

FREE

THE INTEREST-TO-PROJECT GUIDE

Turn Any Hobby Into a Real Portfolio Piece

25 project ideas across 10 interest areas,
plus the framework to create your own.

— Guided Workbook —

By Azizi Tuere
The Family Launchpad

ABOUT AZIZI

I'm a Brooklyn-born homeschool mom, married 19 years to my Norwegian husband. Together, we've raised our two daughters across six countries over 16 years of homeschooling.

I founded **Stone Soup Family Pop Up Communities**, bringing together over 100 families across Mexico, Guatemala, and Bali for intentional living. With my daughters (then ages 8 and 10), I created **Tiny Green Chef**, a plant-based cooking program we conceptualized in Guatemala and filmed in Bali. It's still selling online at tinygreenchef.com.

This guide comes from watching my own kids turn interests into real work. My 16-year-old Kaja went from scuba diver to published author to freelance illustrator. My 14-year-old Kamilla is turning her passion for cooking and travel into 'Captain Compass Presents: The Tomato Trails,' a food history book series.

I offer private coaching for project-based learning and help families set up their homeschool with intention.

Your child has interests. Here's how to turn them into something real.

GET IN TOUCH

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FROM INTEREST TO PORTFOLIO

My daughter Kaja was writing stories at 11. Like lots of kids do.

When she was 12, I asked one question: 'What if other kids knew they could scuba dive at 10? I wonder how many would go for it?'

That question changed everything. She decided to write a book. Not for school. For real kids. Less than a year later, 'Because Kids Can Scuba Dive' was published and selling on Amazon. She was barely 13.

THE PORTFOLIO PROJECT FORMULA

Interest + Audience + Evidence = Portfolio Piece

Interest: What they already love doing

Audience: Who else could benefit from this

Evidence: Tangible proof it happened

THREE QUESTIONS TO TRANSFORM ANY INTEREST

1. 'What if other people could experience this?'
2. 'Who could this help?'
3. 'What would prove you did this?'

THE DEPTH PRINCIPLE

Kaja's album took 2 years. Kamilla's food history series is an ongoing project. A portfolio piece isn't a weekend project. It's proof that your child can see something through. Depth comes from duration. The skills learned along the way — persistence, problem-solving, managing setbacks — these are the real education. Don't rush the process.

PROJECT IDEAS BY INTEREST

Use these as inspiration, not prescription. The best project is the one your child is genuinely excited about.

WRITING / STORYTELLING

1. Publish a Book (fiction or non-fiction)
2. Start a Blog (consistent publishing, 6-12 months)
3. Create a Zine (design, write, distribute)
4. Write for Publication (submit to magazines)

ART / VISUAL CREATIVITY

5. Gallery Show (curate and display work publicly)
6. Commission Business (paid work for real clients)
7. Illustrated Book (illustrate and publish)
8. Design Portfolio Site (professional online presence)

MUSIC / AUDIO

- 9. Record and Release Music (Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube)
- 10. Start a YouTube Music Channel (consistent content)
- 11. Score a Film or Game (compose for indie projects)
- 12. Launch a Podcast (research, script, publish)

TECHNOLOGY / CODING

- 13. Build and Launch an App (functional, published)
- 14. Create a Game (playable, on itch.io or similar)
- 15. Build Websites for Others (client portfolio)
- 16. Earn Technical Certifications

SCIENCE / NATURE

- 17. Citizen Science Research (contribute to real studies)
- 18. Create a Nature Guide (local wildlife, plants)
- 19. Conservation Project (habitat restoration)
- 20. Educational YouTube Channel (teach science)

COOKING / FOOD

- 21. Start a Food Venture (catering, baking business)
- 22. Create a Recipe Collection with Stories
- 23. Food History Series (like Kamilla's 'Tomato Trails')
- 24. Cooking Course or Program (teach others)

CASE STUDY: TINY GREEN CHEF

When my daughters were 8 and 10, we created Tiny Green Chef together — a plant-based cooking program. We conceptualized it in Guatemala and filmed it in Bali in 2020. It's still selling online today. What started as an interest in cooking became a real product with real customers.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP / SERVICE

- 25. Launch a Product or Service Business

Any interest can become a business: tutoring, pet sitting, tech help, handmade products, social media management, event planning. The key is real customers paying real money.

Remember: these are starting points. The best project emerges from your child's unique combination of interests, skills, and opportunities.

CREATE YOUR OWN PROJECT

The Template

Use this template to turn any interest into a portfolio-worthy project.

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE INTEREST

What does your child naturally gravitate toward? What do they do when no one is telling them what to do?

STEP 2: ADD AN AUDIENCE

Who else could benefit from this? Who would care about what your child creates?

STEP 3: DEFINE THE OUTPUT

What tangible thing will exist when this is done? How will people experience it?

STEP 4: SET THE TIMELINE

Real projects take time. What's a realistic timeline? Remember: depth comes from duration. A project that takes 6 months to a year teaches more than a weekend sprint.

STEP 5: IDENTIFY MILESTONES

What are the checkpoints along the way? How will you know you're making progress?

STEP 6: DOCUMENT THE JOURNEY

How will you capture the process, not just the result? Photos? Journal? Video?

YOUR ACTION PLAN

THIS WEEK:

1. Observe your child. What do they do when no one's telling them what to do?

Observation notes:

2. Have the conversation. Ask one of the three questions from page 3. Don't push — just plant the seed.

Their response:

3. Choose ONE project to pursue. Not three. Not five. One.

The project we're starting:

REMEMBER:

Depth over breadth. One substantial project beats ten shallow ones.

Real over perfect. A finished book with imperfections beats an endless draft.

Process over product. The education is in the doing.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Get the Portfolio Starter Kit to learn how to document your child's work in a way that actually opens doors.

Take the Adult-Ready Assessment to evaluate your child's skills across 7 critical categories.

Work with me directly for private project-based learning coaching and homeschool setup.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Your child has interests. They have passions. They have things they naturally gravitate toward. The question isn't whether those interests are 'educational enough.' The question is: What could they become?

Every published author started with stories in a notebook. Every entrepreneur started with an idea. Your job isn't to find the perfect curriculum. It's to ask the right questions and get out of the way.

The difference between a hobby and a portfolio piece is whether someone outside your family knows it exists.

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