

# Home Education Learning Plan: Tasmania 2012

**For children aged 11 and 8 years.**

*(approved by THEAC July 2012; initials used in place of children's names)*

I have been home schooling for about 17 months now. I moved from a pre packaged curriculum to developing my own curriculum by blending the Charlotte Mason method and using workbooks from Home Schooling Supplies Australia. I am sending this brief outline to update my home schooling status with THEAC.

## Why?

We home school for two reasons.

1. To provide a safe and positive environment for the children to grow a love of learning.
2. To provide space and time for the children to learn in their own individual style.

I have been and will continue to be the active family member in schooling the children.

I have gathered resources from varied places.

<http://www.homeschooling.com.au/>

<http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/>

<http://www.simplycharlottemason.com/>

<http://www.apologia.com/>

## How?

The Charlotte Mason Method has given me insight into the value short lessons and providing a wide variety of subjects. Keeping the attention of a child is not always easy. Charlotte talks of interchanging subjects so the brain has a rest. For example, after maths we may do Nature Study. After History reading we may do Composer Study. Breaking up the day into compartments can help the day travel much more smoothly. Subjects such as Poetry, reading aloud Classic Literature, Nature Study, Picture Study and Composer Study can help break up the monotony. By blending these two ways of learning I am hoping to give my children a well rounded education while also keeping to graded work.

**Subjects**

## **The Development for Literacy Skills**

**B** is doing 'Intermediate Language Lessons' by Emma Serl.

This is a resource I have found from <http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/>.

This is suitable for grades 4-6. At the moment B is doing part 2 which is suitable for grade 5. This includes poetry and prose, spelling and penmanship, letter writing, grammar, vocabulary exercises, making outlines, composition, reproduction and original work.

Next year she will begin 'Analytical Grammar.'

<http://www.analyticalgrammar.com/>

B also uses *Successful English 4* workbook from Home Schooling Supplies. She completes 2 pages a day. This book covers nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns, prepositions, participles, subject & predicate, dictionary skills, comprehension, writing stories & letters, poetry, reading maps and word knowledge.

***For Spelling we use two methods.***

***1. Dictation.***

We use the book *Spelling Wisdom* purchased from

<http://www.simplycharlottesmason.com/>

Dictation works well for us and B really likes it. B does 4 or 5 lessons twice a week.

***For Handwriting we do Copy Work.***

B has completed the copy work book

*Down under Copy work ; Advanced Cursive Book No 3*. Each lesson provided classic fiction, poetry, songs, biographies, nature study and explorers' journals to copy. B has also completed a Proverbs copy work book. Now B has started Copy Work from Classic Literature by Education Reformation -

<http://educationreformation.net/http%3A//educationreformation.net/content/copywork-classic-literature-ebook>

***2.*** B also completes a spelling unit every week from from the workbook *Successful Spelling 4*. Each unit has 15 words that she writes out three times a day. The unit also includes 7 exercises related to the spelling words. E.g., definitions, writing sentences and learning about synonyms, adverbs, nouns ect. At the end of the week she is tested on the words.

**J** is doing 'Primary Language Lessons' By Emma Serl purchased from

<http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/>

It involves copy work, dictation and narration. Spelling, grammar and punctuation is taught in context with usage. Drills on correct forms of speech and words are given. There are 160 lessons in the book. Lessons of 20 minutes, 2 or 3 days a week for 30 weeks will finish the book in two years...faster if he wishes.

After this is completed he will begin 'Intermediate Language Lessons'.

J also works through the book Successful English 2. Joshua completes 2 pages a day.. This book includes nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, synonyms, antonyms, plurals, punctuation, sentences, paragraphs, poetry and comprehension.

### **For Spelling J uses two methods.**

1. Dictation Down under. He completes one exercise a week( sometimes longer) from the book. It is aimed at ages 9-14. One lesson a week will complete a year's work. Each lesson has classic fiction, poetry, songs, biographies, nature study and explorers' journals to learn from.

Joshua works through the workbook Successful Spelling 2. Each week he works on one unit, consisting of 15-20 words. He writes out each word three times a day.

Each unit also includes 7 activities related to the spelling words.

At the end of the week he is tested on his words.

For *handwriting* J completes copy work. He has completed

'Down under copy work, Printing Book One. Each lesson provided classic fiction, poetry, songs, biographies, nature study and explorers' journals to copy.

Book Two was too much of a jump into cursive, so J is working through

McGuffey's Eclectic Primer DN1-A. This is an introduction to cursive writing.

### **Development of Numeracy Skills**

For our Math we work with

Easy Learn Maths 2B for J

Easy Learn Maths 4A for B from Home Schooling Supplies Australia.

This has been going quite well. We do 4 pages per day. There is a revision test at the end of each book before going on to the next book. We are also looking at incorporating Mathsonline into our program.

Of course our daily activities in cooking and shopping also give good opportunities for maths revision and discussion.

### **Social Interaction.**

All my children have social activities they attend outside of schooling. B and J attend a scout meeting once a week and a gymnastic class once a week. This gives them opportunities to spend time with children who are not home schooled. Every Thursday we take the day off and attend a home school meet up. We have lunch with other families that home school. The children love this time playing and socialising. We also attend church every Saturday and they visit their great grand mother and grandparents once a week.

## **Science.**

We are using two books at the moment.

1. *Primary Science* books by Home Schooling Supplies.

B is beginning her *Primary Science 5* and J is completing is *Primary Science 2 – My Body*. These books have science information according to the subjects, easy to do at home activities/experiments and revisions throughout and at the end of each book.

The children work with these books twice a week

2. *Apologia Science Books*. These are lovely books that come with journals.

We read the book together, discuss what we have learnt and then complete the activities in the journal. At the moment we are reading the *Astronomy* book. The children really enjoy this. There are two lessons in each level. The book takes 28 weeks to complete.

The children work with this book once a week.

[http://www.apologia.com/store/index.php?main\\_page=index&cPath=1](http://www.apologia.com/store/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=1)

## **Geography.**

The children are doing Social Studies through Home Schooling Supplies

B is completing her *Succeeding in Social Studies 4*. This workbook covers the geography of the Australian states, early explores of the world, Prince Henry the Navigator, Vasco de Gama, the cattle industry, the sheep industry, Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, the wheat industry, Leif Ericson, Bartholomew Diaz and Magellan.

J is completing *Succeeding in Social Studies 2*. This book covers the environment, water. growing up, weather and seasons, sun, home, state flags and emblems, food and clothes.

The children work with these books twice a week.

Even though these books cover a wide range of topics I am adding another geography resource. Home Schooling Down Under have a lovely unit study called *The Australian Book Traveller*. We basically read our way around the nation, jotting our journey on a lovely map from Map Jottings. There are 11 core books aimed at ages 5-9 yrs. old. There are also 10 extension books that are aimed at ages 9-10. The main reference resource is 'Our Sunburnt Country' which we use for B's history as well.

We are beginning this in late August.

[http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/Unit\\_study\\_homeschool\\_resources/australian\\_book\\_traveller.html](http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/Unit_study_homeschool_resources/australian_book_traveller.html)

### **History reading and note booking.**

I have no workbooks for history at this time. Even though the Social Studies books look into history, I found some wonderful History resources that I couldn't walk past. I also found out about the wonderful world of Note booking. Both History and Note booking go together very well.

B is reading *Our Sunburnt Country* by Arthur Baillie. It is wonderfully written and easy to understand with lovely pictures. While reading this we complete pages in the *Australian History Notebook* from Home Schooling Down Under. The notebook and book go together. It's a wonderful way of providing written narration and revision on our reading.

J is reading *The story of the World; History for the classical child Volume 1: Ancient times. From the earliest Nomads to the Last Roman Emperor.* We make up our own note booking pages. After each reading J writes down what he has learnt and draws pictures or cuts out pictures to go with the writing.

We also read **living books**...stories written at the time of history we are reading. At the moment I am reading an out loud book to the children titled *The Diary of Jimmy Porter*. We discuss what we have read. We read this book once or twice a week.

We do History once a week.

**Composer study, Poetry study, Nature Study and Picture study.** These subjects are done once a week and done to break up the disciplinary subjects and provide activity, fun and movement.

**Composer study.** We study a composer every 6 weeks. We read about the composer and listen to a different piece of music each week.

**Poetry study.** We read about a poet and we read their poems for 6 weeks. Each week we read a different poem, draw a picture about it and discuss it.

**Picture Study.** Picture study is FUN! We focus on one artist every 6 weeks. We focus on one picture a week. It is placed up on the white board and we talk about it, look at it and then turn it over and try and remember the details. The children may even want to try and replicate the style of the painting.

We will also be implementing;

**Nature Study.** This teaches the children on so many levels. They learn to focus, they learn to look at detail and they learn about observation. Their artistic flare is inspired in their sketching..and they also learn how lovely it is to go outside amongst the trees and listen to the wind and the birds.

I will be using *The Wonderland of Nature* by Nuri Mass. This book will help us make our way about the garden. We also have a nature journal to record all our adventures.

[http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/science\\_nature\\_homeschool\\_resources/the\\_wonderland\\_of\\_nature.html](http://www.homeschoolingdownunder.com/science_nature_homeschool_resources/the_wonderland_of_nature.html)

**Typing.** B will begin a typing software program within the next few months.

**Foreign Language.** We will begin learning either 'Spanish' or 'German' within the next few months.

## **Methods for Evaluating Work**

Math involves revision sheets (tests)

Science involves a journal and activities and revision.

History involves note booking (a wonderful learning and recording tool ).

At this point there are no tests or revision for Language Lessons, but when 'Analytical Grammar' begins there are revision sheets (tests sheets) with the program.

The Successful Spelling and English books have tests and revision throughout.

I date and keep all school work.

I take photos and videos to keep a record of how our system flows.