

# 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 2007-2008

### K4, K5, 1st, 3rd grade Teaching Plan

(Last update June 2007)

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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 8 Third Grade

Zachary Taylor Swaim, Age 6.9 First Grade

Elliot Thomas Swaim, Age 5 K5

Joel Matthew Swaim, Age 3 ½ K4

## Swaim Home School Schedule: 2007-2008

**9:30-11:00/11:30 SEATWORK: Math and Language Arts  
(Phonics and Writing)**

Joshua: Third Grade Math (Abeka), Phonics (Explode the Code 7,8,9), Sonlight LA3 (Language Arts), Art Projects 3<sup>rd</sup> Gr. Abeka, MCP phonics Level C

Zachary: First Grade Math (Abeka). Phonics (Explode the Code 3,4), Cursive First Grade (Abeka), Language Arts: Sonlight LA1, Art Projects 1<sup>st</sup> Gr (Abeka), MCP Phonics Level B

Elliot: Math K5 Numbers (Abeka), Phonics (Expode the Code 1,2,3) Art Projects K5 (Abeka), Bible Activity book K4 (Abeka), MCP phonics Level A

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**Joel:** Math & Phonics K4 (Abeka ABC-123), K4 Art Projects Abeka, ABC WRTG TAB K4 (C) Abeka

**Lecture Lesson:** As a part of the seatwork time I would like the boys to develop the skill of listening (concentration) and note taking during a "lecture-Hall" setting.

**Materials for Lectures Lessons:** Abeka language development charts covering science, geography and social studies, CEF materials and Kingfisher/Usborne encyclopedia "Unit Study" books. For example, Usborne encyclopedia of Space and Kingfisher encyclopedia on the Ocean.

## ***11:00/11:30-1:00 Reading and Read Alouds***

### **Read Alouds**

(Read Aloud titles cover: Science, History, Geography, Bible, Christian growth, Literature, Poetry)

### ***Read Aloud Grade K5 & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Ancient Civilizations***

Sources for the Read-Alouds:

- Story of the World Text and Activity Book (with Student Pages), Usbornes Encyclopedia of World History
- Sonlight Core 1 titles (without following the IG schedule)

### **History and Geography**

- Lecture Lesson: Abeka language development curriculum
- Usborne Children's encyclopedia
- Biographies of Missionaries (Gladys Awkland, The Word Came with Power, Hero Tales, Hudson Taylor, Missionary Stories with the Millers)
- 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)

### **History Grade Three**

- Abeka grades 1, 2,3 US history text books
- All About America textbook (high school level)
- Helen Keller (Young Yearling Book) (Already read)
- Albert Einstein : Young Thinker (Childhood Of Famous Americans)
- Thomas Edison : Young Inventor (Childhood Of Famous Americans)

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- 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)
- If You Lived In Colonial Times (If You.)
- If You Traveled West In A Covered Wagon (If You.) (Started)
- LANDMARK HIST AMERICAN PEOPLE (sonlight core 3 title)
- American Adventures I (SL core 3)
- Story of the USA 1 Explorers and Settlers(SL core 3)
- Story of the USA 2 Young Nation(SL core 3)

## Literature and Poetry: K5,1st Grade

- Preparing Your Child for a Lifetime of Learning (Core Knowledge Series) K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade-(If life is too busy for separate books-all inclusive collection)
- A Child's Garden Of Verses (Poetry) Ambleside year 1
- Pilgrims Progress
- Treasury of Children's Poems
- 25 Thorton Burguess chapter books
- Treasure Island
- Moby Dick (read by grandma to Josh last visit)
- Pooh Cornor SLK
- Aesop's Fables Ambleside year 1
- Literature book collections by Houghton Milton publishers (set of 5)
- Mr.Popper's Penguins SL1
- Dolphin Adventure
- The Story of Doctor Dolittle SLK

## Grade three read alouds Literature and Poetry:

- The Secret Garden (started)
- Heidi (Children's Classics) SL1
- Little House on the Praire (complete set)...may use the Praire Primer curriculum with these.
- Little Princess
- Much Ado about Nothing (Shakespeare)
- Charlottes Web
- James and the Giant Peach
- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
- Miracles on Maple Hill
- The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle (started)
- The Boxcar Children Books 1-4 (read 1&2)
- Seabird (geography) Ambleside Year 3 (almost finished)
- Minn of Mississippi Ambleside

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- Pagoo Ambleside
- Tree in the Trail Ambleside Year 2 (finished/use as reference for US history)
- The Trumpeter of Krakow ( Polish history)

## Holy Bible

- Sing the word A-Z (K4&K5), The New Commandment (Grade 3) Sing the Word: God Our Provider CD-grade one (during evenings bed time and quiet time)
- Beginners Bible (K4&K5) NIRV kids (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> graders) Primary Bible Reader (Abeka)-Josh to read on his own
- Hero Tales (Biographies) Sundays

### Abeka Bible Materials

- LITTLE DROP OF WATER
- PRAYER REQUEST BOOKLET
- CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT VISUALS
- BIBLE DOC DRILL
- BIBLE FRIENDS ACT BK
- LARGE ABC BIBLE MEMORY CARDS (memory verses)
- Hymns to learn: Trust and Obey and Standing on the Promises (Abeka song cards)

## Science K5 & 1st grade

- Ranger Rick, Nature's Friend and various Science magazines
- The Complete Book of Animals (with comprehension questions) K4-1<sup>st</sup> graders
- BERENSTAIN BEARS' BIG BOOK OF Nature
- Magic School bus books (all titles have been covered-reread)
- James Herriot's Treasury for Children : Warm and Joyful Tales by the Author of All Creatures Great and Small SLK
- Usborne Activities for all year round (seasons) Projects to choose from
- "One Small Square: Woods", "Cactus Desert (One Small Square)", "Swamp", "Arctic Tundra", "Seashore", "Cave", "Backyard", "African Savanna", "Pond", "Coral Reef", "Tropical Rain Forest"( by Donald M. Silver from the Winterpromises curriculum)
- "Butterfly Battle (The Magic School Bus Chapter Book #16)
- "Food Chain Frenzy (The Magic School Bus Chapter Book #17 ) (new title for the boys)
- "Fishy Field Trip (Magic School Bus #18)" (new title for the boys)
- "Magic School Bus - Bugs, Bugs, Bugs" **DVD**

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## Science 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Biology: How the Body works (Readers Digest) with experiments-3<sup>rd</sup> grader
- The Usborne Book of Science Activities volume 3-3<sup>rd</sup> Grader
- Handbook to Nature Study, Nature notebook journal (all students spring-summer)
- Usborne children's illustrated encyclopedia (resource)
- Nature Parables (Downloaded Mrs Gatty)-3<sup>rd</sup> grader
- Various books about Space-all students as unit study as the boys show interest
- FISH WITH A POLE CD (defending the creationist view)
- COLONEL CORN CD (ditto)
- CD series Defending Creationism (Set of 4)

## Social studies: (I often opt to skip SS. I take a very 'unschooling' approach to SS topics)

- Houghton Milton textbook and Abeka 1-2 grade textbook (resources available to us)

## Teaching Reading

### ***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.

***Reading is when the student reads to the teacher. Read Aloud sessions are when the teacher reads to the students.***

**Reading is covered during the first fifteen minutes of each Read Aloud session**

**There are two Read Aloud sessions**

- **Third Grade (Josh only) US History, science, literature (1 hour)**
- **All students SOTW vol 1 Ancient Civilizations, science, literature (30-45 minutes)**

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## **Reading Lessons: Joshua Grade 3**

- Sonlight regular readers reading schedule for LA3
- NIV Bible
- Abeka Primary Bible reader
- CLP Nature Readers (books 1-5)

## **Reading Lessons: Zachary Grade 1**

- Sonlight Easy Readers for LA1 reading schedule
- Easy readers in the Step Into Reading Program
- Abeka First Grade set of advanced readers
- Beginners Bible (SLLA2reader)
- Sonlight "I Can Read" Books 1-3

## **Reading Lessons: Elliot K5**

- Abeka Blend ladder book
- Abeka Booklets set of 10
- Sonlight "I Can Read It" series with flashcards
- Abeka phonics flashcards
- Bob Books Box set A,B,C
- Blends/special sounds flashcards

Note: I use the "Teaching Children to Read with Children's Books" and "Phonics A-Z" reading assessment pages. I also use Dr.Fry and Abeka phonics flashcards and charts.

Teaching reading also occurs during computer time with CD-ROMs like: (Reader Rabbit, and Jumpstart)

## **Electives (Taught in the Afternoon and Evenings)**

### **Foreign language: Polish**

- Polish Games
- Conversation practice: Polish friends (play dates)
- Teach polish phonetics (first grade)
- Rosetta Stone (Computer curriculum)

### **Extra reading and math practice**

- Reader Rabbit CD Rom

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## **Art and Music**

- Book: "Drawing with Children"
- Classical Kids CDs and Classics for Kids [www.classicsforkids.com](http://www.classicsforkids.com)
- Gather all toy instruments in Living Room and have 'band practice'

## **Extra-curricular Bible and History**

- Audio CDs SOTW and Bible in Living Word
- Sonlight Bible CDs

## **Physical Education (mom and dad)**

- Walk
- Bike Ride
- Motor Car place (bike path)
- Indoor swimming pool

## **Self initiated Art projects**

- Leave the art supplies accessible to the students all day in the classroom

## **Life Skills: Manners, Helps, Hygiene, Behavior**

- Godly character training books
- Daily chore chart accountability, allowance
- Godly attitudes chart series (Sundays)
- Personal Hygiene

## **Habits to develop:**

- Attention
- Obedience
- Manners
- Truthfulness
- Thoroughness
- Punctuality
- Taking turns
- Doing our best
- Prayer
- Gratitude

## **Finances and Business: Evening Chores**

- Boys are responsible for cleaning the classroom after their art projects and their bedrooms (clothes off floor, toys away, desks organized)
- A chore chart will keep track as to the boy's progress
- Dad will put money in their banks

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## Philosophy and Goals

### **List of Attainments for a child of six**

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

(Words in parenthesis are my own adaptations)

1. To recite, beautifully, 6 easy poems and hymns (Bible Verses)
2. to recite, perfectly and beautifully, a parable and a psalm (Bible stories and verses)
3. to add and subtract numbers up to 10, with dominoes or counters
4. to read--what and how much, will depend on what we are told of the child
5. to copy in print-hand from a book
6. 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
7. to describe the boundaries of their own home
8. to describe any lake, river, pond, island etc. within easy reach
9. to tell quite accurately (however shortly) 3 stories from Bible history, 3 from early (USA history), and 3 from early (Ancient Civilization)
10. to be able to describe 3 walks and 3 views
11. 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. (Nature Notebook)
12. to do the same with leaves and flowers of 6 forest trees (Nature Notebook)
13. to know 6 birds by song, color and shape (Nature Notebook)
14. to send in certain Kindergarten or other handiwork, as directed (Seatwork/workbooks-Math and Phonics skills)
15. to tell three stories about their own "pets"--rabbit, dog or cat. (Fish, snails and bugs : )
16. to name 20 common objects in (Polish), and say a dozen little sentences
17. to sing one hymn, one (Polish) song, and one (American) song
18. to keep a caterpillar and tell the life-story of a butterfly from his own observations.

### **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.

- 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).

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- Focus on phonics, memorizing sight words, special sounds and word formation using flashcards and charts by Dr Fry and Abeka

## ***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).
- 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

## ***Skills: Second Grade***

There's lots of review in second grade, so that students truly master all the skills presented in first grade. Your child will also learn to recognize familiar words more rapidly, read new words, add and subtract faster, compose more complex sentences, spell many new words, and increase her reading and speaking vocabularies.

- Apply more complex phonics skills in his reading.
- Automatically read the 200 most commonly used words.
- Write sentences using correct punctuation and capitalization.
- Recognize and use nouns and action verbs in sentences.
- Begin writing in cursive.
- Write legibly in cursive.
- Add and subtract any 2-digit number.
- Handle place value concepts for 3-digit whole numbers.
- Identify time to include half-hour and 5-minute intervals.
- Identify the value of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half-dollars, and dollars.
- Value people from many cultures.
- Develop a simple understanding of life, earth, and physical sciences.

## ***Skills Resources Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:***

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