

# 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 2004-2005

### Pre school – K2 Teaching Plan

(Last update June 7, 2005)

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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 Tyler Swaim, K5 Age 5 ½

Zachary Taylor Swaim, K4 Age 4 ½

Elliot Thomas Swaim , Preschool Age 2 ½

## 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!)

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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: 2004-2005 Preschool-K2

### **Monday and Tuesday: 10:00-10:30**

**Joshua:** K5 Math and Phonics workbook/worksheet pages 15 minute lesson for both math and phonics

**Zachary:** K4 Letter of the week worksheets and Mailbox activity sheets

**Elliot:** PreK paint, color, playdough

### **Monday and Tuesday: 10:45-11:45**

**Joshua:** K5 Read Alouds (Science, History, Bible, LA)

Narration for read alouds is done in student's Bible and science journals through drawing mainly. \*See narration notes and links.

**Josh** reads from Bob Books or Dr Seuss before I read to him.

**20 minutes for preschool read alouds** (afternoon/PreK Bible before bed *every day*)

8pm in bed after Bible CD *everyday*

**K5 Chapter book read aloud**

### **Wednesday: 10:00-12:00**

**all students**

This day is designated for the following activities:

- Special art and craft projects and/or unit studies related to our science and history topics discussed during read alouds.
  - Big science projects
  - Long nature walks (spring/summer)...Nature notebook keeping
  - Mommy directed skill building and assessment time
- Flash cards and educational games \*see list of ideas.
- Make up seatwork
  - Catch up read aloud time
  - Life skill reinforcement such as chore training and behavior modification.

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## **Thursday and Friday: 10:00-10:30**

**Joshua:** LA-writing 15 minute dictation and copy work lesson in writing tablet.

**Zachary and Elliot:** free play or Monday/Tuesday schedule

15 minute Abeka Language development charts

**Josh** takes notes.

10:30-11:30 Abeka Language development charts follow up activity

11:30-12:00 **Joshua:** **K5 Read Alouds** (Bible, LA)

Narration for read alouds is done in student's Bible and science journals through drawing mainly.

**Josh** reads from Bob Books or Dr Seuss before I read to him

## **Narration: Reading Comprehension assessment tool**

[www.amblesideonline.org/DJBNarration.shtml](http://www.amblesideonline.org/DJBNarration.shtml)

[www.homeschoolhighlights.com/02\\_narration/print.html](http://www.homeschoolhighlights.com/02_narration/print.html)

Narration should have more emphasis than workbooks and worksheets. Workbooks are used for introducing new math and phonics skills as well as serve as a reference point for our children if they have to one day take a standardized test. At age six Joshua should be able to draw picture narrations in journals for stories read to him. Another form of narration at this age is drama. Sometime Josh will be given a choice as to which narration form he could use. From time to time Josh should also narrate bits of a chapter or a whole chapter orally. Questions should be used to aid him in his oral narration at this age.

## **Skills and Drills:**

These lessons should be kept short and good habits kept in check...quality rather than quantity. Some skills just need to be memorized such as math and phonics facts. These skills will be taught through the use of workbooks (to give the students familiarity in case they are asked to take standardized tests at some point) and through educational games and flashcards. Flashcards can be used for short lessons before each read aloud.

Computer games are another way our children will gain a good hold on basic math and reading skills. Our most popular mommy-invented game involves numbers, letters or words written out on a full sheet of white paper. A selection of pages are laid out in a line about ten feet from the students. As the teacher calls out a number, letter or word the student must run to it and bring it back. If he is correct he sometimes earns a skittle.

This can be done in Polish to make it more advanced for K5 students.

## **Language Arts**

### **Writing (Language Arts):**

Building a foundation through narration

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Writing Tablets: Dictation and copy work

## **Narration Read-Aloud**

Skills:

- Write all letters (capitals and lower case) from A-Z.
- Know all consonant and vowel sounds, long and short/letter blends/special sounds (Abeka and other phonic charts).

## **Reading (Language Arts):**

Focus on Learning to read through phonics, and living books

Abeka book phonics charts

Bob books, Dick and Jane, and other early readers

CD roms (Reader Rabbit, Jumpstart)

## **Workbooks/seatwork**

- Phonics Workbook Level B (MCP)
- Phonics Workbook: Level A (MCP)
- Modern Curriculum Press Plaid Phonics: Level B...*I have the Level A already*
- One Little Sound - Fun With Phonics And Numbers (preschool CD)
- The Complete Book of Reading grades 3 & 4 (The Complete Book Series)
- 25 Read & Write Mini-Books That Teach *Word Families*
- *Sight words* workbook
- School-Home connection worksheets (downloaded on computer) for K and 1<sup>st</sup>

## **Spelling (Language Arts):**

Focus on phonics, memorizing sight words, word formation

Flashcards and charts (Dr Fry, Phonics A-Z), clue words/rule breakers

## **Literature (Language Arts):**

Focus on comprehension and retention

## **Literature Read Aloud:**

- Preparing Your Child for a Lifetime of Learning (Core Knowledge Series) K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- A Child's Garden Of Verses (Poetry)
- The Secret Garden
- Heidi (Children's Classics)

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- Pilgrims Progress
- Chronicles of Narnia complete set
- Little House on the Praire (complete set)...may use the Praire Primer curriculum with these.
- Beatrix Potter The Complete collection
- Curious George the complete collection
- Treasury of Children's Poems
- Book of Virtues
- Book of Faith
- Book of Family and Home
- 25 Thorton Burguess chapter books
- 6 Anne of Green Gables
- Treasure Island
- Moby Dick (read by grandma, last visit)
- Much Ado about Nothing (Shakespeare)...don't know how that will go over.
- Charlottes Web
- Pooh Cornor
- Aesop's Fables
- Robin Hood
- Literature book collections by Houghton Milton publishers (set of 5)

## Math and Science

### **Math**

Focus on numbers, shapes, time, money measurement, place value, addition, subtraction

### **Workbooks/Seatwork:**

- *Abeka first grade workbook*
- *Complete book of Math age 4-9*
- *The Complete Book of Math Games (Grades 1-2)*
- *Success With Addition & Subtraction Workbook (Grade 1)*
- *Math Made Easy: Kindergarten Workbook and First Grade (Math Made Easy)...standardized testing practice*

### **Skills:**

Count to 100 and over, write numbers to 100, ordinal numbers, skip counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, Practice using calendars, rulers, measuring cups and spoons, money, clock, manipulative and mental adding and subtracting.

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## **Resources:**

Flashcards, manipulatives, 100s chart, educational games, computer games, computer book (Power Touch)

## **Science:**

Focus on nature, weather, animals, experiments with physics and chemistry basics, astronomy, inventors

## **Science Read-Aloud**

- Ranger Rick (National Wildlife) magazine and internet, National Geo Kids (magazine and internet)
- Handbook to Nature Study, Nature notebook journal
- Magic School bus books
- Usborne children's illustrated encyclopedia
- Core Knowledge series K-2
- Science experiments books
- How the Body Works
- James Herriot's Treasury for Children : Warm and Joyful Tales by the Author of All Creatures Great and Small
- The Magic School Bus : (include all titles)
- Nature Parables (Downloaded Mrs Gatty)

## **Science Activity/workbooks**

- Each student will start a Nature Notebook by age 5.
- The Complete Book of Animals (The Complete Book Series)
- Complete Book Of Science: Grades 3-4
- Usborne Science Activities (Science Activities)
- Usborne Activities for all year round (seasons)

## **History, Geography, Social Studies**

### **History:**

Focus on ancient times (Biblical times, Greece and Rome) and early America, explorers  
Story of the World text book, Bible, maps and charts  
Greenleaf Press (Ancient Egypt)

## **History Read Aloud**

- Helen Keller (Young Yearling Book)
- Albert Einstein : Young Thinker (Childhood Of Famous Americans)

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- The Story of the World: History for the Classical Child, Volume 1: Ancient Times CDs [UNABRIDGED]...*I have the complete curr minus v2-3 cds and v4 is not yet in print but will be*
- Thomas Edison : Young Inventor (Childhood Of Famous Americans)
- The Apple and the Arrow
- History Pockets, Life in Plymouth, Grades 1-3 (History Pockets)
- History Pockets, Native Americans, Grade 1-3c (History Pockets)
- History Pockets, Ancient Civilizations, Grade 1-3 (History Pockets)
- Hero Tales (Hero Tales)
- If You Lived In Colonial Times (If You.)
- If You Traveled West In A Covered Wagon (If You.)

## **Geography:**

Focus on map skills, missionary stories and their lands/ world cultures and religions  
Galloping the Globe resources (possible future purchase?), Globe, world map, Abeka  
language development curriculum

Usborne Children's encyclopedia

Biographies of Missionaries

Abeka Bible Flash a Card missionary stories (future purchase?)

Workbook: The Complete Book of Maps & Geography

Chapter book: Paddle-to-the-Sea (Sandpiper Books)...there are two other Hollings books like this.

Wild Places (Explainers)

## **Social studies:**

Focus on community, occupations

Houghton Milton textbook

## **Fine Arts**

### **Art:**

Focus on learning to draw, introduction to artists and illustrators

Teaching Children How to Draw book

Internet arts and crafts projects

### **Music:**

Focus on instrumental and vocal

Classical Kids cds

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## ***Physical Education:***

## **Christian Education**

### ***Bible:***

Focus on chronology (thru the Bible)

Abeka Bible Flash a card curriculum (possible future purchase), children's bible and journaling, memory verses and passages

### ***Life Skills:***

Focus on character, manners and chore training

Godly character training books

Daily chore chart accountability, allowance

### ***Habits to develop:***

Attention

Obedience

Manners

Truthfulness

Thoroughness

Punctuality

Taking turns

Doing our best

Prayer

Gratitude