

Vision for a Day at home

Charlotte Mason wrote that of all things, the “**work which is of most importance to society is the bringing-up and instruction of the children** – in the school, certainly, but far more in the home, because it is more than anything else the home influences brought to bear upon the child that determine the character and career of the future man or woman. It is a great thing to be a parent: **it is upon the mothers [and fathers] of the present that the future of the world depends.**”

CS Lewis stated “Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.”

So before you start - *be encouraged!* What you are doing is a great thing, and this time of schooling your child at home need not be difficult.

Ambleside schools all over the world are encouraging parents to be guided in their home-education by these principles *:

KEEP IT SIMPLE Often, less is more. A few things done carefully and well often foster more growth than a full schedule of tasks done with compliant tedium.

KEEP IT LIVING Working with *living* books and materials that are idea rich, noble in message and beautifully crafted does much to feed mind and soul.

KEEP IT JOYFUL We are creatures made to delight, delight in God’s creation and God Himself, delight in family and friends, delight in good books and good things, delight in good work and good play. Of course, every person’s life has its share of distressing events, but life is meant to be a series of delights punctuated by adversity, not a series of adversities punctuated by the occasional delight. Work hard to develop and preserve an atmosphere of delight as you work with your children at home.

BE UNAFRAID Our children will be watching us, taking their emotional cues from us. When we face adversity with peaceful confidence, they learn to face adversity with peaceful confidence. When we fret, they learn to fret. But how shall we avoid our own fretting? Let us remember that we may not be in control, but God most certainly is. Let us keep our hearts stayed on Him and meditate upon the word of God.

* Developed from words and thoughts by Bill St Cyr, of Ambleside Schools International.

