

# Before Curriculum: How To Start Practicing The Charlotte Mason Philosophy In Your Home

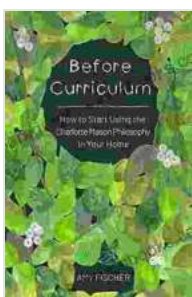
## How to Start Practicing the Charlotte Mason Philosophy in Your Home

In the realm of home education, the name Charlotte Mason stands tall as a beacon of inspiration for parents and educators alike. Her educational philosophy, developed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, has stood the test of time, offering a holistic and transformative approach to nurturing young minds.

If you're drawn to the principles of classical education, the love of nature, and the cultivation of a virtuous heart, then the Charlotte Mason philosophy may be the perfect fit for your homeschooling journey. This comprehensive guide will provide you with a deep understanding of Mason's principles and equip you with practical strategies to implement them in your home.

## Core Principles of Charlotte Mason's Philosophy

Mason's philosophy is built upon several key pillars that shape its unique approach to education:



## Before Curriculum: How to Start Practicing the Charlotte Mason Philosophy in Your Home by Linda J. Dorn

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

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**1. Children are born persons:** Mason believed that children are not empty vessels waiting to be filled with knowledge but rather complete individuals with inherent potential and dignity. She advocated for treating children with respect, valuing their thoughts, and fostering their natural curiosity.

**2. Education is a lifelong process:** Mason's philosophy extends beyond formal schooling years. She believed that education should be a lifelong pursuit, nurturing a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

**3. A living curriculum:** Essential to Mason's approach is the use of "living books" – whole, uncut works of literature that bring history, science, and other subjects to life for children.

**4. The importance of nature:** Mason recognized the immense value of outdoor exploration and nature study. She believed that firsthand experiences with the natural world fostered a deep appreciation for God's creation and nurtured a sense of wonder.

**5. Narration:** A central component of Mason's method is narration, where children retell stories or concepts in their own words. This practice develops their comprehension, memory, and communication skills.

## **Practical Strategies for Implementation**

Integrating Charlotte Mason's principles into your home education requires a thoughtful approach. Here are some practical strategies to help you get started:

- 1. Gather resources:** Begin by collecting a library of classic literature, biographies, and natural history books. Mason's recommended books can guide your selections.
- 2. Create a nature-rich environment:** Encourage outdoor exploration and provide your children with opportunities to observe, collect, and study the wonders of nature.
- 3. Implement regular narration:** Dedicate time for children to retell stories and share what they've learned. Initially, support them with guided questions, gradually fostering their independence.
- 4. Emphasize handicrafts and arts:** Mason believed that engaging in practical activities, such as sewing, painting, and gardening, fostered coordination, creativity, and a sense of accomplishment.
- 5. Cultivate a love of music and poetry:** Incorporate music and poetry into your daily rhythm, exposing children to a variety of genres and nurturing their appreciation for beauty.

## **The Benefits of a Charlotte Mason Education**

Embracing Charlotte Mason's philosophy can bring numerous benefits to your children's educational journey:

- 1. A deep love of learning:** Mason's approach ignites a lifelong passion for knowledge, instilling a desire to explore the world and pursue their

interests.

**2. Strong critical thinking skills:** Through narration and discussion, children develop the ability to analyze, evaluate, and form their own opinions.

**3. A well-rounded education:** Mason's philosophy provides a comprehensive education that encompasses literature, history, science, geography, art, music, and practical skills.

**4. A strong moral foundation:** Mason believed in cultivating virtues such as truthfulness, obedience, and compassion, shaping children into individuals of integrity and character.

**5. A healthy relationship with nature:** Mason's emphasis on nature study fosters an appreciation for the environment and a sense of stewardship.

The Charlotte Mason philosophy offers a transformative approach to home education, nurturing the whole child – mind, body, and spirit. By embracing its principles and implementing them in your home, you can empower your children with a love of learning, a strong moral compass, and a lifelong thirst for knowledge.

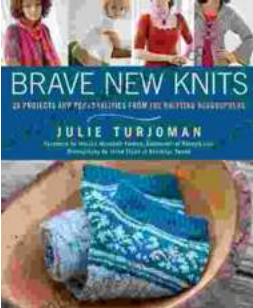
Embarking on this educational journey is not merely about meeting academic standards but about fostering a vibrant and fulfilling life for your children. As you guide them through the wonders of learning, you will witness the blossoming of their potential and the profound impact of a Charlotte Mason education.



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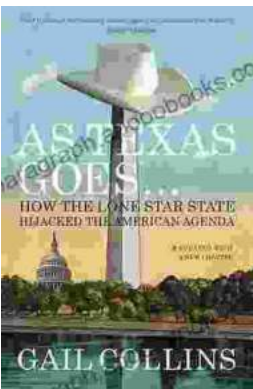
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