

The Adventist Home Educator Newsletter

Encouragement for Seventh-day
Adventist Homeschoolers

June 2011, Issue 154

Train Up a Child: Infancy to Early Childhood, pt. 1

"The only schoolroom for children from eight to ten years of age should be in the open air, amid the opening flowers and nature's beautiful scenery. And their only textbook should be the treasures of nature."--"Testimonies," Vol. III, p. 137.

"Do not send your little ones away to school too early. The mother should be careful how she trusts the molding of the infant mind to other hands. Parents ought to be the best teachers of their children until they have reached eight or ten years of age. Their schoolroom should be the open air, amid the flowers and birds, and their textbook the treasure of nature."--C, Ed., p. 170.

Have you ever read these quotes and wondered? What does this look like? You mean we can't use any books? I don't know how to teach my kids without books.

For some, this seems so freeing, and if living in an area where this is acceptable, you may look at others and wonder why they aren't following the given counsel. For others, who may live in states with stricter guidelines, you wonder how one could possibly even follow this counsel without being considered truant.

How we can accomplish school without a textbook. How we can teach our kids among God's creation. How we can teach our children until they are 8 and possibly even 10 years old without feeling like we are neglecting their education.

What is a textbook?

A textbook is a preplanned set of studies in a particular subject area. A textbook followed from front to back allows similar learning to large groups of people (classes in school). It allows a teacher to teach a large group of people, year in and year out the same studies, hence creating a standard for students to come. Textbooks allow teachers in different classrooms to have similar studies. Textbooks allow students to be prepared for the next school year by getting them to a particular level for the next teacher to take over at. Textbooks allow us at home, to stay at similar levels of those in schools.

Why would we be counseled not to use a textbook with the younger ages? Might it be that the character of our child is where we need to put our focus? Following someone else's plan may not fit our child and we will fail with some of the more important areas that need tending to. The quote below refers to the mother studying books that teach child training.

"The study of books will be of little benefit, unless the ideas gained can be carried out in practical life. And yet the most valuable suggestions of others should not be adopted without

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AHE NEWS

- Yolanda is our new moderator for the AHE-Living email list. Thanks, Yolanda, for doing this!
- If you have a special talent you would like to share with AHE, please contact Melissa at:

adventisthomeducator@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

June 26, 2011

Sizzlin' Summer Music Concert

141 Cressex Road, High Wycombe,
HP12 4PZ (England, UK)

Come and enjoy a fun, informal concert which you too can be part of.

We'll be raising money for charity and having fun at the same time.

My music students will be playing harps, piano and violins in solos, duets and a large ensemble, plus friends and family will be adding their talents on guitar, Irish dancing, singing and anything else you would like to offer!?

Free refreshments will be available plus BBQ on sale afterwards. (West-Indian food, Asian, cake stall etc.)

This will be a great day to come and relax, meet new friends in aid of a good cause. www.adra.org

Please contact Sujoya at <mailto:sujoya@foralldetails.org.uk> if you would like more details or to register your interest.

June 29—July 3, 2011

Restoration International California Family Campmeeting

<http://www.restoration-international.org/article.php?id=35>

Share with us upcoming events that would be of interest for other SDA homeschoolers.

Train Up a Child: Infancy to Early Childhood, pt. 1, continued...

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thought and discrimination. They may not be equally adapted to the circumstances of every mother, or to the peculiar disposition or temperament of each child in the family. Let the mother study with care the experience of others, note the difference between their methods and her own, and carefully test those that appear to be of real value.” {CG 32.2}

Need of child-centered training

Each child is different; each has their own particular set of bents that make them unique. Each family has issues to work on and often these issues are not the same. Why do some have horrible terrible two’s while others breeze through them and yet struggle at another stage? This time of working together as a family is a time of bonding, a time of getting to know each other intimately, a time to help our child work through some of their selfish inclinations before they set out into a course of study.

There is much training that needs to be done while the child is young. There is learning to trust and love. Training is needed to teach our children of God. There is training that is learning what a family is and their part in it. Character training, manners, and service to others are needed. Respect for their parents. Home training in chores, helping, and keeping a home routine. Education is needed in speaking, in learning how the world works, learning about their church, etc. And lastly, many physical milestones are hit as this early time in our life is one that has many changes and much growth.

Yet, some parents are quick to push these aside in order to start what they consider to be of more worth... textbook training, an educational plan for their kids that often doesn’t leave room for spontaneous learning... training that is done when it is needed.

If a child screams, “I hate this book”... do you say... “Well, we need to do our school”... or do you deal with the anger of the child?

If a child doesn’t pick up their room, do you leave it messy because you have “school” that takes priority?

If it is a nice day, do you take a nature walk and explore God’s creation, or do you say, “We don’t have time, we need to do our “school”.”

If a friend is sick, do we cheer them with a visit and prayer or do we say, “Our time is more important and we should be doing school.”

If your child will not share during Sabbath School, do you just drop it and hope that this SS teacher will train them or do you work on practicing how to share at home?

If your child throws a fit over what is served at dinner, do you deal with that situation or do you just fix their favorite so you can get back to what is important (school).

Some feel that their efforts are better spent “educating” a child with academics.

“Parents send their children to school; and when they have done this, they think they have educated them. But education is a matter of greater breadth than many realize: it comprises the whole process by which the child is instructed from babyhood to childhood, from childhood to youth, and from youth to manhood. As soon as a child is capable of forming an idea, his education should begin.” {CG 26.2}

I realize we don’t send our kids to school, but when it comes to educating our children, we often treat our children as if they were in pre-school or school. Education

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Help Wanted:

- Blog posts on true education, service, work, nature study, devotional thoughts, a favorite quote, etc. Please submit your blog post for review to: adventisthomeducator@gmail.com
- Computer Art: various projects, contact AHE for details. adventisthomeducator@gmail.com

To parents is committed the great work of educating and training their children for the future, immortal life. Many fathers and mothers seem to think that if they feed and clothe their little ones, and educate them according to the standard of the world, they have done their duty.

They are too much occupied with business or pleasure to make the education of their children the study of their lives. They do not seek to train them so that they will employ their talents for the honor of their Redeemer. Solomon did not say, "Tell a child the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." But, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." {Child Guidance 38.2}

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
Proverbs 22:6

Train Up a Child: Infancy to Early Childhood, pt. 1, continued...

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is more than just “school”, it is the forming of the character, it is training them for service to the Lord, it is developing a strong work ethic (as Jesus had), it is the teaching them of their Saviour and them learning that He is their Saviour, and, of course, education is the adding of knowledge that will last a lifetime.

A child that obeys and has a character that shines, is far more delightful than a child that knows their ABC’s at 4yo. Academics may appear to make your child brighter and they may “glow” with knowledge, but when combined with an ugly character, the academics will mean nothing. Like beauty, knowledge is only appreciated, when it comes from a being whose character is well developed.

“The youth should be carefully and judiciously trained, for the wrong habits formed in childhood and youth often cling to the entire life-experience. May God help us to see the necessity of beginning right.” {CG 27.3}

Next time, we will continue our thoughts on educating our young children. We will find out what it looks like to teach our young children in real practical ways.

From the Pen of Inspiration...

My sister, has God entrusted you with the responsibilities of a mother? . . . You need to learn right methods and acquire tact for the training of your little ones, that they may keep the way of the Lord. You need to seek constantly the highest culture of mind and soul, that you may bring to the education and training of your children a restful spirit, a loving heart; that you may imbue them with pure aspirations, and cultivate in them a love for things honest and pure and holy. As a humble child of God, learn in the school of Christ; seek constantly to improve your powers, that you may do the most perfect, thorough work at home, by both precept and example. {Child Guidance pp. 31.2-2}

WANTED! Book and Curriculum Reviews

AHE is looking for help in offering book or curriculum reviews in the newsletter. We are wanting reviews from the point of view of a SDA homeschooler. We can’t possibly read every book or look at every curriculum, so we are wanting to open this up to other homeschool parents to help review books or curriculum they have used. We may even use well-written book reports from homeschooling children.

You can contact adventisthomeducator@gmail.com for more information. First, we will confirm the item (s) you wish to review. If accepted, we will send you a copy of the guidelines for the review. The guidelines are to help you formulate your review to cover points that are of interest to many of our readers.

The reviews will be posted in newsletters as space allows. We will not post full names of authors, but rather use first names only, or initials. We look forward to working with many of you on this new project.

Book Review Rating Scale

Very Poor (not recommended)	1
OK (neither loved, nor hated, got the learning accomplished)	2
Average (Good resource, nice if a few changes are made)	3
Good (a good book, worthy of adding to your curriculum)	4
Excellent (enjoyed without changes)	5

AHE Study Board Education by Ellen White

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Join Us!

<http://aheboards.forumotion.com>

***Request to review your favorite book
or curriculum.***

Contact:

adventisthomeducator@gmail.com



Your children can write book reviews for the newsletter to get more writing experience.

**You may forward the
Adventist Home Educator
Newsletter to other
Adventist homeschoolers.
Please forward entire
newsletter.**



The Adventist Home Educator
3450 Quail Avenue
Manly, Iowa 50456

<http://adventisthomeducator.org>

AHE Resources:

AHE Newsletter You are reading it now. Short monthly articles to encourage you with homeschooling. When email lists are too much for you, a monthly newsletter can encourage you and help you feel connected among friends. The newsletter tries to present information in such a way that it is clutter free.

AHE Website The website is home central for all the ministries of AHE. Find information on each of the AHE ministry arms. Also, we are trying to build our information base and as time goes on, you will find more articles on the website to encourage you with your homeschooling. Check back every so often to see what is new.
www.adventisthomeducator.org

AHE Curriculum Guide Located currently on the AHE website, the Curriculum Guide is being placed on our website to help you find resources that will fit your family while we are working on the new AHE Handbook.

AHE on Facebook...Search for "The Adventist Home Educator" on Facebook and click "like" to connect with us there.

AHE Blog, *Shaping Hearts and Hands*, is a place you can find Adventist Homeschooling applied. We'll share principles and how we apply them to specific situations, so that you can learn to do the same. Plus some warm encouragement in a more homey atmosphere. www.aheblog.org

AHE Study Board Our study board is open for those desiring to study a book together. Currently we are studying the book *Education* by Ellen White. <http://aheboards.forumotion.com>

AHE Email Lists:

The **AHE-List** is a place for Adventist homeschoolers to come together for friendly and informative discussion about home education from birth through high school. With an emphasis on true education, we share our ideas and experiences relating to teaching methods, learning styles, scheduling, curriculum choices and many other homeschooling topics. This is a place where we can help others along their homeschooling journey and also learn some new things ourselves. To join, send a blank email to:
AHE-List-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE-Living... is a friendly place for sharing encouraging words as we work together to create grace-filled, loving homes and pure hearts for the Kingdom. This is a place to visit about child rearing, home decorating, healthy cooking, health and wellness, family relationships, spiritual growth and family worships, sewing and crafts, gardening and flowers, and other topics near and dear to our hearts. This is a supplemental group affiliated with AHE; a place where we can discuss all aspects of Christian living. You will need to be a member of the AHE-list in order to join. To join, visit:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AHE-Living/>

AHE-Swap...if you have curriculum to purchase or to sell, here is another outlet for getting the word out. To join, send a blank email to:
AHE-Swap-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

AHE Teens...is a place for our teen children to interact with other Seventh-day Adventist homeschoolers. To join, parents need to send an email to Melissa at adventisthomeducator@gmail.com with their children's names, ages, and email addresses.

Email:
adventisthomeducator@gmail.com