

Believershome School

The believer's home is a Christ-centered home;
a place where the written Word of God is taught, honored, read and known.

School Year 2003-2004

Pre school – Kindergarten Teaching Plan

(Last update)

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Introduction

Believershome School was established in September, 2003 by Mark and Tami Swaim for the purpose of educating our children in a structured environment outside the public school system. The structure of education corresponds to the system of education used in the United States of America. Both Mark and Tami Swaim are lifelong educators. Mark received an MA in Education from Rutgers University in New Jersey and Tami received her BA in Education from Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, Iowa. Both Mark and Tami believe that a quality education is important in today's world and that parents should be involved in the education of their children.

What is important to meeting the goal of a quality education in a structured environment outside the public school system? We would suggest the following:

1. An educational philosophy
2. A structured environment
3. An appropriate curriculum
4. A planned schedule
5. A system of support
6. A knowledge of local laws

Students

Joshua Pre School/Kindergarten 2003

Age 3.3 January (30 minutes per day 4x/week)

Age 3.6 March (1 hour/day 4x/week)

Age 4 September [Kindergarten] (1 hour/day 4x/week)

Zachary Preschool 2003

Age 2.9 September (30 minutes per day 2x/week)

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Age 3 December (30 minutes per day 4x/week)

Joshua

Summer, 2002, 2003 Preschool Age 2 ½-4

Philosophy of Education

From Charlotte Mason: skills to achieve

"A Formidable List of Attainments for a Child of Six", a reprint of a curriculum outline from a CM school in the 1890's. from Summer 93 Parents Review pub by Karen Andreola

0. To recite, beautifully, 6 easy poems and hymns
1. to recite, perfectly and beautifully, a parable and a psalm
2. to add and subtract numbers up to 10, with dominoes or counters
3. to read--what and how much, will depend on what we are told of the child
4. to copy in print-hand from a book
5. to know the points of the compass with relation to their own home, where the sun rises and sets, and the way the wind blows
6. to describe the boundaries of their own home
7. to describe any lake, river, pond, island etc. within easy reach
8. to tell quite accurately (however shortly) 3 stories from Bible history, 3 from early English, and 3 from early Roman history (my note here, we may want to substitute early American for early English!)
9. to be able to describe 3 walks and 3 views
10. to mount in a scrap book a dozen common wildflowers, with leaves (one every week); to name these, describe them in their own words, and say where they found them.
11. to do the same with leaves and flowers of 6 forest trees
12. to know 6 birds by song, colour and shape
13. to send in certain Kindergarten or other handiwork, as directed
14. to tell three stories about their own "pets"--rabbit, dog or cat.
15. to name 20 common objects in French, and say a dozen little sentences
16. to sing one hymn, one French song, and one English song
17. to keep a caterpillar and tell the life-story of a butterfly from his own observations.

Swaim Home school Schedule: 2003-2004 Preschool-K1

Summer 2002 and Summer 2003

Joshua: Summer, 2002, 2003 Preschool Age 2 ½-4

Materials Needed:

Abeka preschool materials (mostly already collected). *Abeka book.com*

Berenstain Bear books (character building highlights). *Amazon.com*

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A good children's Bible
Art supplies organized and easily accessible
Specified desk time area
Schedule

To be covered:

Introduction to basics such as alphabet, numbers, shapes, language development and physical education.

Focus on: Character training, good habit forming skills, instilling good manners and friendliness.

Start age appropriate chore training (responsibility).

September 2003

Joshua: Introduction to Kindergarten Age 4

Zachary: Starts Preschool

Materials needed:

Sonlight Curriculum reading list: Usborne books *sonlight curriculum.com*, big treasury books (which are a collection of little golden books and 20th century childrens story books). *Amazon.com*

Abeka K4 materials *Abeka book.com*

Designated learning area (quiet with minimal distractions) complete with appropriate shelving, storage, display area, work table and good lighting.

Revised schedule

To be covered:

-Introduction to formal studies

-*Continued focus on:* character training, good habit forming skills, good manners and social skills.

-Add to chore list

September 2004

Joshua: Kindergarten (Full Time) age 5

Zachary: K4

Materials needed:

Abeka K4 curriculum repeat

Check Abeka K5 curriculum for possible supplementary additions *Abekabook.com*

To be covered:

Formal education lengthened

Chore chart updated