

A Modern Charlotte Mason
The Early Years
Term 1

Dear Mama,

As with all AMCM curricula, Morning Meeting is a daily meeting (usually in the morning after chores and breakfast are completed). For the Early Years (age six and under), it is our goal to both spread a wide feast for the children and to encourage good habits of learning as they prepare for formal education beginning in Year 1. The Early Years curriculum is specifically for kids aged six and under whose state homeschooling laws require children to start at a younger age.

This book contains your daily lesson plans. Read alouds, foreign language, art instruction (picture study), math, Bible reading and memorization are all included here. It may seem like a lot at first glance, but with informal instruction and short “lessons”, these studies will pass quickly.

The first thing I suggest is to go through with a highlighter and mark what you think is absolutely lovely and essential for your family. Then mark out things your child will not be doing. It is important to not overload your child, as they need time to think and absorb. Short lessons enable you to do more than perhaps a typical education method, but keep in mind that doing less and doing it deeply and well is preferable to covering more while in a stressed time crunch. Don't be afraid to take charge and cut things! You know your child best—God has equipped you as their mother and will continue to do so. Remember, there is so much grace here.

A Few Tips...

Terms

As with other AMCM curricula, the Early Years curriculum is divided into three 12 week terms, but the Early Years is “schooling” only four days per week. At the end of each term, this is a break of one month and then the next term begins again. Personally our family studies September–November, break in December, begin again January–March, break in April, begin Term 3 in May and finish up in July. Break in August, and then do it all again beginning in September. You may choose to use this schedule or to create your own based on what works for your family.

Transitions—Because Miss Mason suggested short lessons (15–45 minutes or so depending on the age of the child), a timer is very helpful to tell when the “lesson is completed”. For the child who struggles with transitions, it may be good to have him/her be responsible for setting the timer each round.

Read aloud vs. Free Read

Demand complete attention at read alouds, especially during Bible Reading. All bible lessons in this curriculum are short—five to seven minutes or so in order to ensure young attention spans can be accommodated.

Free reads can be audio books, or family readings and can be longer. We have added some options for you on the schedule, but feel free to choose your own. Be sure to choose quality, living books.

Repetition of Readings

Many readings are repetitive or may alternate days or weeks throughout the course of each term. This is purposeful. Often, we don't truly appreciate or fully acknowledge our choice at its first reading (or for your child, at his/her first listen). Reading things two or three times in one week allows us to truly appreciate, understand our readings, and may even allow them to become favorites!

Daily Prep

The daily schedule is laid out for you and do include hymns and poetry daily. However it is up to you to prep any necessary activities and/or additional enrichment such as handicrafts and artist study.

Morning Meeting

Morning Meeting is the highlight of each day. Often called morning basket or circle time, this is a few moments for the whole family to gather and focus on the central aspect of our lives: God. During Morning Meeting, you will hear and sing hymns, pray, and read from the Bible or alternate Bible study book. Morning Meeting is done 4 days a week so as to instill the importance of putting Christ first daily.

Foreign Language

At this age, Foreign Language is not done as a formal, sit down study. We have included some resources and added a section into your daily list of work, but this can be done very informally. If it is a song, sing it while you do chores or are on a walk. If it is a poem or story, consider reading it at breakfast, or snack instead of right after Morning Meeting. You can also make games out of memorizing (example: count the numbers in Spanish as you play hopscotch). Over the course of this term children will learn good habits, body parts, days of the week, the alphabet, and more through stories, songs and movement play.

Math

Concepts such as addition, subtraction, counting, geometry, shapes and more are all taught through these living books and activities. Because the concepts presented are new to the child, the books are designed to be read over and over, and as such are listed multiple times throughout each term and the overall year) Some kids, depending on age or preference, may prefer one option over the other. Check the Pinterest board for math activities. Note: though morning meeting is done 4 days per week (to instill the importance of focusing on God daily), math is only done three days per week so that day 4 may be used fully for nature study.

Nature Study

For ease of scheduling this day is listed as day 4 of each week, but feel free to change it as your schedule allows. The goal of Nature study is to have a specific day each week dedicated to Nature Study that is different and separate from your regular out of doors time. This day's work should be several hours, make a fun excursion of it! Pack snacks, drinks and supplies and be prepared to spend a few hours outdoors, in nature. During this specific Nature Study time, try to explore the same area again and again, noticing changes in the air, the ground, the animals, etc. Record your studies in your family nature journal (purchased separately). We have also included selected readings from various living books for you to read; it inmost helpful if you explore an area that corresponds to your nature study. Term 1 is ponds. Term 2 is animals. Term 3 is forests/woods. For term 1 and 3 the selected readings are chosen for you, for Term 2 you may pick a book and read through the chapters at your own pace. The habits listed here will be foundational to your child's independent nature study skills in later years. The habits listed here will be foundational to your child's independent nature study skills in later years.

Tea Time

Younger, early years students can participate in tea time with the whole family using the Tea Time book. If you are homeschooling one child, consider purchasing this book in addition to your Early Years curriculum. We have allotted a spot in the schedule each day for the child to participate in Tea Time, if applicable.

FREE E-books/Audiobooks to Download via Librivox or Other Sites

Among The Pond People-Clara D. Pierson
Among The Forest People-Clara D.Pierson
Thornton Burgess
Thornton Burgess' Animal Adventures Books
-Reddy the Fox
-Paddy the Beaver
-Prickly Porky
-Jerry Muskrat
-Bob White
-Black the Crow
-Grandfather Frog
-Peter Cottontail
-Whitefoot the Wood Mouse

Books To Purchase

A Child's Book of Poems- Gyo Fugawa <http://amzn.to/2tNkpet>
Jesus Storybook Bible, Sally Lloyd Jones <http://amzn.to/2uhOVAF>

Math Books To Purchase or Reserve at the Library

Richard Scarry Counting Book <http://amzn.to/2uhMMoR>
Richard Scarry Longest Counting Parade <http://amzn.to/2uGE84j>
Even Steven and Odd Todd <http://amzn.to/2ui6wH5>
Fish Eyes: <http://amzn.to/2tm8ZPv>
Mystery of the Farmers Three Fives <http://amzn.to/2twhFXO>
The Money Tree <http://amzn.to/2tmPFS4>
26 Letters and 99 Cents <http://amzn.to/2tmtvPV>
Ten Sly Piranhas <http://amzn.to/2tmj537>
One Lighthouse, One Moon <http://amzn.to/2tmne77>
One Hundred is a Family <http://amzn.to/2uhFKQX>
Much Bigger Than Martin <http://amzn.to/2uGJsVb>
Four Stories for Four Seasons <http://amzn.to/2uhJP5Z>
Inch by Inch <http://amzn.to/2uGKIHS>
How Many Snails? <http://amzn.to/2uhHtpv>
How High Can A Dinosaur Count <http://amzn.to/2uhz0Cs>
One Carton of Oops <http://amzn.to/2tmHy8j>
Boom Chicka Rock <http://amzn.to/2tmLfLf>
Bunny Money <http://amzn.to/2uhTrPQ>
The Tale of Ginger and Pickles <http://amzn.to/2gQ52kn>
Math Man <http://amzn.to/2tmmwXk>
My Even Day <http://amzn.to/2tN2N2C>
One Odd Day <http://amzn.to/2tmrAuZ>
Red Light Green Light <http://amzn.to/2tn2dZU>
Six Crows <http://amzn.to/2vIqz16>
Sheep Asleep <http://amzn.to/2tmi6Qk>
Seven at One Blow <http://amzn.to/2vIthn0>
Sven's Bridge <http://amzn.to/2tmo3wy>
The Spider Weaver <http://amzn.to/2uGefS2>
The Village of Round and Square Houses <http://amzn.to/2uGICHQ>
Twice Upon a Time <http://amzn.to/2uGDeV6>

Sample Excerpt: Resources for Foreign Language (Spanish)

Spanish Fairytales <http://www.thespanishexperiment.com/stories>

Salsa Spanish videos (Fairytales and habits (manners, friendship):

<https://unctv.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/salsa-spanish-for-children/1/#.WXDPstPytE4>)

Spanish colors video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsRKoZGaoEM>

Week 1, Day 2

Morning Meeting:

- Play a version of the hymn to call the students to meeting: The Lord is My Shepherd (spotify playlist [here](#))
- Begin the day listing something you are thankful for in your family gratitude journal.
- Take prayer requests and answered prayers in the Prayer section of the Bible journal. Don't forget to pray for the specific habit you are cultivating.
- Pray
- Bible Reading: Genesis 1: 14-31
- Recitation (Memorization) Psalm 23:1
- Sing the hymn you are studying this term: The Lord is My Shepherd
- Poem: Read the next poem from A Child's Book of Poems by Gyo Fujikawa

Math

Choose from Booklist or do an activity.

Foreign Language

Choose from Resources List.

Tea Time: Do your assignments from TeaTime, if applicable

Week 10, Day 4:**Morning Meeting:**

- Play a version of the hymn to call the students to meeting: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (spotify playlist)
- Begin the day listing something you are thankful for in your family gratitude journal.
- Take prayer requests and answered prayers in the Prayer section of the Bible journal. Don't forget to pray for the specific habit you are cultivating.
- Pray
- Bible Reading: Joshua 6: 12-20
- Recitation (Memorization) Psalm 100:1-4
- Sing the hymn you are studying this term: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
- Poem: Read the next poem from A Child's Book of Poems by Gyo Fujikawa

Nature Study: Ponds

The Stickleback Father (p. 33).

Record any nature findings in your family nature journal.