wider scope of Anti-Oppression work that includes, but is not limited to, the work of anti-racism and anti-adultism.

Deepening our perception and humility enables us to better understand the barriers in place for vulnerable populations to practice SDE, while we participate in global and localized community work with lawmakers and governing bodies.

Check out The ASDE Compendium to learn about ways people practice SDE worldwide!

