

# The Adventist Home Educator Newsletter

Encouragement for Seventh-day  
Adventist Homeschoolers

July 2011, Issue 155

## Train Up a Child: Infancy to Early Childhood, pt. 2

This article is continued from the June Newsletter. You can view that by visiting our website and looking for the June 2011 Newsletter.

How do we do it? How do we teach our children without textbooks, when they are school age? Realize that for the most part, you raised up your sons and daughters with a very natural way of teaching them. You taught them to smile by smiling at them. You said Momma hundreds of times and it finally clicked. You cared for the physical needs until your child was able to do it themselves and you taught them how to do it. You taught them how to use a spoon when they were ready. You said, "No," when they were out of line and corrected them from things that would hurt them. Did they get it all learned by the time they hit 5yo? 6yo? Probably not. So this natural response and guiding will continue and should continue.

Why is it that when we hit that magic school age number we think that kids need to learn differently. What worked yesterday will still work today. Just because the first day of school is officially here, doesn't mean you have to make your home a school. You are not raising up an assembly line of children, you are raising up a special unique child of God. This child will have special talents unique to them. This child will have a personality unique to them. This child will have sinful tendencies that are unique as well. This child will need an educational foundation that is fitting him/her for a lifetime of learning. Our ultimate goal is to be a child of God.

Take these younger years, up through age 8 to 10 years of age and **work diligently in training the character of your child.** Doing this will help academics flow smoother down the road. There will be less fighting, less whining, and more diligence displayed in their work if they have a character that has been molded in the likeness of Christ.

How does one do character training? Deal with problems as they arise, don't wait for it to be a loud clanging irritant. Dealing with biting at one year old is much easier to deal with than at 5yo. Dealing with biting at 5yo is much easier to deal with than waiting until they are 10yo, but it is much harder than if one had dealt with it at one year of age. If you neglected an area and it has become an irritant in the life of your child, deal with it purposefully. Pray. Read and memorize Bible verses that deal with these issues. Read stories to your children that deal with this issue. Try searching for the Ladder of Life Series or look at Polished Cornerstones (for girls) or Plants Grown Up (for boys).

**Have a home routine that is regular and consistent.** Teach your child how to do household chores. First allow them to watch you. Once they feel they've learned it, let them try it under your supervision. If they are consistent with this, allow them to try it on their own, and then look on after they have finished to correct or praise for a job

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## AHE NEWS

- The Curriculum Guide is posted on the AHE website under AHE Resources.
- The Bird Unit Study is posted under AHE Resources on the website.
- A new "Links" page has been created for the website for online links. Items will be added as able. Feel free to leave a comment with your favorite homeschooling links.
- A NEW home for the AHE Blog. To save on costs, and allow you less internet hopping, we have moved the blog over onto the AHE website. The old blog address will work for a while, but updating your bookmarks would be helpful as it will no longer work when we cease to renew that address.

<http://adventisthomeducator.org>



## 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](mailto:adventisthomeducator@gmail.com)
- Computer Art: various projects, contact AHE for details. [adventisthomeducator@gmail.com](mailto:adventisthomeducator@gmail.com)
- If you have a special talent you would like to share with AHE, please contact Melissa at: [adventisthomeducator@gmail.com](mailto:adventisthomeducator@gmail.com)

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...

*(Continued from page 1)*

well done. Perfection from a young child is not necessary, but a job done to the best of their ability should be encouraged and upheld.

**Have family worship.** Family worship is a time when the family can bond, when they can testify to each other of their experiences, thereby encouraging all others in the family. Family worship also is a learning experience... often times activities can be recorded for school studies. Sing. Tell stories, use felts. Do action songs (works on small and large motor skills). Pray together. Learn a memory verse together. Some people vary their family worship activities. Some use SS lessons. Others use Character building stories. Some choose books that will benefit one or more in the family to hear. Some use this time for Bible study for young children.

**Talk to your children throughout the day.** Talking increases their vocabulary and their use of language. It is good to take time to correct bad habits in speech. Teach your children (gradually, as they are able to understand) good concepts of grammar. Speak clearly to them and ask them to speak clearly back to you. This will help later when you introduce phonics as they will be able to hear distinct sounds within words. Reciting memory verses is another good way to increase vocabulary and speech skills.

**Go outside and explore nature.** Fresh air is good for us. Exercise is good for us. Start now, with developing good exercise routines for their life. While out, look at the things God created. Show them to your children, ponder what they can teach us. You can start a nature journal for them to draw their observations. As they get older, you can add to the journal more details... the name of the animal, the classifications, a poem, a description, where they saw it, etc. Your child can dictate to you for you to write until they are able to write on their own. Other nature activities can be getting a coloring book on birds and coloring as you identify that bird. You could even cut out that bird from the coloring book and place into a journal (nice for children who cannot draw well). There are many activities you can do with nature, with exploring, and with teaching our children about their Creator God. Don't think that one walk a week is plenty and that you've seen it all. You will find new things each day that you did not notice the day before. Repetition allows a child to observe nature and the seemingly insignificant changes it may make. Remember you are laying a foundation for later learning. These details will be brought together during studies in later years and often will make connections easier for them to remember.

**Have your kids help in the kitchen.** Kitchen time often gives way for mathematical learning. Some activities are counting olives, sorting beans, shapes, similarities, etc. Baking and cooking can develop small motor skills as well as learning fractions in a non-threatening manner.

**Children should follow the parents throughout the day.** This allows you to oversee their activities and keep them from foolish play. I've had children play with dolls near me and state things in their play that were not nice. I stopped my chores and was able to correct them at the very moment it was said, so that it did not linger and become a thought that was natural to them. This also allows them to observe the things that need doing in a home and they often will ask to help and gives them opportunity to feel a part of the home circle. Children learn by repetition, so do not think that watching mother wash laundry once is plenty... rather have the children help in steps with sorting laundry, folding laundry, etc. This training does make some of these chores take more time, but once learned, it will ease the mother's burden in caring for the home as the child grows and is able to help more and more.

**Take the children with you as you go to town for errands.** This is wonderful in learning how their world works. Sometimes you can even mention that you are

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*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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homeschooling and places will gladly let you see more. I've been at a post office and was granted a tour on the spot for just my family... there was no need to schedule it with a homeschool group, although that is another way to get in more field trips to a variety of places. After visiting, have the child express what they learned, what they saw, etc. Your child can write if able.

Some wonder if using no textbooks means using no books at all. I don't believe that is what Ellen White was trying to say. I believe she was talking about the type of learning. Close eye work for extended periods is hard on a developing eye. It is much better to gaze back and forth between close and far than to set the eye at one focused area for prolonged periods of time. Sitting for long periods is also hard on a small developing body. Muscles need to move and bones need weight bearing activities to grow and develop fully. Also, as mentioned earlier in part one, textbook learning is deliberate knowledge of a particular area and often does not use the skills of exploring, searching, and using their imaginations.

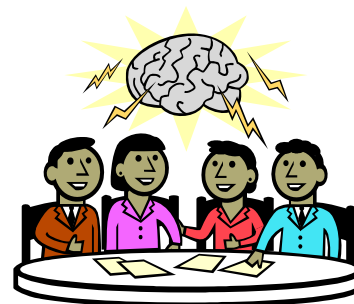
Books can be used. **Read aloud to your children.** Your children can learn much during a set aside time of reading aloud. Read before bed. Read at a specific time of the day, perhaps after lunch, or maybe in the morning after worship works better for you. You can read aloud character building stories, mission stories, Bible stories, nature stories, picture books, early reader type biographies.

If your child shows some reading readiness, there is nothing wrong with teaching your young child to read, but it is important to limit the time set aside for learning each day to be 15-20 minutes a day. Once they do know how to read, limit their own reading to 30 minutes at a time (many young ones will want to stop earlier, but some do not). Children need time away from books so that their eyes can focus on things further away. While reading is a great way to learn new things, young children still need to spend the majority of their time exploring, observing, and participating in the daily activities of life.

It is, also, important to stay away from stories that contain little value and are more adventure type stories or ones that are just full of silliness. The appetite for adventure will draw your children away from that which we are trying to train our kids towards, learning of Jesus and the Bible. Silly stories have the same results, as the children want something that will make them laugh and often it is at the expense of someone or something in the book, which can later transfer to laughing at others and nothing is thought of it, because they feel they have developed a good sense of humor, when in fact they have developed a thorn in their character.

I recently attended a seminar where it was stressed that television watching is showing, in studies, more and more to be detrimental to young children. So much so, that at my last doctor's visit with my 1yo, the doctor said that she should not be watching television. I laughed, because we would not think to do that, but they also recommend that they are not exposed to it, even if an adult is watching TV with the children at their feet, the occasional glimpses that they catch of commercials and the TV shows themselves are harmful to young infants and children up through early school ages. Television exposure at young ages is now being investigated to be causes of many learning disorders. There is actually a study out there (told to me at the seminar I attended), that says watching Sesame Street under the age of 3 can delay language development. Tied in with this is also video games, computer usage, electronic hand held games or learning products. So, if your child is exposed to any of these items, rethink the usage you are allowing, pray about this specifically, research the issue in reference to young children, and discuss it with your spouse before you toss this idea out without looking into it.

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### Unit Study Project for July and August Autumn

(yes, the season...can be anything related to fall...holidays, activities, harvest, etc.)

Submit ideas to the AHE email list or to our email:  
adventisthomeducator@gmail.com

Visit our website for more details.

[http://  
adventisthomeducator.org/ahe-  
resources/unit-study-projects/](http://adventisthomeducator.org/ahe-resources/unit-study-projects/)



Remember AHE families this coming month in prayer as many of us will finalize our plans for this coming school year. Also some prayers for those carrying extra burdens that God will give them strength to carry on.

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

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While the majority of the ideas for teaching young children are focused around the child and daily living, sometimes it is good to be deliberate in how we train our children. In our next issue, we will explore training helps for parents and areas that require watchfulness.

### From the Pen of Inspiration...



"Mothers . . . should not be so engrossed with the artificial and burdened with care that they cannot have time to educate their children from God's great book of nature, impressing their young minds with the beauties of opening buds and flowers. The lofty trees, the lovely birds caroling forth their happy songs to their Creator, speak to their senses of the goodness, mercy, and benevolence of God. Every leaf and flower with their varied tints, perfuming the air, teach them that God is love. All that is good and lovely and beautiful in this world speaks to them of the love of our heavenly Father. The character of God they may discern in His created works."

*Child Guidance* p. 54.1

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Take time to ponder this quote. Look at your life and see what artificial things are filling your days. Is it television, computer games, email, facebook, blog hopping, radio, magazines, books, etc. If you have time for these things, but not for exploring nature with your child... pray and rearrange your priorities and make time to educate your child "first" before you run out of time with the other things that fill your days.

### A Link to check out...

[Why Preschool Shouldn't Be Like School](http://www.slate.com/id/2288402/#B)  
( <http://www.slate.com/id/2288402/#B> )

"Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 10:11 (NKJV)



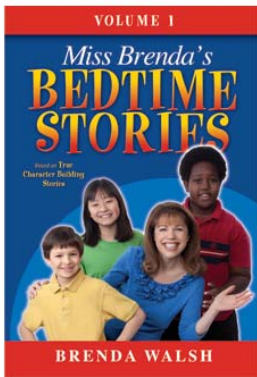
"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)

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I have watched not only fathers, but mothers as well, whom think it is funny to taunt and tease until the child is so flustered and angry. Let us be careful in how we treat our children. A child cannot respect a parent who delights in mocking them.

## Book Review: Miss Brenda's Bedtime Stories by Brenda Walsh

By Melissa, IA



This set is one that will excite many of you! Brenda Walsh is putting together a 5 volume set of character building "true" stories. The books are hard covered and colorful. The stories are a good length for a bedtime story and they are true stories.. Created for ages 6 to 12yo. I would rate the *Volume One* book as excellent (5).

I purchased the first two volumes and have been reading them to my 6yo daughter. After reading the story of *Fat Cat Freddie*, my daughter asked if the stories were true and I was able to say that yes, they were true stories. She then asked if she could thank Jesus for keeping Freddie safe and watching over him.

From what I can gather, the first two volumes are complete at this time, but they are still working on gathering stories for the next three volumes, which at campmeeting I was told would be available around Christmas time. For information on the project, you can read more at:

[http://www.brendawalsh.com/bedtime\\_stories.html](http://www.brendawalsh.com/bedtime_stories.html) and  
[http://www.brendawalsh.com/online\\_store\\_kidstime\\_books.html](http://www.brendawalsh.com/online_store_kidstime_books.html)

### 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

We're on ch. 6 of 35

Join Us!

<http://aheboards.forumotion.com>

## 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](mailto: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.

***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](http://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](http://www.aheblog.org) is moving to [www.adventisthomeducator.org](http://www.adventisthomeducator.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:adventisthomeducator@gmail.com) with their children's names, ages, and email addresses.

Email:  
[adventisthomeducator@gmail.com](mailto:adventisthomeducator@gmail.com)