

What a Child Should Know at Twelve

from the appendix at the back of School Education, Volume 3, Charlotte Mason

- (a) To grasp the sense of a passage of some length at a single reading:
and to narrate the substance of what they have read or heard.
- (b) To spell, and express themselves in writing with ease and fair correctness.
- (c) To give an orderly and detailed account of any subject they have studied.
- (d) To describe in writing what they have seen, or heard from the newspapers.
- (e) They should have a familiar acquaintance with the common objects of the country,
with power to reproduce some of these in brushwork.
- (f) Should have skill in various handicrafts, as cardboard Sloyd, basket-making,
clay-modelling, etc.
- (g) In Arithmetic, they should have some knowledge of vulgar and decimal fractions,
percentage, household accounts, etc.
- (h) Should have a knowledge of Elementary Algebra, and should have done practical exercises
in Geometry.
- (i) Of Elementary Latin Grammar; should read fables and easy tales, and, say, one or two
books of 'Caesar.'
- (j) They should have some power of understanding spoken French, and be able to speak a little;
and to read an easy French book without a dictionary.
- (k) In German, much the same as in French, but less progress.
- (l) In History, they will have gone through a rather detailed study of English, French, and
Classical (Plutarch) History.
- (m) In Geography they will have studied in detail the map of the world, and have been at one
time able to fill in the landscape, industries, etc., from their studies, of each division of the map.
- (n) They will have learned the elements of Physical Geography, Botany, Human Physiology,
and Natural History, and will have read interesting books on some of these subjects.
- (o) They should have some knowledge of English Grammar.
- (p) They should have a considerable knowledge of Scripture History and the Bible text.
- (q) They should have learned a good deal of Scripture and of Poetry, and should have read
some Literature.
- (r) They should have learned to sing on the Tonic Sol-fa method, and should know a number
of English, French, and German Songs.
- (s) They should have learned Swedish Drill and various drills and calisthenic exercises.
- (t) In Drawing they should be able to represent common objects of the house and field with
brush or charcoal; should be able to give rudimentary expression to ideas; and should be
acquainted with the works of some artists through reproductions.
- (u) In Music their knowledge of theory and their ear-training should keep pace with their
powers of execution.

What a Child Should Know at Six

1. To recite, beautifully, 6 easy poems and hymns
2. to recite, perfectly and beautifully, a parable and a psalm
3. to add and subtract numbers up to 10, with dominoes or counters
4. to read--what and how much, will depend on what we are told of the child
5. to copy in print-hand from a book
6. to know the points of the compass with relation to their own home, where the sun rises and sets, and the way the wind blows
7. to describe the boundaries of their own home
8. to describe any lake, river, pond, island etc. within easy reach
9. to tell quite accurately (however shortly) 3 stories from Bible history, 3 from early English, and 3 from early Roman history (or early American)
10. to be able to describe 3 walks and 3 views
11. to mount in a scrap book a dozen common wildflowers, with leaves (one every week); to name these, describe them in their own words, and say where they found them.
12. to do the same with leaves and flowers of 6 forest trees
13. to know 6 birds by song, colour and shape
14. to send in certain Kindergarten or other handiwork, as directed
15. to tell three stories about their own "pets"--rabbit, dog or cat.
16. to name 20 common objects in French, and say a dozen little sentences
17. to sing one hymn, one French song, and one English song
18. to keep a caterpillar and tell the life-story of a butterfly from his own observations.