

This is a guideline for the proper materials required to educate your children using Charlotte Mason's Educational Philosophy. Parents most often ask "What do I need to apply her principles"? Here is a list of items that I have found to will help you feel that you are offering the best educational programme for your child/children.

Language Arts:

Narration:

3-ring binder filled with plastic page protectors. File in here the oral, picture or written narrations of stories read. These can also include the books that older children have read on their own and then write a narration (summary/book report) of the book.

Vocabulary:

vocabulary notebook titled "Very Remarkable Words. This is a personal collection of words in which the student jots down any intriguing, rare vocabulary word they come across in their reading. The student can guess the meaning from the context and then look the word up in the dictionary to see what it has to say about it. A thesaurus is another way to compare finer shades of the meaning of words. Allow students to "tickle your ears" with some extraordinary vocabulary words. An example would be to say "I expected this to be executed with the utmost of swiftness" instead of saying, "This should've been done by now."

Dictionary skills may be drilled on occasion after Friday's spelling review when no new words are tested.

Writing or Composition:

For a first grader, this portfolio would be the action of copying a sentence that has only a few words in it from one of their favorite stories. Mother may write out a few sentences (in a letter to a relative) and the child copies it. Examples of appropriate writing from the age of 9 and up--narrations, recipes, descriptions of a sporting event, letters to friends.

Spelling:

3-ring loose leaf binder or notebook.

misspelled words from copybook (or written narration book) are written in this notebook. Children are to look at the correct spelling during the day. They are tested on the misspelled word the next day when they begin rewriting their narrations and again at the end of the week. Spelling should take 5-10 minutes daily. Formal spelling lessons being after age 8 or 9 when they are reading more fluently. Spelling ability follows reading ability. Take steps to apply the individual spelling approach. Customize lists for your students from the words they miss. Each writing assignment brings with it its own surprises. Little lists are made from these surprises. Not all misspelled words need studying, only the very basic ones do. Focus only on their personal notebook for regular review. Begin a "most frequently used word list" and use regular review. Go over word families-group words according to a spelling rule or phonetic rule.

Formulate a personal spelling list from dictation for each student who is writing, not just copying. Four to six misspelled words a day from the list which you have tested him on are plenty. Start each new lesson with the testing of the previous day's study words. Do not let the children study these words the morning before a test. If they can not remember what they studied the day before, it goes back on the list. Only go on to a new list when a child can spell all of those from the previous list. Children say each study word with correct pronunciation and spell each study word out loud with their eyes closed. Have students study any misspelled word by writing it in a sentence they have created. Expect much less of spelling in the early elementary years. Keeping the love of language alive is most important.

Poetry:

a notebook is provided for each student. One poet is studied each term (3 per year). A poem is read every day and copied into the poetry notebook. Penmanship is evaluated and corrections made. Copywork is corrected for spelling errors and those words are copied into the spelling notebook for testing later in the week.

Once a month you should have children memorize one poem in a week (longer poems may require more time). They write the poem in their Poetry notebook. Can also have them write it from memory. This is another way to ensure proper memory & attention to spelling.

Picture Study or Art:

a paint book or sketchbook is appropriate. Purchase at a local art supply store. Size is a personal choice. I like the smaller 8 1/2 x 11 sizes since they fit into the plastic sleeves and keeps the work nicely protected.

Science:

3-ring binder filled with plastic page protectors. At the end of a study on blood for example, have students draw a diagram of the human heart and label its chambers and other parts.

Drawings of life cycles are very useful demonstrations. Use personally-drawn diagrams which stick best in a child's memory. Children have the opportunity to draw and label what they are reading about out of a living book or textbook.

Nature Study:

3-ring binder is preferable to a bound Nature Notebook.

This notebook includes personal drawings, written narrations, pressed flowers or plants. In order to include all nature drawings in your portfolios, loose paper pages are more easily included in a loose-leaf binder.

Music Study:

Notebook to collect information of musician studied. One per term = 3 per year

History:

Book of the Centuries (timeline)

need to buy a 3-ring binder-Rebecca's "kit" only is the inside/filler pages

Purchase from: Rebecca Evenson (\$15)

P.O. Box 18586

Salt Lake City, UT 84118-0586

Geography:

Notebook with personal collection of maps that students draw from readings. Any maps from trips taken can be added with narrations of how they got there and other information about the people of that area--their language, clothing, culture, etc.

Holling C. Holling Book Series Teacher Guide & Maps are available through Beautiful Feet Books__www.bfbooks.com

1-800-889-1978

Geography Through Literature Study Guide_\$8.95

Set of Four 18" x 24" maps \$16.95

extra set of maps for additional students \$12.95

Social Studies:

3-ring notebook. Can be combined in the Geography Binder. Social Studies was a "new subject" created several years ago when educators decided to combine 2 classes "Geography" and "History" into a new all inclusive subject. I prefer to keep them separate but it is a personal choice and you can decide how you want to maintain your records.

Health:

a 3-ring notebook with plastic page protectors will work just fine. Keep drawings and narrations/reports filed in here and use page protectors as necessary.

Mathematics:

purchase any curriculum that suits your student's needs. Keep tests in a file folder for your records.