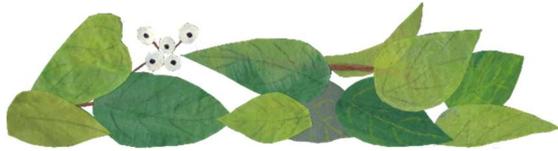


Before Curriculum Workbook



An Action-Oriented Guide to
Charlotte Mason's Three Educational Tools

AMY FISCHER

<https://aroundthethicket.com>

© 2020- Amy Fischer. All rights reserved.

Please do not distribute this workbook digitally or in print.

For permissions, contact: amy@aroundthethicket.com

Table of Contents

How to Use This Workbook	5
Education is an Atmosphere	7
Atmosphere Starts with Us	7
The Art of Masterly Inactivity	8
Education is a Discipline	9
Habits	9
Habit Action Plan	10
Education is a Life.....	11
Living Ideas	11
Life Outdoors.....	12
Mother Culture.....	13
Action Steps.....	14
Atmosphere	14
Discipline.....	14
Life	14
Monthly Reflections.....	15
Atmosphere	15
Discipline.....	15
Life	15

How to Use This Workbook

I first learned about Charlotte Mason and her philosophy of education when my eldest child was just a baby. You could say I was smitten with the Charlotte Mason Way. I adored the idea of reading beautiful, living books with my son, spending hours in outdoor play and nature study, and studying a wide range of subjects.

I was so excited to get started with home education, and yet I also knew Charlotte Mason encouraged parents to delay formal lessons until the age of six, and instead to allow children lots of free play, preferably outside. It felt like I had everything to do, and yet not much to do, all at the same time.

If you are reading this, the Charlotte Mason philosophy has resonated with you, too. You are keen to get started, but with perhaps you have younger kids or are ‘deschooling’ after removing your children from a formal educational setting. Either way, you know that following the Charlotte Mason way in this season means something different than lessons and narrations.

Fortunately, the Charlotte Mason way offers an approach to education that is suitable for your child, whether he is sixteen months or sixteen years. No matter their age, we can practice and develop our use of three tools of education – the same three tools that we will use as they grow older. Charlotte Mason summarizes them in the motto: *Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life.*

This workbook goes hand-in-hand with my book *Before Curriculum*. While you can read and use them

independently, I believe you will get much more out of each when you use them together. In this workbook, I only briefly summarize each tool and how we use it. In the book, you'll find a much deeper conversation, quotes, and practical examples to give you a firm foundation in Charlotte Mason's educational principles. If you don't have the book yet, you can find it at <https://aroundthethicket.com/before-curriculum>.

In this workbook, you will find prompts to help you consider how you can start using each of Charlotte Mason's educational 'tools' in your home. There is space to write your thoughts and develop points for action. You'll be encouraged to prioritize your action points and note them on the 'Action Steps' page at the end of the workbook. You can write your thoughts on how your use of the three tools is going on the 'Reflections' page. You can reprint these pages and fill them out as often as needed. I suggest reviewing your action steps monthly.

When you have completed the workbook, and ideally read the book, you will have thought through *how* to implement the Charlotte Mason philosophy in your home *now*, and you will have your initial steps to jumpstart your journey.

Ultimately, providing our children with an education based on Charlotte Mason's principles cannot be narrowed to check boxes and to-do lists. However, if we wait until we have plumbed the depths of the Charlotte Mason Way to begin, we will never start.

My hope is that this workbook allows you to take the first steps in living out the Charlotte Mason philosophy, even as you study and learn more about it.