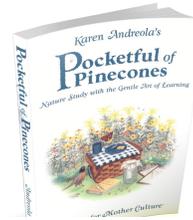


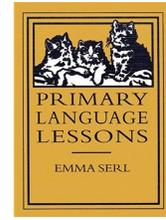
EDUCATION IS
AN atmosphere,
A discipline,
A life.



METHODS
WHAT TO DO



RESOURCES
WHAT TO READ



CURRICULUM
WHAT TO USE

CHARLOTTE MASON



Gentle Art of Learning

The Charlotte Mason way is a method, not a curriculum, so understanding this will help you make the most of anything you choose to use as your curriculum to educate your children. The Charlotte Mason method of homeschooling was named after Charlotte Mason. She was a British teacher who invested her life in improving the quality of children's education. She believed in educating the whole child, not just his or her mind. She believed that, "Education is an Atmosphere, a Discipline, a Life."

Atmosphere

A huge component of a Charlotte Mason homeschool is the atmosphere. Charlotte believed that who we are as people, our ideas, values, and personality make up one-third of our children's learning. What they see us do and value is just as important as what we put in front of them to learn. Sally Clarkson encourages moms to create a "life-giving" environment. This includes a home full of traditions, good books, beautiful art, great music and engaging discussions. Charlotte Mason believed that children should have a "feast" of learning in front of them, exposing them to a vast array of subjects, thoughts, and ideas. This would help see God's fingerprint everywhere and help them discover their God-given talents and purpose.

Discipline

Charlotte believed that teaching our children to be self-disciplined and to develop good habits makes up another one-third of their education. This is why Charlotte Mason homeschoolers incorporate a lot of copywork. Through repetition and teaching children the value of hard work, doing their best, and imitating masters, they develop the discipline they need to succeed in their education. Many curriculums that are Charlotte Mason inspired recommend doing less with higher expectations, rather than doing too much and risking the student completing his work with a lazy or half-hearted attitude. Lessons are usually short as well helping students develop good attention habits.

Life

Charlotte Mason believed children needed experiences to give them a framework for learning. She advocated for lots of time spent exploring and outside enjoying God's creation! "Living Books" are one of the key components in a Charlotte Mason homeschool. These are stories written by experts or classics written by masters. These books make a topic come to life. She didn't believe in busywork; learning should be intentional and an integral part of every day life. If a child is given a worksheet, it should be meaningful. Like Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore, they believed teaching concepts only when children were ready to learn them. "School" doesn't just happen from 9:00-3:00. It is a way of life and meaningful lessons can take place during lessons and while living and experiencing life.

*ATMOSPHERE:
Develop a Love of
Learning*



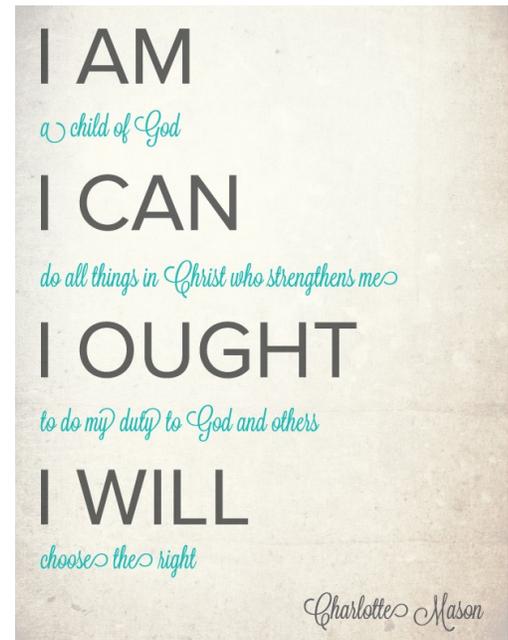
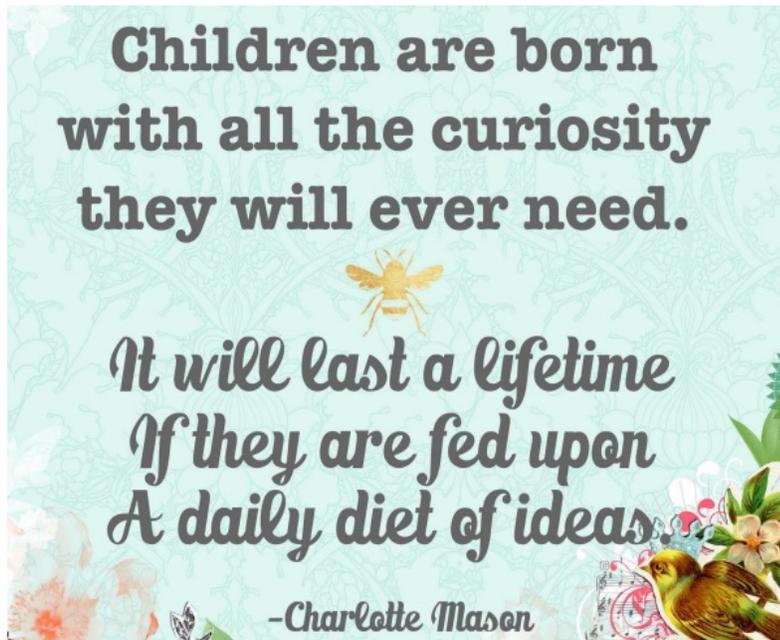
*DISCIPLINE:
Develop good
habits.*



*LIFE:
Education is a
way of life*



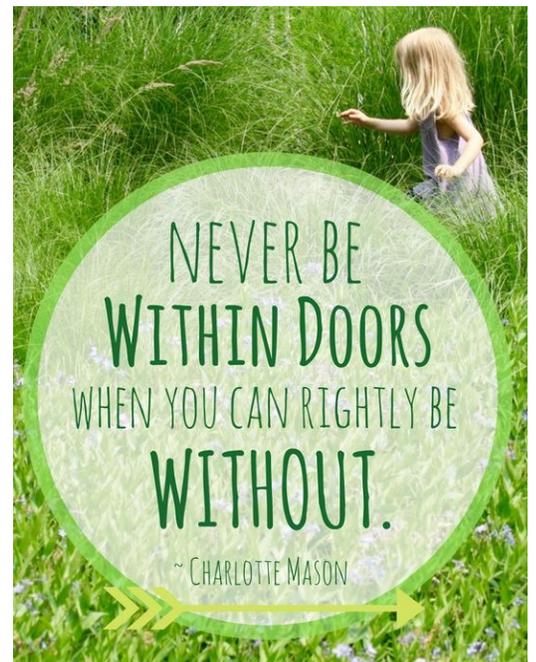
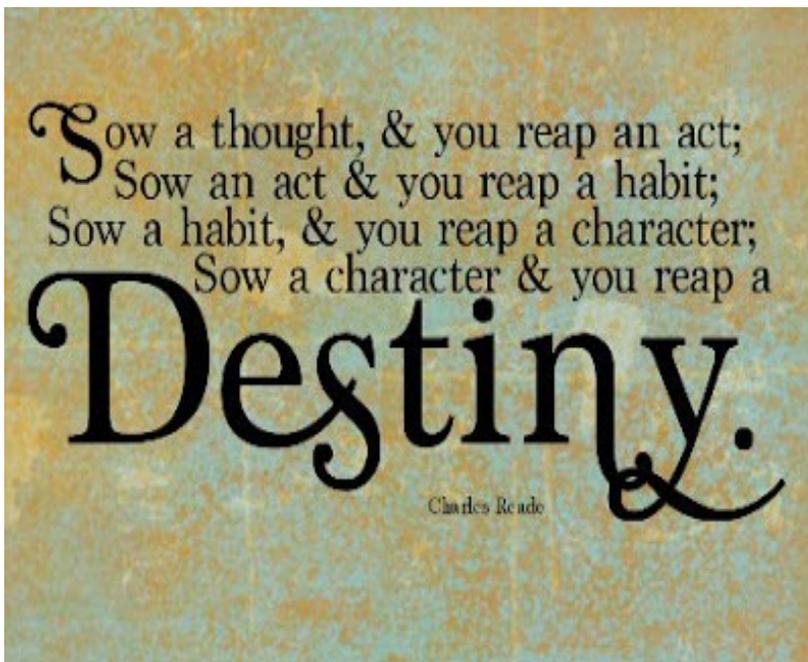
METHODS



Learning the different aspects of this method will help you educate the whole child, and grow an independent, self learner. If you feel lead to use a Charlotte Mason approach to homeschooling, I recommend you incorporate the following components in your homeschool:

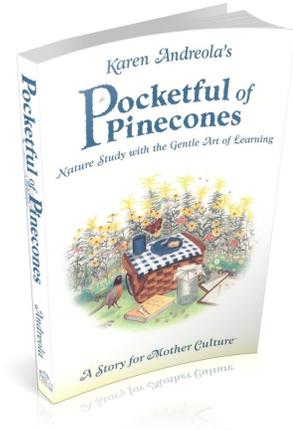
- ✂ Find and use curriculum that is Charlotte Mason inspired. Traditional textbooks are usually not a part of a Charlotte Mason inspired education.
- ✂ Go on lots of adventures to the library to find good literature to expand your child's mind.
- ✂ Incorporate narration instead of comprehension worksheets.
- ✂ Use copy work as a way to learn grammar and handwriting as well as a way to memorize bible verses, poetry and inspirational quotes.
- ✂ Use dictation as part of your writing instruction.
- ✂ Look for living books that bring different subjects to life for your kids.
- ✂ Go on nature walks, do nature studies, create nature journals and spend lots of time outside enjoying God's creation.
- ✂ Explore (and memorize) poetry.
- ✂ Do Picture Studies as a way to appreciate art and master artists. Visit a lot of museums.
- ✂ Listen to classical music, folk songs, and sacred hymns. Learn about composers and appreciate the nuances of classical music!

- ☞ Model a love of learning for your kids by reading, memorizing or copying right alongside them, and always learn about new things.
- ☞ Engage in lots of discussions about life, ideas, topics, and interests. Teach your children how to express themselves politely, boldly and effectively.
- ☞ Look for opportunities to grow, learn, explore, and discuss new things throughout your day, even when (and especially when) the books are closed.
- ☞ Be intentional with your school work. All work has meaning. You are either teaching a habit, exposing your child to something important or beautiful or exploring and learning something new. Worksheets have a purpose and are not given for sake of doing something.
- ☞ Drill is used to teach habits so while students may drill their multiplication facts the priority is to learn the value of hard work and perseverance.
- ☞ Assessment is usually done through discussions, narrations, and dictation.
- ☞ Quality is emphasized over quantity.
- ☞ Mastery is emphasized over completion.
- ☞ Life skills and handiwork are an integral part of daily lessons.
- ☞ Create a schedule that includes reading, writing (and/or copywork), math, science, history, art studies, music appreciation, nature studies, chores, and handiwork (life skills). You do not have to do all of these topics every day but each will play an integral part of your homeschooling each week, month and semester.
- ☞ Be prepared to go on a journey **together** with your children!



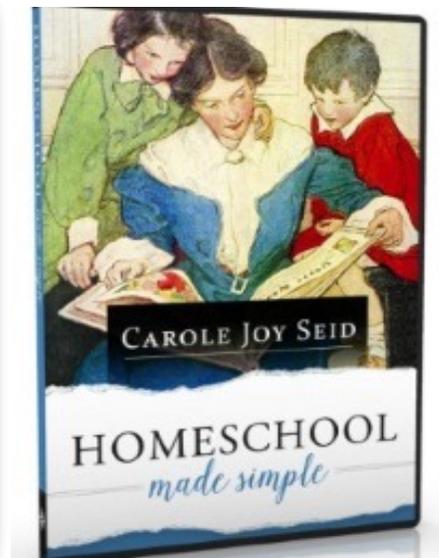
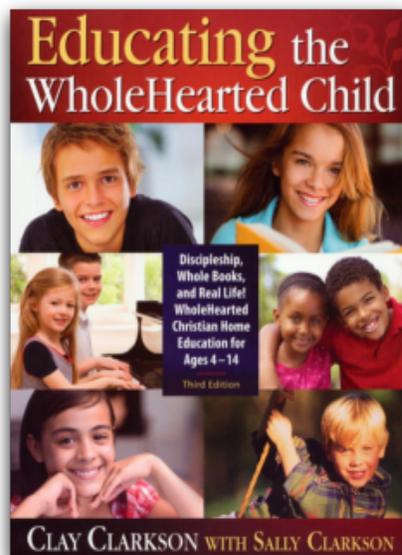
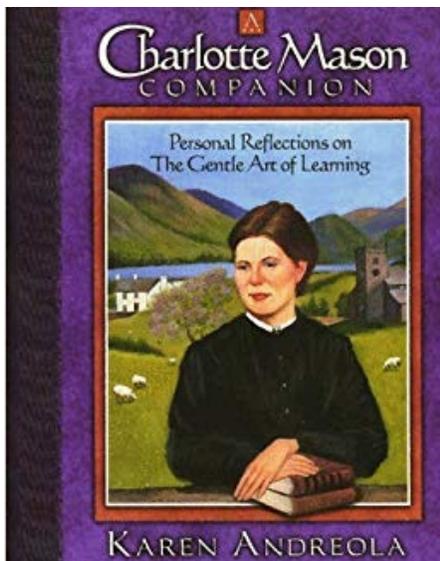
RESOURCES TO READ

A Charlotte Mason approach to homeschooling is very different from the traditional form of schooling. If you were taught in the traditional school system and/or your child is coming home from years of traditional schooling, the Charlotte Mason approach will be very different yet very freeing. You may be new to this style of education but your homeschool assessment shows this is the type of education you gravitate towards, you feel more comfortable doing and you value in education. Do not feel you need to read all of these resources before beginning your new homeschooling journey. Remember as a Charlotte Mason educator, you are also a student! I recommend you become acquainted with the following books, authors, websites and ideas as you walk this homeschooling journey (links provided in pdf file). Pick a few to read before you begin and then read a few new ones each year you homeschool for inspiration and for new ideas along the way. Quality and mastery over quantity and check lists relate to YOUR education as well as to your child's!



- ✂• *Charlotte Mason Companion: Personal Reflections on the Gentle Art of Learning* by Karen Andreola
- ✂• *A Charlotte Mason Education: A Homeschooling How To Manual* by Catherine Levison
- ✂• *More Charlotte Mason Education: A Homeschooling How To Manual* by Catherine Levison
- ✂• *Educating the Wholehearted Child* by Clay and Sally Clarkson
- ✂• *A Pocketful of Pinecones: A Nature Study with the Gentle Art of Learning* and *Lessons At Blackberry Inn: Adventures with the Gentle Art of Learning* by Karen Andreola
- ✂• *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children fro Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv
- ✂• *For the Children's Sake: Foundations of Education for Home and School* by Susan Schaefer MacAuthor

- ✂ *Ten Ways to Destroy the Imagination of Your Child* by Anthony Esolen
- ✂ *The Successful Homeschool Family Handbook: A Creative and Stress-Free Approach to Homeschooling* by Dr. Raymond and Dorothy Moore
- ✂ *Better Late Than Early: A New Approach to Your Child's Education* by Dr. Raymond Moore and Dorothy Moore.
- ✂ *Teaching From Rest: A Homeschooler's Guide to Unshakeable Peace* by Sarah Mackenzie
- ✂ *Homeschool Made Simple DVD* and *MP3 Interviews and Seminars* by Carole Joy Seid
- ✂ *The Life-giving Home: Creating a Place of Belonging and Becoming* by Sally and Sarah Clarkson
- ✂ *Mere Motherhood: Morning Time, Nursery Rhymes and My Journey Toward Sanctification* by Cindy Rollins
- ✂ *Better Together: Strengthen Your Family, Simplify Your Homeschool, and Savor the Subjects that Matter the Most* by Pam Barnhill



CURRICULUM CHOICES

This list is not exhaustive but it represents the most updated, relevant, and engaging resources for a Charlotte Mason inspired homeschool experience. Using a gentle approach to learning like a Charlotte Mason method, the family is encouraged to learn as many subjects as possible together as a family. The majority of choices below are designed to be used with multi-aged children. The two main subjects that should be done at individual levels are mathematics and reading instruction. Links to websites are included in pdf file if applicable.

ALL IN ONE CM INSPIRED CURRICULUM:

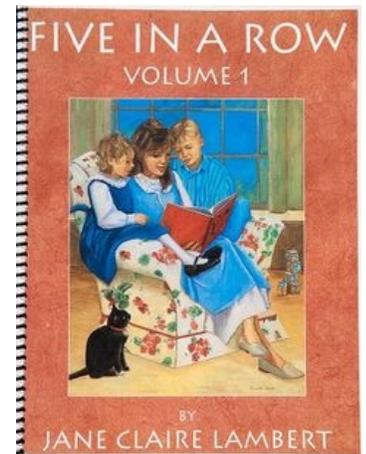
- ✂ [Five in A Row \(FIAR\)](#)
- ✂ [My Father's World](#)
- ✂ [Beautiful Feet](#)
- ✂ [Website Simply Charlotte Mason](#) (This is a wonderful “online bookstore” of Charlotte Mason materials and supplies. However, do NOT feel you need to use and buy everything at this website in order to use the Charlotte Mason method.)

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- ✂ [Primary Language Lessons](#) and [Intermediate Language Lessons](#) by Emma Serl
- ✂ [English for the Thoughtful Child Vol 1 & 2](#) by Mary F. Hyde and Cynthia Shearer.
- ✂ [Simply Grammar: An Illustrated Primer](#) by Karen Andreola

***If ONE of the books listed above is used with your child, no other formal reading, writing, spelling or grammar books are needed in K-6th.*

The definition of “art” is to communicate an idea, therefore, the goal of “language arts” is to be able to use a language proficiently in order to communicate an idea using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. For an excellent explanation of Charlotte Mason’s philosophy of language arts and how to teach it, watch the video ["The Natural Progression of Language Arts."](#)



WORD OF CAUTION:

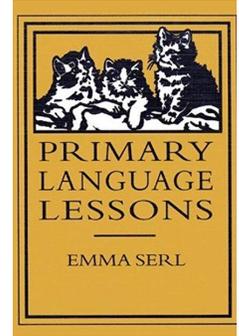
Do NOT spend a lot of money on curriculum especially when implementing the Charlotte Mason approach. This methodology and philosophy of home education requires little to no financial commitment.

With any new curriculum, first try to borrow someone else’s or buy used before investing in new expensive curriculum.

Remember: What works great for your friend may not be best for your family.

READING & SPELLING INSTRUCTION

- ☞ Word games, magnetic letters, foam letters, and letter puzzles for letter recognition and word building
- ☞ Library card and lots of great “living books”
- ☞ Poetry , Bible verses, and passages from great literature to memorize, narrate and recite
- ☞ Shakespeare
- ☞ All About Reading and All About Spelling curriculum
- ☞ Personalized spelling lists created from misspelled words in child's own writing
- ☞ Linguistic Development through Poetry Memorization by IEW
- ☞ Phonetics Pathways by Dolores Hiskes
- ☞ Any reading instruction guide or resource created and sold at SimplyCharlotteMason.com

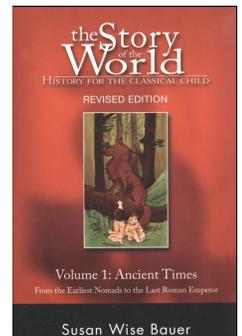


WRITING & GRAMMAR INSTRUCTION

- ☞ Letter air writing, draw letters in sand or rice and trace letters
- ☞ Poetry , Bible verses, and passages from great literature to use for copy work and to dictate.
- ☞ Draw Write Now Series Vol 1- 8 by Marie Habitzel
- ☞ Shurley English grammar jingles (all found on [youtube](https://www.youtube.com))
- ☞ Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW)
- ☞ Daily Grams by Wanda Philips

MATH INSTRUCTION (Conceptual)

- ☞ Mathematical Reasoning Workbooks by Critical Thinking Co.
- ☞ Math U See Curriculum with DVD's and manipulatives
- ☞ Miquon Math with workbooks and rods
- ☞ Life of Fred Series



HISTORY INSTRUCTION (Chronological)

- ☞ Story of the World Vol 1, 2, 3 and 4 by Susan Wise Bauer (Only book or CD needed. No need for activity books.)
- ☞ Draw and Write Through History Vol 1-6 by Carylee Gressman
- ☞ Library card and reading lists: Start at the beginning of time and read your way through history (Carol Joy Seid Reading Lists, Read Aloud Revival Reading Lists, Simply Charlotte Reading Lists or contact Carrie for her list of favorites)

- ✂ Incorporate the lives of artists, composers, scientists, and missionaries in history instruction
- ✂ Historical fieldtrips and travel

SCIENCE INSTRUCTION (Delve into one or two topics a year)

- ✂ Library card and student's interests. Start with One Small Square Series by Donald Silver
- ✂ Apologia Explore's Series
- ✂ Christian Liberty Nature Readers Vol 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 by Wendy Kramer
- ✂ Yesterday's Classics (Eyes and No Eyes Series) by Arabela Buckley: *Insect's Life, Wildlife in the Woods and Fields, By Poind and River, and Plant Life in Field and Garden*
- ✂ Scientific fieldtrips
- ✂ Nature Studies and Nature Journals (see below)

NATURE STUDIES (alone or with other scientific studies)

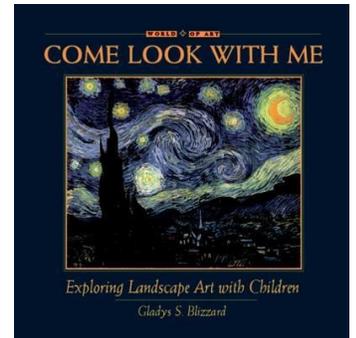
- ✂ Good quality notebook, journal, or sketch book and good quality colored pencils
- ✂ Field Guides (Fandex Series, Waterford Press Laminated, or Audubon Field Guides)
- ✂ Acorn Naturalist Online Store for ideas and supplies
- ✂ Journaling A Year in Nature by Simply Charlotte Press
- ✂ Keeping a Nature Journal: Discover a Whole New Way of Seeing the World Around You by Clare Walker Leslie (idea book not necessarily a "how to book")
- ✂ James Herriot's Treasure for Children: Warm and Joyful Tales by the Author of all Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot
- ✂ Copywork: A Workbook Collection of Aesop's Fables for Children by Wildflower Press
- ✂ Usborne Illustrated Encyclopedia: The Natural World by Lisa Watts

***Try not to purchase commercially made nature journals or coloring books. The idea is to let your child (and you) draw what they see. The drawings do not have to be perfect. However, your child's drawing ability (and yours) will improve each and every year.*



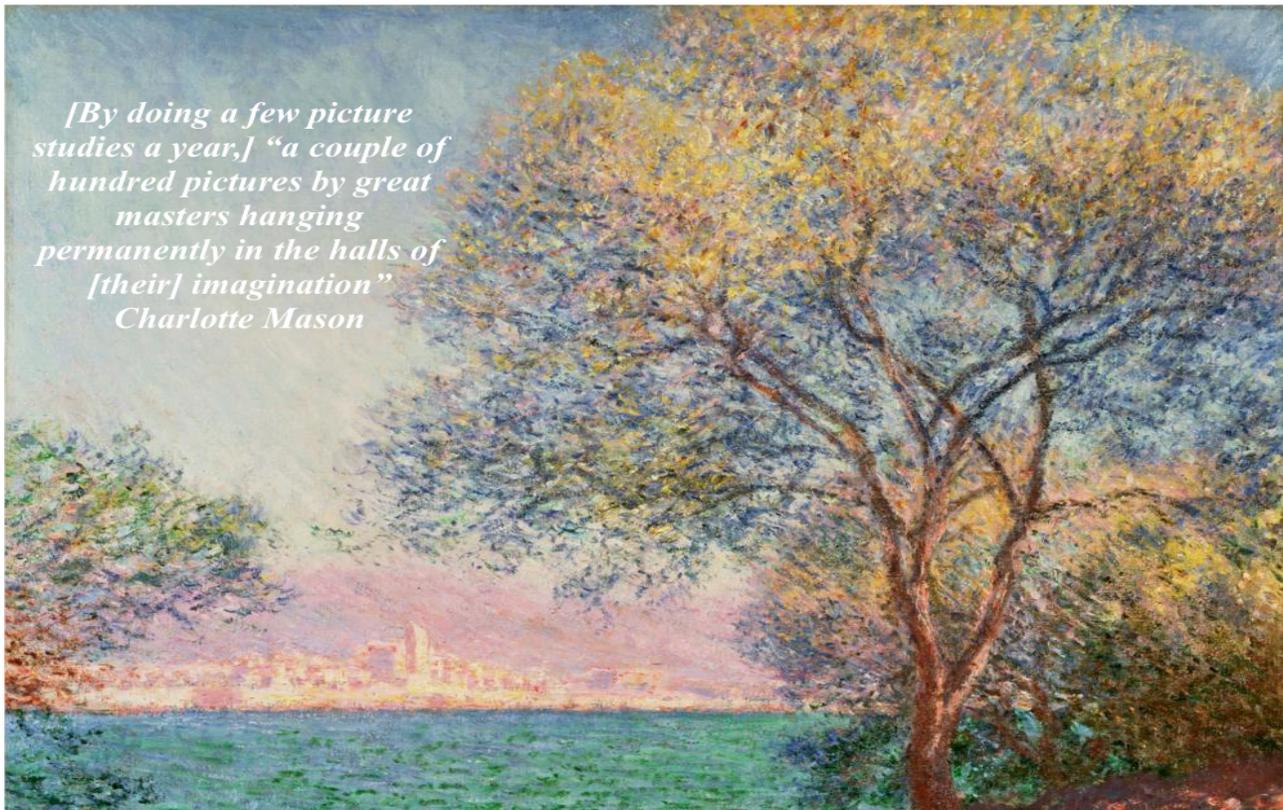
PICTURE AND MUSIC STUDIES

- ▶ Library card and list of three artists
- ▶ Picture Study Portfolios by Simply Charlotte Mason Press
- ▶ Come With Me Series by Gladys Blizzard
- ▶ James Mayhew Katie Series by James Mayhew
- ▶ Smart About Art Series by Jane O'Connor
- ▶ Meet the Master's Art Homeschool Program
- ▶ Visit Art Museums
- ▶ Classics for Kids Website
- ▶ Music Studies with Master Portfolios by Simply Charlotte Mason Press
- ▶ Attend great musicals, symphonies, and operas



**A Picture study is a gentle way to introduce good art to your children. Display a picture and have the children look at it. Turn the picture over and ask them to describe it. When their narration is finished, look at the picture again and discuss it. Display the picture in a prominent place for the rest of the week. Choose 4-6 masterpieces to study. Linger with the same artist for several weeks until the children become familiar with his style.

**Music studies is very similar. Instead of looking at a picture, listen to classical piece. and do the same activities done with a picture study. Choose 4-6 compositions to enjoy. Linger with the same composer for several weeks until the children become familiar with his style.



HANDICRAFTS & FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Include in your weekly or monthly lessons opportunities to learn how to carve, wood work, sew, needlepoint, crochet, knit, cook, weld, garden, etc. If it is important to you, introduce a foreign language to your students. Lively Latin Book 1 & 2 are fabulous places to start.

GAMES

While playing games is not a major component of a Charlotte Mason inspired curriculum, it is part of building an **environment** of life-long learning, an **atmosphere** of family time, and a place to build **habits** and character. Visit FUNdamentals Games list on Amazon for recommendations of hours of fun and learning: <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1279N3ZFISS9H>

