

Start Anywhere, Reach High:

The “Messy Kitchen” Approach to Skill Development

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Raising independent Kids

- Start early.
- Real kitchen.
- Accept the mess.
- Offer gentle guidance.
- Focus on the process – not the result.
- Practice and repeat.



Training independent economists

- Start early.
- Real questions. Real research.
- Accept mistakes.
- Offer gentle guidance.
- Focus on the process – not the result.
- Practice and repeat.

Our kitchen:

A literature survey course that exposes students to general-audience and academic reading across microeconomic topics.

Our cookies:

Group projects, e.g.,
Editorial for The Economist, Grant proposal.

Student voices:

"The whole concept of being open about my struggles is pretty new to me. I used to think that even if I didn't get something, I had to act like I wasn't confused."

"In all my other classes, I always tried hard not to mess up. I never realized that making mistakes could actually be a normal part of learning in a course."

"When I was reading about the 'Lemon' market, it made me wonder, what if someone actually wants a 'Lemon' on purpose? Would the issue still be as serious as the authors think?"

"I never thought I'd be able to prepare a grant proposal."

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