

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 2005-2006

Pre school – 1st grade Teaching Plan

(Last update September 20, 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, age 6, First Grade

Zachary Taylor Swaim, age 5, Kindergarten

Elliot Thomas Swaim, age 3 Preschool

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: 2005-2006 Preschool-First Grade

10:00-11:00/11:30 SEATWORK* Monday/ Tuesday/Wednesday

Joshua: First Grade Math and Phonics workbook/worksheet pages 15 minute lesson for both math and phonics. Writing 15 minutes dictation and copy work lesson in writing tablet. **Mental math practice (flashcards).**

Zachary: K Letter of the week worksheets, Mailbox activity sheets, Kindergarten work books and work sheets for phonics and math skills. **Abeka phonics flashcards.**

Elliot: PreK paint, color, playdough, sticker book, Wipe-off books, magnetic letters, preK workbooks. **Abeka phonics flashcards.**

All students: Abeka language development charts covering science, geography and social studies. Done at the end of seatwork when there is extra time. Josh takes notes.

***SEATWORK will be replaced with "Montessori" school days (object lessons, hands-on science experiment, educational games phonic/math skills drills, puzzles, board games, math manipulatives.)**

11:00-12:00/12:30 First Grade Read Alouds Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday

(Science, History biography, Geography, Bible, Christian growth, Literature, Poetry)

September read aloud list (first grade)

Bible Read Thru schedule: NIrV for Kids, and The Children's Bible (starting NT soon)
Wild Places

The Apple and the Arrow (History spotlight: Switzerland old history/William Tell)

Treasury of Children's poetry

Missionary Stories with the Millers

Paddle to the Sea

Narration: Josh draws what he hears during Bible and science read alouds through drawing mainly. I prompt Joshua's oral narrations with questions when necessary. *See narration notes and links.

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Reading: 5-10 minutes Josh reads from **Bob Books** Level B set 1 or Dr Seuss before I read to him. **Phonics flashcards** before each read aloud book.

10:00-11:30 SOTW History/In Depth Science study (internet used) Thursday/Friday

Special art and craft projects: Occasionally one topic will be replaced with "Drawing with Children" lesson.

HISTORY (SOTW Activity sheets and History Pocket Ancient civilizations) Read USWH
SCIENCE

Usborne Activities for Year round

Magic School bus Science topics unit studies

Ranger Rick magazine and internet site/National Geo for Kids website

11:30-12:30 Kindergarten READ ALOUD list

September read aloud list K

Bible: The Wonder Book

Science (animals): Herriot's Treasury for Children/Thornton Burgess chapter books

All subjects: Dr.Hirsch Core Knowledge series K

Literature: Something to Tell (LA)

Fine Arts: Music and Art appreciation

Introduction to classical music and French impressionist painters (Monet book/Dr.Hirsch)

www.classicsforkids.com (afternoons)/ Classical Kids CDs (evenings)

Narration: Reading Comprehension assessment tool

www.amblesideonline.org/DJBNarration.shtml

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

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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

Writing Tablets: Dictation and copy work

Narration of portions from Read Alouds mainly through drawings but also verbal (questions)

Skills: Kindergarten

- 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).

Skills: First Grade

- Mastery of all Kindergarten skills
- Read one syllable words, magic e, two vowel long vowel sound, and other phonics rules
- Introductory and mastery of most Sight words, special sounds, rule breakers
- Read easy reader on grade one level with ease and comfort
- Be able to narrate back full chapters
- Improve spelling and writing skills to a first grade level

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)

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- Phonics Workbook: Level A (MCP)
- Modern Curriculum Press Plaid Phonics: Level B
- 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 1st

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-2nd grade
- A Child's Garden Of Verses (Poetry) Ambleside year 1
- The Secret Garden
- Heidi (Children's Classics) SL1
- 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 SLK
- Aesop's Fables Ambleside year 1
- Robin Hood
- Literature book collections by Houghton Milton publishers (set of 5)

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- Sonlight Curriculum Read Alouds for Kindergarten
- The Family Under the Bridge (history)
- Twenty and Ten (history)
- The Light at Tern Rock
- James and the Giant Peach
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- Miracles on Maple Hill
- The hundred Dresses
- Mr.Popper's Penguins SL1
- Dolphin Adventure
- The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle
- The Story of Doctor Dolittle SLK
- The Boxcar Children Books 1-4
- Seabird (geography) Ambleside Year 3
- Minn of Mississippi Ambleside
- Pagoo Ambleside
- Tree in the Trail Ambleside Year 2
- The Trumpeter of Krakow (Polish history)

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: Kindergarten

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.

Skills: First Grade

Mental Math of addition and subtraction facts. Tell time, basic fractions, an understanding of the theory behind multiplication and division. American and Polish currency recognition, learn the basics of money transactions. Simple word problems, Roman numerals, measuring (US and metric).

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Resources:

Flashcards, manipulatives, 100s chart, educational games, computer games, computer book (Power Touch). Board games such as Candy Land, Monopoly, Clue, Memory, Checkers, Connect Four

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 SLK
- The Magic School Bus : (include all titles)
- Nature Parables (Downloaded Mrs Gatty)
- Various books about Space

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:

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

History Read Aloud

- Helen Keller (Young Yearling Book)

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- Albert Einstein : Young Thinker (Childhood Of Famous Americans)
- 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

Missions Magazines (monthly)

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

CEF Hudson Taylor flash card story (Sunday)

Workbook: The Complete Book of Maps & Geography

Chapter book: Paddle-to-the-Sea, Seabird, Tree in Trial

Wild Places (Explainers)

Social studies:

Focus on community, occupations

Houghton Milton textbook

Fine Arts

Arts and crafts:

Focus on learning to draw, introduction to artists and illustrators

Teaching Children How to Draw book

Internet arts and crafts projects

Unit study projects once a week (Wednesdays)

Introduction to French impressionist painters (Monet)

Music:

Focus on instrumental and vocal (Sundays One hour)

Classical Kids cds (evenings and quiet times)

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Introduction to classical music (listen to the programs on internet at www.classicsforkids.com)

Physical Education:

Christian Education

Holy 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

Godly attitudes chart series (Sundays)

Habits to develop:

Attention

Obedience

Manners

Truthfulness

Thoroughness

Punctuality

Taking turns

Doing our best

Prayer

Gratitude

Polish:

Polish Games

Polish friends

Teach polish phonetics (first grade)