

# Charlotte Mason Homeschooling



In 18  
EASY  
Step-by-Step  
Lessons

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Shining Dawn Books

# *Charlotte Mason Homeschooling*

## **In 18 EASY Step-by-Step Lessons**

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# Welcome to Your Charlotte Mason Course

*“Education is an atmosphere, a discipline and a life.”*

*Charlotte Mason*

Would you like to teach your children in ways that encourage curiosity and enthusiasm, while at the same time expecting excellence in many areas – even more areas than most curricula expect? Charlotte Mason’s philosophies and principles are still fresh today and can help homeschoolers who use them to raise bright, resourceful children. In this 18-week, practical, easy-to-understand, easy-to-implement course, you’ll get all the basics for adding Charlotte Mason’s methods to your homeschool.

## **Here’s what you have to look forward to!**

Over the course of eighteen lessons, I have provided simple explanations for each aspect of a Charlotte Mason education with practical suggestions for implementation in your homeschool. It’s your very own step-by-step how-to course that will have your homeschool up and running Charlotte Mason style by the time you reach the end of the book!

It’s suggested you tackle only one lesson per week. Why only one lesson per week? It would be nearly impossible to dive into a full-blown CM style of education all at once, especially for those of you who are already homeschooling using different methods. My desire is to teach you how to successfully implement Charlotte Mason’s methods into your homeschool. From experience, I realize that successful, stick-to-it changes rarely happen when diving into something new head first. Rather, adding a little here and a little there ensures a comfortable, confident change.

To help you go from simply reading about Charlotte Mason’s methods to actually doing them in your homeschool, I’ve included “homework” for you at the end of each lesson. Don’t worry, the homework is your chance to mull over the week’s topic and make a plan for including it in your school routine. It’s my hope that this

one-step-at-a-time method will allow you to not only understand each topic thoroughly, but will allow you and your children a slow and successful journey into all the CM style has to offer.

In other words, this book makes implementing a Charlotte Mason style of homeschooling EASY! All you have to do is read one lesson each week and do the homework. In approximately one semester's time, you should have everything you need under your belt to enjoy the best homeschooling method out there.

# Lesson 1

## Why Implement the Charlotte Mason Style?

### Just who or what is Charlotte Mason??

Charlotte Mason was a 19th century (1842-1923) British educator who believed education was “an atmosphere, a discipline and a life.” She believed in teaching children in ways that encouraged curiosity and enthusiasm, while at the same time expecting excellence in many areas – even more areas than most curricula expect. Her philosophies are still fresh today, especially among homeschoolers who use them unfailingly to raise bright, resourceful children.

Although Charlotte Mason never had children of her own, she believed strongly that all children (not just the upper class) deserved a full and rich education. During the 10+ years she taught at the Davidson School in Worthington, England, she began to establish a vision of how this full and rich education for all social classes would look.

As her vision grew, she was asked to teach and give lectures in Chichester, England at the Bishop Otter Teacher Training College. Soon after, she began giving lectures to parents to help them understand basic principles about raising children. From these lectures, *Home Education* was written and the Parent’s Educational Union began. (Think the first organized homeschool teacher’s group.)

In 1891, Charlotte Mason moved to Ambleside, England and started the House of Education which trained governesses and others working with children in Charlotte Mason’s principles and methods. New books followed, which we now call *Charlotte Mason’s Original Homeschool Series*. Because her teaching methods and philosophy made so much sense, and made such a difference in a child’s education, more and more schools began adopting her style, which we now call the Charlotte Mason style.

In this lesson, I’d like to focus on WHY our homeschool follows the Charlotte Mason style.

I’ll get into the nitty-gritty of Charlotte Mason (CM) particulars within the lessons that follow, and you’ll clearly see how the methods build brilliant students. As an introduction, though, I want to share about the ooey-gooey, mushy feelings that make this method of homeschooling my primary style.

Through such things as reading living books with my children, teaching them handicrafts and enjoying nature together, there's a sort of "life is school" attitude that's had me hooked from the beginning. Lessons are gentle and many of them conducive to sitting on the couch all snuggled up.

I had been a public school teacher previously and saw so many precious children who could have thrived if their parents would have simply taken the time to love on them during lessons. (Homework, of course.) As much as I tried, as their classroom teacher I couldn't love on every single student every day – making school work and home work sterile and uninviting. I knew from the moment I started homeschooling that a loving, encouraging, anything-but-sterile environment was what I wanted to create for my children.

After reading Susan Schaeffer Macaulay's *For the Children's Sake* when my oldest was five years old, I knew I had found the answer! It was possible to "do school" with the sweetness that I had envisioned. And the author spelled it out for me in such a way that built my confidence enough to carry me through schooling with the CM style eleven years later!

Little did I know in the beginning how much more blessed our school would become using this approach. For example, one major added bonus to this "gentle style of learning" (and there are lots of bonuses) includes lessons that are short and sweet, which allows more time for the extras of life. Those extras including: time for my kids to be kids, time to explore personal interests, time to take outside enrichment classes, and even time for running errands. Blessings indeed!

Don't be fooled, though! All this gentle, loving, short and sweet talk doesn't equal up to a less than superior education. On the contrary, I have been able to offer my children very challenging material, and lots of it. It's actually because of the simplicity and sweetness that we have more time to dive deep, tackle tough stuff and take outside classes that we otherwise wouldn't have the time to do!

Okay, enough for this lesson. Snuggles, sweetness, time for kids to be kids, AND real learning...Have I convinced you about how wonderful a CM education is yet?

***Homework:***

Think seriously about the parent and teacher you want to be. Think about the goals you have for your children before they leave your home – character, academics, abilities, etc. Jot these down.

Think about your current style of homeschooling and whether or not it's working. In other words, is it achieving the goals you have for your family (and is everyone joyfully on board?) Pray about this. Talk with your husband and maybe even your older children.

If you know you want to have a homeschool that is loving, serious, encourages character, allows time for passions and more, then read the rest of this book. I think you'll find the CM style to be a perfect fit.