

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Level 1: Ages 2-4



*Nurture your child's natural eagerness to
learn with a gentle, organic education.*

Created by:
Erin Elizabeth Cox

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Level 1
Ages 2-4

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Loved without limits by my exceptional husband, Danny.
Encouraged and assisted by my precious girls, Isabella and Kali.
Created for my sweet boys, Daxton and Kolton.

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Welcome Mama!

I'm so happy you've found *The Gentle + Classical Preschool*. As women, our highest charge is to know Christ and to make him known. Our home is our mission field, and our family is our ministry. Whether you have one child or a baker's dozen, we are called to give them specific, intentional instruction and training when we rise up, when we walk by the way, and when we lie down. Basically- ALL THE TIME. And that high calling can be a little overwhelming because it's most assuredly not our only calling. We are also wives, friends, daughters, members of our church and community and so much more. We wear many hats, so the idea of also educating our children can be... well, overwhelming.

First, remember as you walk through this curriculum and your days, that first things first: Jesus. Everything else such as counting, ABC's, how trees grow, how to brush teeth, how to use the potty, saying excuse me after a burp... none of it matters a lick without Jesus. We are called to give the utmost for his highest, and in order to do that, we have to bring him into every little thing.

Second, this curriculum is meant as a help-meet, not a burden. If it ever becomes a burden, it needs to be set aside. Take every suggestion, schedule, and idea with a grain of salt. Educating our children with intention is good and right. But the acquisition of knowledge is not above soul-making and heart-reaching. That includes yours. If it's too much, never hesitate to set it aside and wait for a slower season. God knows our every need and desire and has created ALL seasons of our lives for a purpose (His Glory). Let him lead you as you utilize this material.

Lastly, as you grow in educating your children, I encourage you to grow in your education as well. The redemption of our education is one of the richest, most delicious aspects of homeschooling. Whether you're doing preschool at home and plan to send your children to public or private school later, or whether you're a long-haul homeschooler- make sure to take time to feed YOUR soul and mind. First and foremost, feed your soul daily with God's Word. Next, feed your heart and mind. A few of my favorites are Teaching from Rest by Sarah MacKenzie and The Mission of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson (but really, anything by Sally Clarkson)!

Friend, as you walk through these long, often challenging and messy days with your sweet babies, I encourage you to embrace it. Jesus doesn't expect or request perfection, except in our love for him. There's no checklist in the Bible on tidiness, gluten free dinners, and your child being able to count to 50 by age 3. *We are urged to seek HIM above all else.* All of these other things are good, but I encourage you toward the freedom in Christ to be able to do these good things as you are able, and never hold them more dearly in your heart than you do your Savior.

Your Sister in Christ, Erin

What is a gentle, classical preschool anyway?

As a homeschool mom of 6 years, I've educated my children from preschool up to 8th grade. I've utilized a classical education, to some degree, during that entire time. I have been blessed to see the fruits of laying early groundwork in the classical tradition in my daughters. I can see that every song sung, every chant recited, every book read, and every project constructed laid a rich groundwork in them for the higher-level thinking of the dialectic and rhetoric stages.

My first recommendation, if you're new to educating at home, is to read "the classical homeschooler's bible"- also called The Well-Trained Mind by Jessie Wise & Susan Wise Bauer. It will explain the concepts behind the classical education paradigm that I can't begin to touch here. However, because I'm not strictly a classical educator, I also encourage you to read the original work (or a paraphrase) of Charlotte Mason, most specifically Volume 1 that focuses on children under the age of 6. If you are familiar with these already, you'll see that they are a strong basis for The Gentle + Classical Preschool (TGCP for future reference).

Here's the philosophy behind *The Gentle + Classical Preschool* in a nutshell:

To educate and train our children up using gentle, time-proven methods that lead them into a relationship with Christ, a relationship with God's creation, and a loving relationship with education.

Over time, there has been some distortion of what a classical education is in the grammar stage, with an often overzealous focus on memorization. Memorization is an excellent tool. I've seen those early seeds planted be put to excellent use in the older years myself, and our memorization here is just for that purpose- placing pegs of terminology into little minds that will continue to have new and exciting information hung upon them for years to come as they encounter that topic in reading, media, and life around them.

But memorization in itself is not the end purpose. It's ONE tool of many in a gentle, classical education. Children under the age of 10(ish) have sponge-like memories- nicknamed "poll parrots" by Dorothy Sayer in her excellent essay on classical education. Have you ever noticed how your 1-year-old to 4-year-old literally repeats everything you say? How they remember insane things you would have never anticipated them to recall? They have amazing minds that are RIPE for planting seeds of knowledge, that *over time*, will develop into understanding and ultimately application. (These 3 stages of development are referred to as the grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric stages in classical education.)

What tools do we use in order to conduct a gentle, classical preschool in our homes?

Pretend play
Nature study
Hands-on interaction
Song and dance

Excellent living books
Narration
Memorization

The deepest intention behind TGCP is that you would incorporate it into your day, as a tool, to intentionally focus your efforts with your child. It's never intended to be a structured, formal, complicated, program. It's one tool of many in your Mama-toolbelt that you can pull out to give you direction, focus, and encouragement in your day.

What's inside?

What you'll find in this toolbox is a flexible schedule created for a busy family. You will find 26 units of memory work that can be started at any time of year. It is not seasonal or holiday specific. This information was designed with 2 to 3 year olds in mind, but is absolutely appropriate for children up to 4 or 5 based on their language skills. You will find the following types of memory work that you have full freedom to use as much of or as little of as you would like:

Scripture
Character
Catechism
Social Studies
Science

Math
Basic Skills
Language Arts
Health + Safety
Gross + Fine Motor Skills

Treat this memory work as a menu that you can choose from. Each unit is designed for two weeks of use, but you could easily stretch it over a month and use this Level 1 for two full years. If your child is absorbing everything quickly, feel free to do one unit per week.

You will also find a well-curated book list of "107 Books to Read Before Age 7" in the Resource Library available at www.LifeAbundantlyblog.com. Most of these are very popular, while some are hidden treasures. You can then choose the books to read from what you and your library have available.

Tips + Tricks

- o When it comes to reading to a toddler, they can be as wiggly as it comes. This is an opportunity for training in attentiveness, but also an opportunity for a lot of grace!
- o Always make sure to spend as much time outside as possible. Nothing is more important to a young child's intelligence and development than running, climbing, skipping, getting dirty, falling down, catching bugs, and breathing fresh air. Outside time is an opportunity for by-the-way review of memory statements from the program, but is most importantly a time for your child to play and explore with as little interruption and chatter from mom as possible (I know how we are!). Let their minds and hands do the work of exploring and absorbing every little thing around them. This is their education.
- o Open-ended, free play is not a privilege. It's a requirement for proper development. It's more important than any information at this age and should take top priority.
- o When reading aloud to your child, watch for cues for readiness. Is she tired and wanting to sit in your lap anyway? Has she had plenty of free play already? In our home, we practice sitting still for extremely short board books at age 2. For longer books (like many on the list), I allow my littles to roam freely in the room where I am reading as long as they aren't being loud and interrupting. And if they're too fidgety and rambunctious, I've obviously not chosen a great time to read! I then set the book aside and allow them to play freely, choosing a later time to read.
- o Develop a rhythm. I share suggestions for you in a few pages, but it's important to build this rhythm around your child's biological clock and needs. They tend to get tired, hungry, and grumpy at the same time every day, right? Use those signals to develop a rhythm. Children love to know what's coming next. It gives them something to look forward to as well as security. However the schedule has to allow for lots of delays and unintended disasters, otherwise it's creating rigidity and stress instead of freedom.
- o And again, just because it's that important, don't ever feel tied down or pressured by this curriculum or anything said in it! Use it as it suits you. There's freedom in structure! You don't have to think about what's next. You just do that next thing, and because you're not constantly making decisions, you can move forward with mental clarity and joy. TGCP was created to give you a structure to freely operate inside of- not to be a prison.

If you're reading this, know that I have prayed over you, your child, and your preschool. I pray that you enjoy seeing your child grow in stature, wisdom, understanding, and favor, in the name of Jesus!

A Note About Narration

Narration is an excellent skill that can never be begun too early. Narration is simply the TELLING of something. Anytime your child listens to a book, watches a show, has a grand adventure, or discovers something new and comes to tell you all about it- they've just narrated! Children are natural "tellers," but it *can* come more naturally to some than others.

As your children grow, narration itself can be their education. We never truly know a thing until we can tell someone else about it. Once we have understood a story, event, or information deeply enough that we can then use our own words to tell someone else all about it, we have taken ownership of that knowledge, and it becomes deeply embedded in us. Notice this for yourself in your own life. If you read a book and keep it to yourself, do you remember it and understand it as well as you would have had you discussed it with a friend or book club?

With a long-term view in mind on the importance of narration, go ahead and implement narration from the very beginning of your child's education.

What does that look like for a toddler (with a limited vocabulary!)? It can often look like very simple, brief questions from you about what you've just read and one-word answers from your toddler.

Here's an example:

If we are reading Baby Bear, Baby Bear, What do you see?, I might ask after each page- "What color was that animal?" or "What animal is that?" By answering, he's simply telling back what I've just read to him.

Narration Mistakes to Avoid

- o Asking for a narration of every single page. Read a little and ask- maybe every 2-3 pages. An older child can listen to a short book and narrate it back entirely at once, with practice.
- o Being boring! Make sure to enjoy the book as well. Use fun voices and engaging actions to help keep your child's attention and engage their imagination. We ALL prefer to listen to a well-read book.
- o Not reading the book fully at least once before you ask for any narration at all.
- o Forcing narration. If they decline to answer questions, let it go (chase your battles!).

o Being disappointed if the answer is wrong. Simply correct it in a really fun way...
“Great try! But, that’s not a pink pig. It’s a blue horse!” (He was probably testing you or his knowledge in the first place).

o Expecting a child who has never narrated to be great at it the first time. Instead, expect to model the behavior multiple times first. That might look like this:

Mom: “What kind of animal just talked?”

Child: Blank stare or shrug

Mom: “Did a horse just talk on this page? Did the horse say ‘I see a white dog.’?”

Child: Probably a no or yes or head shake or even a shrug (gently push for verbal answers, not a head nod or sound).

Mom: “YES! That horse DID say ‘I see a white dog!’ Now you say: “YES!”

Child: “YES!”

Tip: When modeling narration to your child (which you will have to do frequently), make sure that you speak in complete sentences and also work on requiring your child to answer in complete sentences. Here’s an example:

Mom: “What color is that horse?”

Child: “Blue”

Mom: “Say, ‘The horse is blue.’”

Child: “The horse is blue.”

By doing this, you’re planting very early seeds for writing and speaking in complete sentences later on. A child who speaks in complete sentences tends to also write in correct, complete sentences as well!

This is something that may come naturally to you (and your child), or it may not. There are many resources available Online regarding narration. I encourage you to stick with it and use it consistently, just in teeny-tiny bites. As your child grows, you will reap an incredible harvest from sowing this skill early in life.

A Note About Learning to Read

With a toddler, learning letter names is simply the *introduction* to literacy. You're helping them understand, on a very basic level, that these funny little symbols have important meaning and that they all mean something *different*. With a 2-3 year old child, you want to keep this *extremely light*. If, at the end of the year, your 2 or 3 year old knows 5-10 letters, that's phenomenal! If they can't remember a single one, *that's still completely normal for this age*. For the enjoyment of everyone, it's extremely important to keep expectations very low- and you'll likely be delightfully surprised!

Research shows that a child who is 11 and learned to read at 5 has no advantage over an 11 year old who learned to read at 7 or 8. Literacy is extremely important, but for a toddler, relational skills, life skills, and lots and lots of open-ended PLAY (especially out of doors) are the *MOST* important factors for success, academically and beyond! (See the Appendix for book recommendations and links for research.)

Each week, feel free to do as much or as little as you would like with letter recognition. Like all parts of *The Gentle + Classical Preschool*, take or leave portions as it suits your plans and preferences.. If you've decided that spending time on learning the ABC's isn't a priority until your child is older- no problem at all! If you want to gently present the letter to your child each week, here are some ideas for helping your child develop a concrete relationship with his alphabet:

- Use physical wooden or plastic letters of varying sizes all throughout your child's environment. (I love the manipulatives from Handwriting Without Tears.)
- Use sand, gallon bags filled with goo (or paint or gel), or a salt tray to help your toddler trace the letters in the material and easily erase it and do it again.
- Use play-dough or other modeling clay to create the letters.
- Stamp the letters.
- Write the letters with glitter glue and have you child trace them with her finger each day.
- Use Yoga cards to help your child physically make themselves into the letter shapes (see appendix).
- Rainbow letters are a great exercise in practicing colors, fine motor skills, and muscle memory for letter recognition. You'll have to guide her little hand until she's able to stay inside the lines (or gets the gist of it). See the Appendix for details about these.
- Use games to help review letters. Put the printable letters around the room and have your child toss bean bags at the correct letter, hop to the letter, stand on the letter on one foot, etc. You can draw a hopscotch game and have them say each letter as they land on it (probably for an older 3 year old).
- Follow me on Pinterest at www.Pinterest.com/lifeabundantlyblog

Your Daily Rhythm

So how can you go about structuring your day in a way that brings opportunities to incorporate this memory work and these books into it in an organic, gentle way? I'm glad you asked!

Because I am a “visual” person, I love to see examples of how this would play out in someone else’s day to be inspired. Here’s a very typical day for us- focusing on my two toddlers since my older children work predominantly independently on their schoolwork (and I won’t use times since we have a rhythm for my little ones and not a time-bound schedule).

First up is the very detailed schedule:

- o Wake-Up. Milk cups with morning cartoons.

- o Breakfast in high chairs. We count cereal bits or something based on our math focus for the month *if I'm awake enough*. We also introduce or practice our current catechism. If there’s a song for this, it’s playing during breakfast. After breakfast, we head to the bathroom to brush teeth, hands, and hair and wash faces. I use this time to focus on one of the Health + Safety statements.

- o Free play (usually about an hour while I read and drink coffee).

- o I will turn on some either classical music to play or a playlist of our memory work for the month as they continue to play.

- o At some point, I head into the playroom and sit while they continue playing. I'll ask a few questions and engage them in naming animals, asking questions about different toys, counting with them, pointing out the colors of things, asking what the animals eat- whatever comes to mind. If weather permits, we head outside as soon as the sun is out instead of playing in the playroom. They play for as long and as freely as they want.

- o Snack time (and usually a nap for my youngest)

- o I now have one-on-one time with my older toddler. This is when I say it’s “school time,” and we practice our social studies memory work with chanting, sing our nursery rhymes for language arts, find colors and shapes in the house, play with a puzzle, color, play with play-dough (all the stuff little brother will eat), and do fine motor skill activities. I pick and choose, doing what seems good each day, eventually doing them all over the course of a week. We spend an hour typically

on this “school time,” but I ensure it looks nothing like “school.” As we approach lunch, he has a natural lull.

o I take advantage of his calmness, and he curls up in my lap to read. Sometimes he stays the whole time; sometimes he doesn't. I work on attentiveness while also having appropriate expectations. Once I'm done reading (or possibly as I read), I ask him questions to prompt his recall and ability to articulate what he's heard. Check out the section “A Note About Narration” about this.

o It's now lunchtime. My youngest will be waking. Both boys eat lunch. Now my older toddler goes down for a nap or quiet time. As I lay him down, we pray and recite scripture.

o My baby now freely plays, and we sing some songs, play games like patty-cake, etc. I let him do as much by himself as he will while I do some tidying up.

o Snack time is based on my older toddler's wake time and my baby's second nap.

o After my older toddler's nap/quiet time, we try to head back outside (my youngest will nap again early afternoon). Again, this is an opportunity to go back over science memory statements as we explore or possibly an opportunity will arise to review a safety memory statement. We also might run errands. If we go anywhere, we make sure to turn on the “Timeline Song,” “The Presidents Song,” or the “States and Capitals” song. (If we don't go anywhere, I tend to allow these to play on a loop during free play inside- see music information in the Appendix).

o At bedtime, health statements can be reviewed while we brush teeth, then we say prayers and scripture again, and review our catechism. Then it's night-night time. And I'm worn out!

***Character statements/songs are repeated throughout the day as discipline dictates them. We choose patience first because that can be a huge challenge for toddlers. Then we move to attentiveness. You can't obey if you cannot attentively listen to instructions and discipline. Lastly in Level 1, we focus on obedience. Other virtues like kindness, gentleness, and self-control will be covered in Level 2. But do what works for you.

So, here's a summarized view of our rhythm:

- Gentle Waking
- Breakfast
- Free play with music or preferably outside play

- Snack
- Intentional lesson time + Story
- Lunch
- Nap or Quiet time
- Snack
- Free play (preferably outside) or errands
- Supper & Bedtime

In summary, here's the "big picture" of how to incorporate the memory work in a gentle, organic way:

The character chants can be used all throughout the day. The scripture memory work can be added into your bedtime and nap time routine. The science memory work can be incorporated into your outside time. The math memory work can be incorporated to count toys in the playroom during clean-up time. The social studies memory work can be reviewed just any old time. Longer songs can be listened to in the car on errands or played while free play is happening.

Now it's YOUR turn! Using the above rhythm for inspiration, brainstorm what would work for your family. Walk through your day mentally, taking notes of ways to work these things in. When you have a good idea of what will work best, use the "Our Daily Rhythm" sheet to record your plan (found in the Appendix along with a SAMPLE version). You can be as detailed or general as you would like. It might help to make notations about which type of memory statement to focus on during different activities. For example, outside time might always equals science and so on.

As you do this and begin to walk it out, remind yourself again and again: Jesus first. Grace always. This season of little ones is **ABOUNDING** in grace! Don't allow anxiety or fear over early education to steal your joy in this sweet, precious (and short!) season.

Now it's time to get started!

1. Grab a trusted book list and mark all books you either currently have or are readily available at your local library. This is a great starting point. If you don't currently have a book list that you trust and love, head to LifeAbundantlyBlog.com and grab the "107 Books to Read Before Age 7" list that's available as a free download.
2. On the Unit 1 overview page (and in each subsequent unit), you will find an area to notate "Books This Unit". Go ahead and write down 2-4 books to use that are easy and accessible. Your decision might also be based upon any upcoming seasonal changes or holidays. You can also choose books around the "letter of the unit," social studies topic, or science statement. This can help bring context. You might indicate two "Alternate Titles" as backup as well.
3. I recommend you choose one book per week (2 per unit). Read this book one time each day. This is called "rowing" a book, based off of the fabulous curriculum "Five in a Row." Note: If your child hates the book after the first day, choose something different. If they want you to read it 4 times a day, feel free to do so!
4. In the appendix, you will also find a blank form called "The Gentle + Classical Preschool Weekly Planner." You will need 2 of these for each unit (if you are doing one unit per month, then copy 4 for each unit). Indicate the unit number and week number on each of these. For example, Unit 1, Week 1 then Unit 1, Week 2, etc. (You can also download these at LifeAbundantlyBlog.com from the Resource Library.)
5. This weekly planner serves as a great planning device for your whole week. You can make notes about special events, field trips, appointments, birthdays, which book you're reading, alterations to your normal rhythm, etc. It's also designed to record a scripture for Mom to work on memorizing as well, alongside space to plan any projects (which I'm about to get to).
6. If you are a super-crafty Mama and GENUINELY LOVE doing projects with your littles with paper, paint, etc then it can be a fun idea to plan 1-2 projects a week around some content in the book. Make crafts or do projects related to a character, event, or setting in the book. *But never, ever make this into a stress point for you.* Children in this age group are completely fine to not do projects like this. Do what works for you. They will likely reflect your joy (or irritation) in these projects. *(I want to reiterate how much I mean this! Please don't overwhelm yourself with Pinterest-like expectations for your little ones. Operate out of your strengths and passions.)*
7. After you have made your book choices for the unit (and any notes about materials

for projects if you so choose), then you need to make choices about which memory work items you will utilize. You can use one or all. I like to highlight the ones we will use for the unit to help me maintain focus.

8. Much of the language arts, catechism, and math have songs that work well with them. There is a music list included in the Appendix. I find it best to compile these into a playlist that I can play from any device whenever we have time to practice our memory statements (or dance!).

9. That's it! Using the daily rhythm you crafted for your family, insert these songs, chants and small bits of information into the flow of your day wherever you can. As you move through the units, make sure to review older information to keep it fresh.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

-Deuteronomy 6:4-9

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 1 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: For all of Level 1, there is an excellent album by Song for Saplings that works wonderfully. See song information in the Appendix.

Social Studies: The days of the week can often be challenging for kids to remember. There are 7, which is a lot, and they are an “abstract” term. Definitely don’t stress if your little one can’t keep them in order, pronounce the names, or remember them all. This is just an introduction. There’s plenty of time! Also begin regularly listening to the Timeline Song in the car (see Appendix).

Math: If there is any subject in TGCP that you may have to alter significantly- this will be it. Math is one of those subjects where what’s “normal” can look wildly varied. Honestly, there is no normal. Your child may LOVE to count, instantly grasp numeracy, and may be way ahead of the game already. Or your child may not care at all, may not be able to remember what any of the number names are, or may learn them and quickly forget them. ALL of this is normal. If your child is already counting to 50, scan the remainder of the program and see what skills your child hasn’t yet attained and start there. If they don’t move right through the program, that’s ok too! The hallmark for Kindergarten readiness is counting to 20. So if you have a 2 year old that can’t count to 20, that’s completely OK! They will actually still work on this IN Kindergarten! So scan ahead, figure out where your child needs to start, and start there. Easy Peasy!

I highly recommend this book to you: [Preschool Math at Home](#) by Kate Snow

Language Arts: If you’re already working on the ABC song and have a tune, feel free to stick with what you know. The Music List available in the Appendix has a version that I chose for its slow cadence- especially through L, M, N, O, P.

Health + Safety: This week, while your child may know her first name, let’s practice learning her first, middle, and last name all together. If that seems like too much, you might just work on first and last. If you have a child who is 3+, you can definitely introduce the concept of spelling her first name instead of memorizing her full name (or do both). I love the progressive style of memorizing how to spell names, and I’ve included a worksheet in the Appendix for this purpose.

Science: This week your sweet baby gets to learn the fact: “Tadpoles turn into frogs.” This is a wonderful time to visit a pond or lake, catch some tadpoles, and watch them grow (Google for info about the care and keeping of them), then release them later. There are a lot of amazing books about this life cycle as well.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 1

<p>Scripture</p> <p>I am the good shepherd. John 10:11</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Who made you? God</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Tadpoles turn into frogs.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Count to 5.</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Days of the week.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>My name is _____.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Lacing</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>ABC Song</p>

	Own	Library	Order
Books This Unit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Alternate Titles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
_____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Letter of the Unit

A

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 2 Teacher Notes

Character: Try using the tune to “Are You Sleeping?”- “I am patient. I am patient. Yes, I am. Yes, I am. I put off for later, I put off for later, what I want now, what I want now.” Memorize these for yourself and bring them into use all throughout your day as needed. You are planting seeds that will cultivate incredible fruit of righteousness!

Social Studies: The months of the year can also be challenging for kids to remember. There are 12, which is a lot. Definitely don't stress if your little one can't keep them in order, pronounce the names, or remember them all. This is just an introduction. There's plenty of time! (This is something you will review for YEARS.)

Math: One-to-one correspondence is simply the notion that each time we count, we are counting ONE thing, and that each subsequent number represents an additional thing. We simply keep practicing counting THINGS. While we may count without representative objects for our children to learn the rhythm and repetition in counting, we also need to frequently count objects. Count like items but also unlike items. Count toys, crayons, cans of soup, cars in the parking lot, breaths (when calming down). Count, touch the thing, and keep counting :)

Language Arts: For the nursery rhymes we introduce in the language arts portion, just sing them. It's as simple as that. Feel free to create fun dances, read books instead of singing- whatever you want. Keep it as simple or make it as involved as you please!

Health + Safety: As stated in the long version of our schedule, these skills are very easy to work into the day. It helps empower your child to allow them to do these things themselves, after you thoroughly model them. It's also empowering for them to verbalize what THEY can do. So learning to say “I can wash my face” is just as important as the task of doing it. They are narrating their activity, which is so important!

Science: Fish swim in the ocean! You can use this sentence and a great picture book to bring some context and leave it at that, or take this opportunity for further exploration via crafts, sensory bins, or a field trip to the ocean! My favorite topic for our picture book focus tends to be our science statement, but do whatever creates enthusiasm for you.

Motor Skill: Jumping jacks- pretty straight forward, but this can be a challenging skill, depending upon your child's age and gross motor skills. Let them just do their best. Doing skills like this that are challenging creates all kinds of new synaptic connections across their little brains- making all future learning and physical activities that much easier.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 2

<p>Scripture</p> <p>I am the good shepherd. John 10:11</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I am patient. I put off for later what I want right now.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Fish swim in the ocean.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>1-to-1 Correspondence</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Months of the year.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can wash my face.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Jumping Jacks</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Hickory, Dickory Dock</p>

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Letter of the Unit

B

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 3 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: I won't really address scripture each unit as it's pretty straightforward- but I do encourage this to be one thing you focus on memorizing the most. There's nothing greater than our calling to sow the Word of God into the hearts and minds of even our smallest pupils. Their minds are amazing! Begin this early and be as consistent as possible- when they wake up, when they lie down, when they walk by the way (or eat a snack or need a reminder of God's goodness). Also, we LOVE The Jesus Storybook Bible- both the physical book and the audio book. I'd encourage you to work a page or two of this into your day somehow.

Social Studies: This may be more practice for a young 2 year old than it would be for a 4 year old- so skip it if it isn't necessary, but listing people is such an incredible opportunity for growth in ordering thoughts. It helps create the ability to categorize things. Have your child name all members of your immediate family. If that's easy, add in grand-parents, aunts, cousins, etc.

Math: There is a song (listed in the Appendix) that counts all the way to 50. You can use it in short sections or listen to the whole thing long-term. As with the earlier recommendations, just keep counting as often and as much as possible.

Language Arts: My son absolutely loves this song- "5 Little Monkeys." It gives a great opportunity for some fun, silly gross motor skill practice of jumping (though not on the bed!) and walking like a monkey.

Health + Safety: Same notes associated with "I can wash my face." When you're modeling washing your face, ask them- "What am I doing?" Assist them with the answer if need be: "Yes! I'm washing my face. I can wash my face." This is narration at its most basic but also it's finest!

Science: We love birds! There are so many beautiful and interesting varieties. Birds, in my humble opinion, are one way we can see the magnitude of the creativity of our God's authorship. Use great books, cook some eggs, go visit a farm, hunt for birds' nests nearby... I especially love "An Egg is Quiet" and "The Nest is Noisy" by Dianna Hutts Aston.

Motor Skills: Hammering is LOUD! But it's also insanely important to help your child receive the proprioceptive input needed to learn how to adjust their strength for the task at hand (ie gentleness). Again, this is a part of play that's developmentally necessary. Melissa & Doug make a great pounding bench, but nails in a chunk of wood can work just as well!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 3

<p>Scripture</p> <p>I am always with you. Matthew 28:20</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Who made everything? God</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Birds hatch from eggs.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Count to 10</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>My family is Mommy, Daddy,</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can wash my hands.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Hammering</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>5 Little Monkeys</p>

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Letter of the Unit

C

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 4 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Keep practicing these as notated earlier.

Social Studies: Mommy may be your name, but in an emergency situation, your child may need to tell someone in authority what your ACTUAL name is (first and last). This is a great time to introduce the idea that sometimes we have multiple names that we go by.

Math: We begin a series of units on colors. There are two colors per unit, so I suggest just picking one each week. Here are some general ideas and tips for teaching colors: Introduce the color with a very hands-on activity. Finger painting is a great example. If that's a pain, try putting the paint in a gallon bag and have them use it like that. Then, make a BIG deal about that color all week. Multiple times, throughout the day, point out anything you can find that's that color. For example, point out the blue sky, blue play-dough and crayons, blueberries and talk about how they're all blue. I also like to point to non-blue things (like a green frog) and say, "Is this frog BLUE?" and see how they respond then correct or congratulate. We love Eric Carle books for focusing on colors. Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do you see? and subsequent sequels are all excellent for discussing color. I have a Pinterest board just for Eric Carle projects! A word of caution: Some kids have no issue with color differentiation- some do. With all things, there's always time down the road if it's not "sticking". Keep it fun!

Language Arts: You have the opportunity to do some fine motor skill practice as you sing "Itsy Bitsy Spider." Have them creep their fingers together up the water spout! There are also many fun picture books related to this song.

Health + Safety: Ahhh, teeth brushing. A right of passage for little ones. Most dentists recommend we continue to brush our child's teeth for them until they are 8. So, this one is a little tricky. We prefer to brush thoroughly first, then let them finish up themselves. We also use light-up brushes with a timer in them which is a great signal for finishing this task up. Remind them to say, "I can brush my teeth!" and share their pride in their hard work.

Science: More birds this week, so keep exploring with last week's suggestions. You can also have discussions about flight and the sky, clouds, etc. There's lots of opportunity for exploration in this little statement.

Motor Skills: Skipping is hard! Give them credit for the effort, but encourage them to try. This builds some great cross-brain connections essential to reading skills down the road.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 4

<p>Scripture</p> <p>I am with you always. Matthew 28:20</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I am patient. I put off for later what I want right now.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Birds fly in the sky.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Blue + Yellow</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Mommy's name is _____.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can brush my teeth.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Skipping</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Itsy Bitsy Spider</p>

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Letter of the Unit

D

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 5 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Keep going, friend! Continue on in your songs, chants, and consistent practice. Your faithfulness will be rewarded!

Social Studies: Just like with Mommy's name, it is super helpful to make sure our little ones know Daddy's real name too- first and last.

Math: Keep moving forward with enthusiastically exploring colors. Don't be surprised if they quickly forget a color from a few weeks before. These names can get confusing as more are being introduced. Keep reviewing as you move along, and don't be discouraged. You are planting SEEDS. Sometimes we see fruit soon, and sometimes we don't see fruit for years. God loves to use the education of our little ones to cultivate patience in us.

Language Arts: Phonics is pretty complicated- especially when you're working with a toddler who still doesn't know all of his letter names. This song is simply to introduce the idea that letters have sounds. You may already be doing this as you work on your letter of the unit. If so, great! Regardless, you have this resource to plant "seeds" of letter sounds so they're available down the road. This song is definitely geared toward "exposure only" for this age group.

Health + Safety: This week is the last of the "personal hygiene" memory statements. We are finishing up with the great skill of combing hair! Feel free to give your child as much autonomy in this as you feel is appropriate.

Science: This week, we are working with insects for a few units. I think life cycles are AMAZING- whether it's butterflies, salmon, hermit crabs, or frogs. I believe that these cycles show our toddlers that everything in life is a cycle and something small and ugly can turn into something amazingly beautiful. What an opportunity to discuss God's incredible plans and ingenuity! A GREAT project is to order a butterfly cage and caterpillar from Amazon (not shipped during hot months). Memorizing this statement grows into an incredible experience when they get to witness this transformation themselves (though it will likely be a "look, don't touch" experience for our youngest students who may struggle with gentleness).

Motor Skills: One thing that helps our young students become proficient writers is hand strength. Using scissors and spray bottles builds those little hand muscles. Let your child help with chores by using water and a cloth to dust (see the appendix for a list of ideas for independence in toddlers). There are also many ideas on Pinterest involving spray bottles for toddlers. *Word to the wise: Don't let them play with spray bottles by spraying water into their mouth or face- many liquids in spray bottles aren't safe, and we want them to have good discernment if they encounter an unsafe spray bottle. (<--- Ask me how I know!)*

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 5

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Be kind to one another. Ephesians 4:32</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Why did God make you? His Glory</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Caterpillars turn into butterflies.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Green + Red</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Daddy's name is _____.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can comb my hair.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Spray Bottles</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Phonics Song</p>

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Letter of the Unit

E

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 6 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Patience is an incredible virtue. Even if they don't fully understand it now, they will in time. Keep singing that little jingle!

Social Studies: Now that we know who is in our family and Mom and Dad's real names, it's time to work on some other information. This can also double as safety information as well. If our child we to get lost away from home, it would be helpful for them to be able to articulate where they are from. This week is just the city- we will cover the state next week (if you're a US resident).

Math: More colors! Keep reviewing and trucking along. It also doesn't hurt to keep counting each day as well, so your little one doesn't lose his counting and one-to-one correspondence skills.

Language Arts: This unit can be a ton of fun if you're crafty... because who doesn't love sheep? If nothing else, just sing this each day and have fun crawling around like a sheep. You can even explore awesome concepts like wool, sheep sheering, shepherding, and knitting. The sky is the limit!

Health + Safety: This week, we shift from hygiene over to safety. At 2 you probably aren't going to allow your child to ACTUALLY cross the street alone. However, it's never too early to learn "stop, look, and listen" and discuss how to handle the situation IF they faced it alone. Your 4-year-old may be able to cross the street in your neighborhood under supervision, so this is a great confidence booster to articulate, "I can cross the road safely!".

Science: More creepy-crawlies this week! I'm not a big fan of spiders, but they are fascinating! This is a great little science fact that will be built upon in later studies of biology in school.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 6

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Be kind to one another. Ephesians 4:32</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I am patient. I put off for later what I want right now.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Spiders have 8 legs.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Orange + Purple</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>My town is _____.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can cross the road safely.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Hopping</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Baa, Baa, Black Sheep</p>

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Letter of the Unit

F

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 7 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: For scripture this week, feel free to substitute stopping with ceasing. I chose stopping because it's a slightly more familiar word.

Social Studies: This is a great opportunity to not only help your child begin to learn how to articulate a portion of their address (which also falls under safety), but also about learning about where they are from. Our location is a huge part of our heritage- so explore some important cultural landmarks that share what your state is all about!

Math: And, more colors! Keep reviewing and pointing these out throughout each day. If they aren't sticking, don't worry. There's always more time. Don't forget to keep counting as often as possible, using objects to do so to increase awareness about one-to-one correspondence.

Language Arts: This is such a fun nursery rhyme for learning about directionality. We like the version that says "upstairs, downstairs" instead of "ashes, ashes" so that we can jump UP really high, then fall right back down. We're also learning to skip in a circle around something- opportunities for gross motor skill exercises abound!

Health + Safety: As mentioned above in social studies, learning our address is an important part of personal safety. It's never too early for your child to be able to articulate their full name and state their address as well (to a police officer of course). Your child's ability to retain this may vary wildly based on their age and the length of your address. If the number is lengthy, you might just focus on your street name for now. Do what feels appropriate to you!

Science: Yay! Nothing is sweeter than the study of bees. The books and hands-on crafts are boundless. Bees are so important to our survival that it's never too early to know as much as you can about them. They fly, they pollinate, they create a delicious treat- and there are some good safety lessons about "bugs that bite" to learn here as well.

Motor Skills: Fine motor skill activities can be so fun! We often rush to get crayons and pencils into our little one's hands, but even more important to their ability to write later on is their hand strength and hand-eye coordination. Using great tools like little tongs and tweezers to pick items out of a sensory bin, count beans into a sorter, sort by colors, or pick rocks and bugs up outside creates the dexterity and strength that they need to begin handwriting around age 5-6. Believe it or not, your child will be totally OK if they aren't writing their name by age 4 (though feel free to do that if it's important to you)! Hand strength and handwriting can be accelerated by doing fun exercises like these (without even touching a pencil).

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 7

<p>Scripture Pray without stopping. 1 Thessalonians 5:17</p>	<p>Character + Catechism Where is God? Everywhere</p>
<p>Science Bees make honey.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills White + Black</p>
<p>Social Studies My state is _____.</p>	<p>Health + Safety My address is _____ (street address).</p>
<p>Motor Skills Using Grabbers + Tweezers</p>	<p>Language Arts Ring Around the Rosie</p>

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Letter of the Unit

G

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 8 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Like last unit, feel free to substitute “stopping” with “ceasing”. Continue to sing “I am patient” whenever your little one is struggling. Sometimes this Mama hums it to herself!

Social Studies: Level 1 of TGCP is primarily focused on the world closest to our little ones, including the country that they live in (if you're a US resident. If you aren't, you may choose to substitute short, important historical facts for your own country). I wholeheartedly agree with the teaching philosophy espoused by Beautiful Feet Books and their concentration on closer-to-home history vs following a 4 year cycle in the grammar stage (like a typical classical curriculum does). This is new for me! But I've learned over time that everything they state in their philosophy is absolutely true.

Math: More colors! Keep reviewing, working color naming into your day, and trust the process of consistency. Many 2-3 year olds may have a hard time understanding the concept of color. This isn't unusual or anything to be alarmed about. True color blindness is not very common, and if you really think about it, the idea of how two items are different based upon their hue alone, is kind of hard to understand. It's second-nature to adults, but is definitely a skill of discernment. If your child is struggling, be sure to keep these reviews very simple. Work on two colors at one time only, and use LIKE ITEMS so that the only difference between the two IS the color (colored construction paper, blocks, etc). And once they “have it”, just keep reviewing, reviewing, reviewing.

Language Arts: There are tons of songs online to choose from, of course! It's “Old MacDonald!” And of course, you have the opportunity to discuss farm animals, read books about farm animals, and hopefully visit a local farm!

Health + Safety: This memory item may be challenging. If you can get your phone number into a tune, that would probably help. Make sure, as you practice this information for months to come (and review often throughout the years), that you engage them with the question “What is Mommy's phone number?” so that, if asked by someone in an emergency situation, they know when it's right to respond. Try the tune from “Old MacDonald” or “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

Science: It's DINO week!!! Because there are a variety of old earth/young earth creationists, I thought one point we could all agree on is that dinosaurs are now extinct! Pinterest is filled with fabulous ideas and almost all children love making dinosaur prints in paint (or play-dough), looking at great books of dinosaurs, and watching a few episodes of Dino Dan!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 8

<p>Scripture Pray without stopping. 1 Thessalonians 5:17</p>	<p>Character + Catechism I am patient. I put off for later, what I want right now.</p>
<p>Science Dinosaurs are extinct.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Pink + Brown</p>
<p>Social Studies My country is _____.</p>	<p>Health + Safety My phone number is _____.</p>
<p>Motor Skills Balance on 1 foot.</p>	<p>Language Arts Old MacDonald</p>

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Letter of the Unit

H

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 9 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Because of the amount of memory work, I tend to opt for shortened scripture. Feel free to use a longer version if that's your preference.

Social Studies: Our public servants are so important to the safety and welfare of our community and country. For a couple of weeks, we will learn about a few of them and what they do. Take a field trip to the police department, create fun gifts to keep with you to bless police officers, and read books about them, too.

Math: We continue with counting this week. As previously noted, your child may already be counting to 50, or they may be struggling to count to 5. The beauty of teaching our toddlers at home is that we can recognize that BOTH of those are completely normal. Counting earlier is no great indication of high IQ or future success in academics. Some kids like numbers! Some kids pick up on patterns early on. So keep singing, keep making games of counting, keep counting toys and cheerios and whatever else you think of. They will get it! Promise, Mama!

Language Arts: It's time to exercise our quick reflexes, practice following directions, and review body part knowledge by singing and acting out "Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes!"

Health + Safety: This unit continues the theme of how to react in an emergency. Each family has their own culture and philosophy about safety. Each child has their own natural "fear" level as well. Be wise in choosing to discuss potential emergencies like getting lost, home fires, etc. Whatever you choose to share with them and however you choose to practice for "drills", make sure to review often as little memories can be short!

Science: If the listed animals aren't your personal favorites, feel free to choose differently. We are simply helping them develop the skills of memorization, grouping items based on different attributes, and cultivating in them a love and respect for all of God's creatures.

Motor Skills: Tearing paper? YES! This helps with hand-eye coordination, builds hand strength, makes a fun sound, and helps feed into their understanding of different pressure creating different results. You will probably see them tear things slowly and very quickly. This is all an experiment and a developmentally beneficial one at that! I let my little ones destroy our junk mail routinely!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 9

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Can you see God? No</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Cows, horses, chickens and pigs are farm animals.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Count to 15.</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Police officers protect and serve.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>Emergency Plans (at your comfort level)</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Tearing Paper</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Head, Shoulders, Knees, and Toes</p>

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Letter of the Unit

I

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 10 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: We have a new character trait to study: Attentiveness! Having patience and being able to maintain attention are two foundational elements of obedience. If we can't patiently listen, and we can't keep our eyes and ears focused, then we are incapable of obeying an instruction. Try singing this to the tune of "Baa, Baa Black Sheep" (though you'll likely need to repeat the line "I am attentive" to have it flow smoothly).

Math: This week, we begin introducing shapes! Some of the same tips and cautions mentioned previously for colors and numbers still apply. If your child knows their shapes already, this is a great time to keep focusing on another area they need some review in or bring the concept of shapes off of paper into real life. You can do scavenger hunts around the house for circles and squares and help them to see shapes inside of everyday objects. Flash cards are also a great idea, but physical items are even better for getting a concrete concept of what a circle is. Just make sure to use circles and not balls so they aren't later confused when introducing 3D shapes.

Social Studies: We continue discussing our civil servants this week with firemen. We absolutely love taking field trips to the local station and handing out fresh-baked cookies. Some children are fearful of fire (with good reason), so this is a nice age to introduce that while fires can be scary, firemen are our helpers!

Language Arts: For younger kiddos, we like the version of this that does 3 different steps- clap your hands, stomp your feet, and say amen! This song is great for developing listening skills, gross motor skills, and the ability to follow directions.

Health + Safety: We shift this week from a focus on safety to a focus on more personal skills. A child that is beginning to dress himself is developing great gross and fine motor skills, problem solving skills, sequencing skills, and independence. This is also helpful for a busy mom! A lot of 2-3 year olds will struggle with this. Meet your child where he is and allow fruitful frustration- resist the urge to jump in and rescue (or speed up the process). Then have them proudly narrate what they accomplished- "I can put on my pants and shirt!"

Science: In Unit 10, we are continuing our classification of animal types. If you have a chance, we love visiting local natural history museums to get up close looks at animals we normally have to observe from afar (like porcupines and skunks!).

Motor Skills: Walking a straight line is a great test of balance and coordination. You can use existing lines in your floors, get a small balance beam, or use painters tape or chalk!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 10

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Trust in the Lord. Proverbs 3:5</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I am attentive. I listen with my eyes, my ears, and my heart.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Bears, deer, skunks, and chipmunks are forest animals.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Circle + Square</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Firemen put out fires and rescue.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can put on my pants and shirt.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Walk the Line</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>If you're happy and you know it...</p>

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Letter of the Unit

J

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 11 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Don't forget (because I need the reminder!) that aside from practicing scripture and catechism each day, reading God's Word is vitally important, even to a 2 year old. Whether you choose to read the Jesus Storybook Bible or an adult translation, this is a beautiful habit to sow into your family's day.

Math: We step into two additional shapes this unit. At this young age, if I'm having a child struggle with learning ANY of the skills outlined in this curriculum (letters, counting, shapes, colors), my personal conviction is to absolutely just drop it. Your child WILL learn these skills and will learn them in her own time. They are far from the most important thing you will teach your young preschooler. Enjoying to learn new things and explore the world around them is of the utmost importance. Be encouraged that they will have many opportunities to pick up everything they need to learn throughout their childhood. Enjoy the freedom in schooling at home!

Social Studies: Doctors are an important part of our "helper community"! Some children develop a fear of doctors early on, so this can be a crucial concept to help your child understand. You can even lengthen it to say "Doctors help when you are sick or hurt."

Language Arts: "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" is a childhood favorite and of course, we use the tune for a multitude of other songs as well (like the alphabet song!). There are many fun ideas available Online around this song, if that's something you want to incorporate.

Health + Safety: Cleaning up behind ourselves is a huge part of being a member of a family. This is a chore even a very small toddler can do. It's a great opportunity to build independence and a sense of community in your home. There are so many helpful chores that our little ones can perform that build a variety of developmental skills. The best part is that they can then tell other family members how they helped out!

Science: We continue classifying animals this unit with savanna animals. This is a great time to introduce the concept of far-away continents like Africa as well. Grab a globe, discuss biomes, and of course read some books. Pinterest is FULL of ideas (as always). These particular animals have always been high interest in our home.

Motor Skills: Not to be insanely repetitive, but (again) you'll find a variety of great ideas for rubber bands and fine motor skills on Pinterest. These are great for dexterity and hand strength.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 11

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Love one another. John 3:23</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Does God know all things? Yes</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Lions, elephants, giraffes, and antelopes are savanna animals.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Triangle + Rectangle</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Doctors help when you are sick.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can clean up my toys.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Rubber Bands</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star</p>

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Letter of the Unit

K

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 12 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Continue practicing “I am attentive...” to the tune of “Baa, Baa Black Sheep” (or whatever you prefer). We tend to do these character tunes from 2-6 times a day (as often as necessary), while also using previous ones when we need a reminder of those as well.

Math: More shapes! Keep playing games, reviewing counting to 15, and colors just “by the way” throughout your day.

Social Studies: The military is so important to our country! It’s important for even our smallest citizens to know that. You can take time to send care packages to our deployed military, thank a soldier that you know, and read some wonderful books about our military branches.

Language Arts: There is a short vowel sound song listed in the Appendix. This is absolutely just a FUN introduction to some letter sounds. Be sure to stay free of any expectations. If they remember them, AWESOME! If not, it’s just a fun song to sing!

Health + Safety: Just like character training, manner training is of incredible importance in the earlier years. The sooner this habit of “please and thank you” is cultivated, the more ingrained it will be into their nature. We also require “yes, ma’am”, etc in our home, but I’m from the south ;). It’s never too early to require your child to express general courtesy to others. My kids never learn the word “yes” without the word “ma’am” naturally tacked onto the end of it! Now is a great time to decide what matters to the culture of your family if you haven’t considered it before.

Science: In Unit 12, we head back into the ocean (we earlier discussed the fact that fish live in the ocean), and we begin listing and exploring more animals that live in the ocean. Feel free to substitute animals that are easier for your child to remember. If you have an aquarium within driving distance, it’s phenomenal to see their little eyes light up when they see a real shark!

Motor Skills: Time to race, Mama! Try your hand at incorporating some fun games like tag, hide-n-go-seek, and good old fashioned foot races into your outdoor time.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 12

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Love one another. John 3:23</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I am attentive. I listen with my eyes, my ears, and my heart.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Sharks, whales, dolphins, and stingrays are ocean animals.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Diamond + Octagon</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>The military protects us.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I say please and thank you.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Running</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Short Vowels</p>

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Letter of the Unit

L

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 13 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: It's review week for everything but language arts and motor skills! Take this time to go back through previous character definitions, scripture, and catechism and play games, refresh their memory, etc. At this age, more than ever, if you don't use it, you lose it.

Math: Review week! It's time to double-back to any areas that need refreshing or maybe just areas that didn't "click" a few weeks ago. A month to a preschooler is such a long time developmentally. What didn't make sense just a week or two ago may be easy to grasp now.

Social Studies: For review week, this would be a good opportunity to return to favorite topics, practice earlier statements, or take field trips you never got around to before.

Language Arts: This is a fun week with a funny song. Enjoy this light week!

Health + Safety: Now might be a great time to review emergency drills, address information, or anything else that didn't stick the first time around.

Science: It's probably a safe bet that you didn't get around to everything you wanted to do or read in each unit. Revisit some favorites and have fun!

Motor Skills: Take special time this week to practice with buttons and zippers. Buttons are especially challenging for little fingers so practice until the point of fruitful frustration only.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 13

<p>Scripture Review</p>	<p>Character + Catechism Review</p>
<p>Science Review</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Review</p>
<p>Social Studies Review</p>	<p>Health + Safety Review</p>
<p>Motor Skills Buttons + Zippers</p>	<p>Language Arts Dry Bones, Dry Bones</p>

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Letter of the Unit



Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 14 Teacher Notes

I wanted to offer a quick encouragement as we enter the second half of the program. If your child isn't retaining a ton of this information- that's OK! He's still LEARNING. Even if he's just learning the skill of *working* to remember things, he's learning. He's making connections, and his brain is growing rapidly. Deep breath if you aren't where you'd like to be! I pray you'll stay focused on God's infinite grace for all seasons. Scripture + Catechism: *Songs for Saplings, God and Creation: Questions and Answers Volume 1* continues to be a perfect match for these!

Math: This unit we get back to just the basic skill of counting. Counting is one of those things that it's best to work into almost every facet of your daily life if possible- trying to count things (rather than abstractly) as much as possible. I will add that our little ones learn to count to 30 very quickly with frequent games of hide-n-go-seek. Integration into activities like that is a sneaky way to "teach" without teaching.

Social Studies: In Units 14-26, this section will shift from "life around me" to an American History focus. You may want to develop your own sentences here if you aren't a US Resident :) In this unit, if you have a slightly older child, you can tag the date onto Columbus's trip to go ahead and drill that in. Or you can completely sub this for "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue."

Language Arts: This is a fun song and a great time to review or introduce the wonderful Bible story of Jonah and the whale. While this story is very intriguing to children, I'm often convicted by Jonah's desire to run toward his own plan and away from God's!

Health + Safety: This week we are working to incorporate all earlier memory statements together in order to equip our little ones with the ability to share their full street, city, and state address. This is an important safety skill, but if you feel more comfortable skipping this because your child tends to over share, there's no harm in doing so! Use your own judgment!

Science: In Units 14-26, we shift from learning about animals to exploring plant life around us. This week's sentence prompts some exploration into planting seeds. A favorite project is to plant seeds in clear jars so that they can observe the change in the seed over time. This is a beautiful opportunity to discuss patience as well as you wait for this slow process to unfold. A favorite book recommendation for this is *A Seed is Sleepy* by Diana Aston.

Motor Skills: Who doesn't fondly remember hopscotch? Grab some sidewalk chalk and head outside for some bouncing, giggling fun. You can even use this game to review letter names!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 14

<p>Scripture</p> <p>The Lord is good to all. Psalm 145:9</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Can God do all things? Yes.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Plants come from seeds.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Count to 20</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Columbus sailed to the Americas. (optional: add "in 1492")</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>My address is _____. (street, city, state)</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Hopscotch</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Who Did Swallow Jonah?</p>

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Letter of the Unit

N

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 15 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: For the character chant this unit, you might try singing it to the “5 Little Monkeys” tune. You’ll need to say the line “I am attentive” twice in order to get it to flow well. You don’t have to put these to a tune, but it’s a glorious sound to hear them sing to themselves at just the right time!

Math: Subitizing is the skill in which you are able to look at a collection of objects and recognize the number of them without counting them one-by-one. This skill is based on several facets: a child’s age and maturity, his natural inclination toward understanding numbers, and being taught the skill. You really can’t control those first portions, but you can begin looking for opportunities to teach this skill early and often. I’m no math teacher, so I HIGHLY recommend (again) Preschool Math at Home by Kate Snow.

Social Studies: I personally love reading about the age of exploration. Children find it fascinating to think America wasn’t always in existence! This is the second unit (giving you plenty of time) to not only learn about Columbus (who has become quite the controversial fellow) but also other explorers as well- like Amerigo Vespucci or Magellan. As an alternative, you could focus on sailing or boats.

Language Arts: Jesus Loves Me! Yes, he does! Praise God! We get the opportunity to pour this profound eternity-altering truth into our sweet babies from a young and tender age. What a blessing!

Health + Safety: Over these next few units, we will begin working with our little ones to chip in around the house. There is a great list in the Appendix that includes ideas for fostering independence in our toddlers. This week, we focus on helping them learn to put their laundry away. If this is new, you might start with putting socks into the sock drawers, etc. Encourage them to share their success with family- “I can put away my laundry!”

Science: If you planted some seeds last unit, you can now begin a very basic introduction of the Scientific Method. Ask your child questions about what they think will happen. What will become of the seed? Encourage them to narrate the activity that they are slowly seeing develop. Germinate is a big word, but it takes last week’s overarching idea and gives it some legs.

Motor Skills: Paper folding is fun, and we aren’t expecting origami! Model folding paper in half, then quarters, and so forth. Dexterity, hand-eye coordination, and planning all come into play!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 15

<p>Scripture</p> <p>The Lord is good to all. Psalm 145:9</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I am attentive. I listen with my eyes, my ears, and my heart.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Seeds germinate to grow.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Subitize 2</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Columbus's ships were the Nina, the Pinta, the Santa Maria.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can put away my laundry.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Paper Folding</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Jesus Loves Me</p>

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Letter of the Unit



Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 16 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: This unit's scripture focuses outward from your child- rather than saying who God is to him, we instead focus on what God does for others. This verse gives him the ability to speak blessings over others.

Math: As with all math at this age, it will stick, or it won't. Don't be discouraged. I would fully not expect a child to comprehend what it means to skip count. However, that doesn't mean they aren't capable of skip counting by just remembering a song. There are so many skip counting songs available on Amazon, iTunes, and YouTube. My one piece of advice is to pick one you like and stick with it for the long haul. I've shared our favorite in the Appendix.

Social Studies: For our youngest students, settlement might be a challenging word. You can substitute "town" to be age-appropriate. For example: "Jamestown was the first town in America." Always make these statements work for you so that they meet your child where she is at! We love American history around here. Invest early in the DVD collection Liberty's Kids.

Language Arts: This is a fun song; one that you can make up all kinds of fun motions to. Plus, it reinforces some basic counting as well.

Health + Safety: We continue letting our littles get their hands dirty around the house this week. They're so good at helping! We can be really bad at letting them! (sheepishly raising hand) Our sweet kids mature so quickly when we choose age-appropriate jobs for them, teach them how (again and again), and TRUST them to do them to the best of their ability... which will always be different than how we would do it. Resist the urge to fix it and instead celebrate what a generous, helpful little one you have! Their confidence will soar when they tackle these tasks alone!

Science: We continue our early introduction into sunshine with the topic of photosynthesis. Feel free to try to get your kiddo to say that one! (I want a video if you do!) In this unit, we equip them with the knowledge that plants were created in God's intricate plan to work with the water and sunshine available to grow and produce air and food for us to survive and thrive! I would encourage you to make nature study a frequent part of your week (or day if possible). Help your child make observations about how a plant from last week is so much taller than this week. Notice where the leaves are pointed? Is it in the shade or sunshine? Like with narration, we sometimes have to teach our children the skill of attending to the small things and saying that which we are observing. It's an excellent skill to develop!

Motor Skills: Let's test some upper body strength! See if your little one can hold his body off the ground while you hold his legs. Bigger kids might try to "walk" their hands doing the wheelbarrow.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 16

<p>Scripture</p> <p>The Lord bless you and keep you.</p> <p>Numbers 6:24</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Are there more Gods than one? There is only one God.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Plants need water and sunshine.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Skip count by 2's</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Jamestown was the first English settlement.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can dust.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Wheelbarrow</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>This Old Man</p>

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Letter of the Unit

P

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 17 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: One of the best tidbits of advice I read in Charlotte Mason's Volume 1 is this: "Power of will implies power of attention; and before the parent can begin to train the will of the child, he must have begun to form in him the habit of attention" (Vol. 1, p. 326). This is so incredibly true! Keep being consistent with requiring your child's eyes before you speak to them- so that you're speaking into their heart. They cannot obey until they can attend to instruction.

Math: The same skill and grace we discussed for subitizing 2 stands here as well. Some ideas for subitizing quantities would be to have several groups of 3 (maybe 3 blocks, 3 cars, 3 rocks, and 3 stuffed bears). Go through each grouping and count, "1, 2, 3." Then ask, "How many are there?" (We are wanting the answer, "3"). Lastly, as you go through all the groups getting the answer 3 after counting, go back through them saying simply, "3 bears, 3 cars, 3 blocks" and prompting them again to answer, "How many blocks are there?" Counting to 3 THEN answering the question, "How many?" will begin building recognition for 3. This skill is all about repetition!

Social Studies: This sentence *may* best be reserved for around Thanksgiving, but also, it can totally be learned anytime of year. The Story of the Pilgrims by Katharine Ross is a GREAT book for this age group. You might also focus on reading about sailing and make some pilgrim "hats". There's a lot to explore here about religious freedom as well, based on your child's age.

Language Arts: This is a sweet little song this week. It also beckons you to make a few fluffy cotton ball crafts, doesn't it? I love sharing with my littles how the lamb in this story reflects the love and grace of Christ following us everywhere we go.

Health + Safety: This week, we take a break from new chores to focus on an important life skill- apologizing! This is probably something you're already working on with your little ones, so this is just a gentle reminder that even 1-year-olds can be taught to apologize when they hurt someone or disobey.

Science: We begin a series of units where we both begin identifying basics parts of plants followed by identifying plants near our homes. Charlotte Mason says in her "A Formidable List of Attainments for a Child of 6" that: "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 where they found them. To do the same with leaves and flowers of 6 forest trees." This section of our study is the beginning of our working toward this "formidable" goal!

Motor Skills: Blocks, small pieces of 2x4, boxes, rocks... Stacking things is a constant test in physics for our little scientists. Give them plenty of opportunities to conduct these experiments.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 17

<p>Scripture The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24</p>	<p>Character + Catechism I am attentive. I listen with my eyes, my ears, and my heart.</p>
<p>Science Trees have leaves, a trunk, and roots.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Subitize 3</p>
<p>Social Studies Pilgrims sailed on the Mayflower.</p>	<p>Health + Safety I say, "I'm sorry."</p>
<p>Motor Skills Stacking</p>	<p>Language Arts Mary Had a Little Lamb</p>

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Letter of the Unit



Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 18 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: Just like we learned last week- attention comes before obedience. This week, we begin memorizing a favorite scripture about obedience. Check out The Westminster Standard (website) for more catechism and interesting tools you can use. You also may like the book New City Catechism to keep on hand as well!

Math: I've never loved Little Einstein more than when they taught my first two children to count down from 10 for blast-off! I full expect them to teach my second set as well ;). I make sure to reinforce those lessons with our own blast-offs throughout the day. We love a good countdown- to get ready to go inside, to leave a playground, to wait until snacks are served- as it helps them learn to wait well. If my toddler is struggling with patience, I have him sing the "I am patient..." song then ask him to count up to 10 or down from 10. Usually, I'll be ready to move on to whatever he's wanting so badly by the time he's done counting.

Social Studies: This is the second unit that we continue on with learning about the Pilgrims. We also begin introducing them to the people group who lived in and loved this land first. I love the stories of generosity and helping neighbors that can inspired by reflecting on the kindness of the Native Americans to these settlers. Maybe this study can inspire your own "Act of Kindness" project this unit?

Language Arts: As with the earlier phonics song and short vowel song, we're in this for the exposure with little expectations. Hopefully your kiddos will like this song (but if not, that's OK too!) Remember to look in the Appendix for notes about our favorite versions.

Health + Safety: We are back to chores again! Clearing the dishes from the table is an excellent chore for 2-4 year olds (especially if you use paper or plastic!) They love to feel like they're an important part of everyday life and that they are empowered to be helpers. Encourage your little ones to clean up after themselves and then share their accomplishments with other family and friends.

Science: This is the second part of our tree exploration. Last unit, hopefully you had a chance to do a few nature study walks and discuss trees and their various parts. This unit, the goal is to choose two tree types that are a) close to your home b) easy to pronounce and c) very distinct in order to collect leaves/nuts from and learn to identify. In the South, two examples would be water oak and longleaf pine.

Motor Skills: I'm quick to tell my little ones to stop spinning. I hate when they get dizzy and bump their heads. But, spinning gives great vestibular input and is a great activity (in a safe space!).

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 18

<p>Scripture Obey your parents in the Lord. Ephesians 6:1</p>	<p>Character + Catechism In how many persons does God exist? In three persons.</p>
<p>Science Two kinds of trees are ____ and ____.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Count down from 10</p>
<p>Social Studies Native Americans helped the Pilgrims.</p>	<p>Health + Safety I can put away my dishes.</p>
<p>Motor Skills Spinning</p>	<p>Language Arts Long Vowel Sounds</p>

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Letter of the Unit

R

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 19 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: We have a new character statement this week. We like to use the tune to “The Farmer in the Dell” for this one. Unlike the previous ones, I don’t double that first sentence. As always, pick a tune that comes naturally to you and works well, or simply chant it.

Math: Understanding opposites is a skill that we start naturally teaching our children from a very early age. We discuss with them how the stove is HOT but ice is COLD. We talk about daytime and nighttime, awake and asleep, happy and sad, etc. In this unit, we work on introducing the TERM “opposite.” As we move through the next few units, we will cover the concepts of left and right, up and down, above and below, etc. Each time you cover those topics, I encourage you to explain that they are “opposites,” just to help begin the process of cementing that term. This understanding will come in handy later when teaching inverse operations.

Social Studies: We are slowly marching through American history with incredibly bite-sized pieces (carefully chosen to try to avoid talk of warfare!). In this unit, we discuss that America had 13 colonies before it had states. This sounds ridiculous because what 2-4 year old understands what a colony (or state!) is, right? But that’s OK. They don’t have to understand in order to remember. We are planting seeds of terminology that will grow fruit in the future. Over time, through stories, movies, field trips, and projects, you will flesh out the entire concept of colonization and the trials of the first Americans. But because you taught them this little statement, they’ll never forget 13!

Language Arts: This is one of those songs that we sing in our most Southern accent possible- which if you watch my Insta-stories, you know isn’t much of a stretch! This is a fun little upbeat tune that gives my kiddos the giggles, especially to hear Mommy sing it ;)

Health + Safety: We continue with another nugget of manners this week by practicing the fine art of saying, “Excuse me.” Sometimes, in our home, because we are together all the time, we drop these formalities. I’ve seen that grow unattractive fruit at times, which we have to then “prune.” Even at home (or most importantly at home), it’s best to have excellent manners so that excellent manners are the norm, not the exception.

Science: In this unit, as we did with trees a few units ago, we are learning about the parts of a flower- at the most basic level. You can color pictures, plant a small garden, dissect a flower, or make flowers from tissue paper and pipe-cleaners. Just work to continue reinforcing these simple terms until they become second nature to your little one. Make sure to go to the Appendix and check out the “Favorite Reference Books” list. The Nature Anatomy book is a MUST-HAVE.

Motor Skills: This is exactly what it sounds like- you wrap yarn around things! This can be as simple as yarn and a stick or more ornate. This is where I prompt you to check Pinterest for ideas!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 19

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Obey your parents in the Lord.</p> <p>Ephesians 6:1</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I obey. I do what I'm told, the first time, with a happy heart.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Flowers have petals, roots, and a stem.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Opposites</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>America had 13 colonies.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I say, "Excuse me."</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Yarn Wrapping</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>There's a Hole in the Bucket</p>

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Letter of the Unit

S

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 20 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: This week, we introduce a new scripture. What a beautiful and profound truth to set deep inside our children's hearts from the earliest age possible- "When I am afraid, I trust God!"

Math: We begin a little jaunt into directionality, scattered over a handful of units. This is also a great time to continue to review the concept of opposites as well. This unit covers the directions of "up" and "down". I would highly suggest making this a kinesthetic activity, where you take every opportunity throughout your day to "jump up" or "lie down" or "fall down" or "reach up". "Ring Around the Rosie" is a great little song if you use the line "upstairs, downstairs" instead of "ashes, ashes." We like to jump UP for upstairs and squat down for downstairs.

Social Studies: This unit is about the 4th of July, but you don't have to only learn about America's independence in July. You can take this opportunity to begin introducing some founding fathers' names like Benjamin Franklin or Thomas Jefferson or focus on the bigger picture of patriotism with flag projects and cooking creations. The Story of America's Birthday is a great early primer.

Language Arts: We take a small break, this unit, from the typical childhood nursery rhymes to listen to *America, The Beautiful*. While it's definitely not "language arts" like the nursery rhymes we are used to, it's on-point for the history topics we are studying.

Health + Safety: For this unit, if you don't have a pet, consider choosing a different new skill OR simply review what you've already been doing. Regardless of what you use, this is a great opportunity to continue to engage your child in activities that encourage their independence, teach life skills, and help them feel like a "big kid".

Science: Wonderful, glorious BEES! We discussed earlier that bees make honey (what a sweet lesson!) Now we continue discussing how important bees are to our food supply through their beautiful job of pollination! Isn't God AMAZING- how he weaves all of creation together in beautiful interdependence? I love this book: Bee: A Peak-Through Picture Book.

Motor Skills: We can minimize "playing ball" because it's not a new "sensory" experience- but it's an incredibly important game that takes a variety of different skills to implement. So, play ball!

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 20

<p>Scripture</p> <p>When I am afraid, I trust God. Psalm 56:3</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>What are they? The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Bees pollinate flowers.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Up and Down</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>Independence Day is July 4th.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can feed our pet.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Catch the Ball</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>America, the Beautiful</p>

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Letter of the Unit

T

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 21 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: If I had to choose one aspect of this curriculum that I feel is the MOST important to faithfully perform, it's this section. So, this week I simply want to encourage you that if you do nothing else, continue sowing God's Word and truth about his character (and how it advises our character) into the heart of your little one.

Math: We want to cautiously approach skip counting by 10's with the same mindset that we did when teaching skip counting by 2's. This is all about simply memorizing the facts, knowing that over time with experience and further math instruction, what it means to "skip count" will grow feet. For now, simply singing and chanting is all that matters.

Social Studies: This unit's statement is intentionally vague. The goal is to introduce the term "constitution" so that as you explore American history throughout subsequent years, you've created a peg in their minds to hang that information on. This entire set of units leaves ample room for much great reading, wonderful field trips, and fun, hands-on projects about patriotism.

Language Arts: This song immediately takes me back to my own kindergarten days and singing this in a big circle of classmates. What fun motions can your family invent to go along with this song?

Health + Safety: Alright, brave Mama- it's time for stirring! Which means little helpers in the kitchen- which can be daunting and... messy. Tip up front: Don't do this when you aren't in a fun, relaxed mood. Also, save future you some trouble and explain up front that sometimes you will have special helpers in the kitchen, and sometimes you won't. Help them understand that you won't need their help EVERY TIME you set foot in the kitchen. Then go have fun! My little ones usually start out helping me cook scrambled eggs. It's great a motor skill activity for gentleness.

Science: This unit is similar to the tree unit we did, hearkening to Miss Mason's challenge to learn the names of multiple plants near our home before the age of 6. If you opt to get the Memory Statement + Planning Cards from LifeAbundantlyBlog.com, I've left space for you to add images of these plants to the card for review. Easy, peasy!

Motor Skills: Gluing is likely a skill you employ regularly. BUT, if you run from scissors, glue, and cotton balls like I do, this is a gentle reminder that it's a beneficial skill that should happen... occasionally.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 21

<p>Scripture</p> <p>When I am afraid, I trust God. Psalm 56:3</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I obey. I do what I am told, the first time, with a happy heart.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>Two flowers near my home are _____ and _____.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Skip Count by 10's</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>America has a constitution.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can stir.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Gluing</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>The Farmer in the Dell</p>

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Letter of the Unit

U

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 22 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: What a happy and opportune time to plant a profound seed of truth into our little one's hearts: *NOTHING is impossible with God*. Admittedly, I need to work on reminding myself of that truth more often. I love how God's word is the perfect encouragement for both a toddler and mom!

Math: This unit continues with directionality. Left and right can be a touch harder than up and down for most kids. Since your child may not have a hand preference yet, it's even harder still. I just encourage you to introduce it, and see if it sticks. If it doesn't long-term, that's OK. There are adults who still have to think for a moment to discern between left and right (and I'm one of them). This is one of those basic concepts that you'll likely just need to take advantage of the little moments and begin using "left" and "right" at each chance you get, really emphasizing the word each time you use it.

Social Studies: The office of presidency will go over the heads of most preschoolers, so we want to just work to get the statement deeply planted and look forward to watching future knowledge have a sturdy peg to hang upon. Here are some great books: [A Picture Book of George Washington](#) by David Adler and [I Am George Washington](#) by Brad Meltzer.

Language Arts: "London Bridge" is a great opportunity to review the concept of DOWN and UP from two units ago with some fun dancing to incorporate into your singing.

Health + Safety: Every young child loves to pour. I am convinced it's an excellent exercise in both physics and acoustics. You can be brave and have your child pour his own water into a cup, or you can set up a pouring station outside (or in a tub) for some engaging entertainment. Giving my little ones a source of water and a couple of vessels keeps them entertained for hours.

Science: Mushrooms are so spectacularly entertaining. First, they are intensely engaging to the imagination when you ponder little fairies using them as stools or resting beneath them (fairy house, anyone?). Secondly, they grow so quickly that it makes a very quick nature study with little patience required. And the diversity is amazing! This is also a great opportunity to review being careful about what we touch and eat when exploring nature.

Motor Skills: Some things seem pretty intuitive, but they command a huge amount of mental capacity to implement. Kicking a ball is one of those things. Even if this already happens in your home, this is a great prompt to get outside and play kickball with the kids.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 22

<p>Scripture For nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37</p>	<p>Character + Catechism Where do we learn to love and obey God? In the Bible alone.</p>
<p>Science Mushrooms are fungi.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Left and Right</p>
<p>Social Studies George Washington was the first president.</p>	<p>Health + Safety I can pour.</p>
<p>Motor Skills Kick the Ball</p>	<p>Language Arts London Bridge</p>

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Letter of the Unit

V

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 23 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: This unit, and for the rest of Level 1, we continue with the little jingle “I Obey.” You can do no greater service to your children than ingrain these habits of virtue into their hearts at a tender age.

“But habit runs on the lines of nature: the cowardly child habitually lies that he may escape blame; the loving child has a hundred endearing habits; the good-natured child has a habit of giving; the selfish child, a habit of keeping. Habit, working thus according to nature, is simply nature in action, growing strong by exercise.” (vol 1 pg 105, Charlotte Mason)

Math: This unit continues onward in directionality and opposites with above and below. As an exercise in directionality and following directions, a fun idea would be a scavenger hunt. Simply tape a few items (maybe treats?) above and below some surfaces in your home. Work with your toddler, gently instructing him that his treat is “below the table” or “above his head”. Help him respond to those directions until he “gets” the concepts of above and below. He will learn quickly with treats on the line!

Social Studies: What was said for the last unit, still stands here. I really like the book by David Adler called *A Picture Book of John and Abigail Adams*, though you may have to synopsise some of the longer pages for younger children with shorter attention spans.

Language Arts: If you have multiple children at home, you can practice the skill of singing a round (or perpetual canon) with this week’s selection. A round is when you all sing the same song, but begin singing at different times.

Health + Safety: We’ve been working all year at creating independence in your little one, especially in self-care. This unit we will put on shoes. Obviously, based upon the age of your child, you will want to go with simple flip-flops, tie-less boots or Velcro shoes initially. If you have a 4-5 year old, you might also begin teaching the skill of tying shoes. Don’t be discouraged about shoe tying. I delayed this for my older children and didn’t venture to teach them until they were around 8. It took one lesson with zero frustration. They never suffered for the delay.

Science: If you utilize the Memory Statement + Planning Cards (from LifeAbundantlyBlog.com), I have left space available on this unit’s card in order to add the images of your child’s favorite fruits. Conversely, if your child is struggling to remember some particular fruit, you can substitute those and say, “----- and ----- are fruits” in order to teach those instead.

Motor Skills: Stickers are a great fine motor skill activity. Your 2-3 year old may need a little help, but my son LOVES the reusable sticker books from Melissa & Doug.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 23

<p>Scripture</p> <p>For nothing is impossible with God. Luke 1:37</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>I obey. I do what I am told, the first time, with a happy heart.</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>My favorite fruits are _____ and _____.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Above and Below</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>John Adams was the second president.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can put on my shoes.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Using Stickers</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>Row, Row, Row Your Boat</p>

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Letter of the Unit

W

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool

Unit 24 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: This week's scripture is one that cannot get enough repetition in my house (or in my own heart). It's a scripture I heard a dear friend and mentor repeat to her children time and time again. When I heard her do that I realized, "That's how I want to parent MY children... with God's Word, not my word." I've been working to grow myself in that area ever since.

Math: This portion of the math unit gets pretty difficult for the younger group that may be using TGCP. If your child is 2 or even 3, feel free to practice subitizing, but please don't fret if it flies straight over your child's head. Subitizing is a skill of practice AND maturity. Many four year olds can master it, but many cannot. So as with all things in TGCP with your sweet toddler, give it a try. If it doesn't want to stick or causes frustration, set it aside for a later time. Even 2-3 months make a HUGE difference developmentally in being able to focus on and understand these skills.

Social Studies: If you do much traveling or have family that lives out of state, your child may understand what a "state" is. If not, that's ok. We simply want them to remember that there are 50. The 50 States by Gabrielle Balkin is a GORGEOUS wish list item to invest in for beginning an early education about states. It's extremely vivid!

Language Arts: As with almost all nursery rhymes suggested in TGCP, this one offers up some opportunity for fun motions and dances as well. Have your kiddo "work on the railroad" with his "ax" for some exercise. If you have a train enthusiast, this might be a great time to focus on that passion and take a field trip to a local train depot or museum.

Health + Safety: It's time to add one more "big kid" chore to your little one's repertoire with bed-making. This is a fine craft that takes most children until adulthood to master! Make a decision in advance if this is a pain point for you. If you want your child's bed made daily and made WELL, you might substitute something else this unit. If you can leave it and not "fix it" then it's a great skill toward independence. I just encourage you to not "fix" their bed once they've made it to the best of their ability. You can instruct, but then leave it as is so they can grow in confidence in this skill.

Science: This unit, I echo the same suggestions as in the last: If you utilize the Memory Statement + Planning Cards, I have left space available on this unit's card in order to add the images of your child's favorite vegetables. Conversely, if your child is struggling to remember some particular vegetable, you can substitute those and say, "----- and ----- are vegetables" in order to teach those instead.

Motor Skills: There is no greater physical skill activity that will help create cross-brain synaptic connections in your child (aiding in reading and memory) than any movement that crosses their mid-line (think reaching your right arm across the middle "line" of your body to the left side.)

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 24

<p>Scripture</p> <p>Do everything without complaining.</p> <p>Philippians 2:14</p>	<p>Character + Catechism</p> <p>Who wrote the Bible? Holy men taught by the Holy Spirit</p>
<p>Science</p> <p>My favorite vegetables are _____ and _____.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills</p> <p>Subitize 4</p>
<p>Social Studies</p> <p>America has 50 states.</p>	<p>Health + Safety</p> <p>I can make up my bed.</p>
<p>Motor Skills</p> <p>Cross the Mid-line</p>	<p>Language Arts</p> <p>I've Been Working on the Railroad</p>

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Letter of the Unit

X

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 25 Teacher Notes

Scripture + Character + Catechism: We're getting so close to the finish line for TGCP Level 1! I want to encourage you to keep singing and chanting your catechism and character statements, and correct and encourage your children utilizing God's Word as often as you have the opportunity.

Math: I feel like Dori from "Finding Nemo", but instead of "Just keep swimming..." I keep chanting "Just keep counting!" But so it is, friend! Every opportunity to count will bring your child that much closer to mastery. Count cheerios, pickles, frogs in the pond, jelly beans from the jar, jumping jacks, toy cars... all the things. Now that I have children in middle and high school, I can reassure you that for upper level math, number sense is the most overwhelmingly important skill they can have. Number sense is simply cultivated through your day to day intentionality in bringing the "math" out of every situation.

Social Studies: A great book for exploring our nation's capital is: [This is Washington, DC: A Children's Classic](#) by Miroslav Sasek. If you ever have the opportunity to travel with your preschooler to DC, this book is an awesome primer. It wouldn't be considered a "living book" but is very helpful and informative.

Language Arts: Toddlers absolutely love this song! With it's sweet motions and Godly-focus, I kind of do too. Thank the Lord, He has the whole world in his hands! There are some precious crafts on Pinterest for tracing hands, cutting them out, and adding a picture of the world in the palms.

Health + Safety: Our little ones are getting so big and so confident in all they can do to be a helper in our homes! Studies show that children who are involved in the day-to-day affairs of the home as an integral PARTICIPANT and who are trusted with responsibilities are more intelligent, more resilient, and closer with their family. Don't be concerned that you're rushing your child to "grow up" by training her to master these activities. You're teaching her that she's strong, capable, and an important part of her family.

Science: This science unit is one that, like the days of the week, your child will likely need to experience over time in order to "grasp". But it's never too early to introduce these terms and begin discussing the cycles of weather and how they impact our lives. I highly recommend a weather-tracking calendar (we love [My First Daily Calendar](#) from Melissa & Doug) to begin having a daily review of these skills.

Motor Skills: Scissor skills usually come by the way, but if you're a craft avoider (like I am), you may need the little reminder to grab a pair and let your kiddo get some practice with them. We love Alex Toys Little Hands Squeeze Scissors.

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 25

<p>Scripture Do everything without complaining. Philippians 2:14</p>	<p>Character + Catechism I obey. I do what I'm told, the first time, with a happy heart.</p>
<p>Science Summer, fall, winter, and spring are the 4 seasons.</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Count to 30</p>
<p>Social Studies Washington, DC is our capital.</p>	<p>Health + Safety I can set the table.</p>
<p>Motor Skills Scissor Skills</p>	<p>Language Arts He's Got the Whole World</p>

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Letter of the Unit

Y

Other Notes

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Unit 26 Teacher Notes

Dear Friend,

YOU DID IT! This is the LAST unit in The Gentle Classical Preschool Level 1! I am so proud of you and your little one! The amount of information they've absorbed, the skills they've developed, the independence they've attained, the amount of planning you've done, and the intentional parenting and teaching you've pursued so diligently are all absolutely worthy of celebration!

I hope you will take the time to celebrate all of your family's hard work and accomplishment in a special way to finalize this year (or 2) of learning. Invite your child to share some of his new knowledge with loved ones. It's so fulfilling to complete a curriculum and look back at all you've done and accomplished. Even if you missed units, skipped over some stuff, or laid it aside for months at a time, you still did the work and that's what's amazing!

I hope you'll enjoy this last unit of review as you go back over favorite topics, complete projects or field trips you didn't get to, or touch back on skills that didn't quite stick the first time around. I want you to know that you are AMAZING for teaching your sweet child at home and taking the time to seek out a gentle, intentional way of shepherding their heart toward Christ and sowing seeds of knowledge that you get to enjoy to watch bring forth fruit of truth, goodness, and beauty as you continue to educate your little one. Be encouraged, that through God, you are more than capable!

I pray that Level 1 was a hit in your home and that you will look forward to the launch of Level 2 in early Spring 2019.

In Christ,
Erin

The Gentle + Classical Preschool
Unit 26

<p>Scripture Review</p>	<p>Character + Catechism Review</p>
<p>Science Review</p>	<p>Math + Basic Skills Review</p>
<p>Social Studies Review</p>	<p>Health + Safety Review</p>
<p>Motor Skills Hoola Hoop</p>	<p>Language Arts Jack and Jill</p>

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Letter of the Unit

Z

Other Notes

Appendix

Web Links

Research about early readers vs delayed reading:
<https://www.sciencealert.com/late-readers-close-learning-gap>

Favorite Reference Books

Nature Anatomy by Julia Rothman
Farm Anatomy by Julia Rothman
Great Animal Search by Ian Jackson
The Tree Book for Kids and Their Grown-Up by Gina Ingoglia
Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock
Animalium by Jenny Broom
Bees: A Honeyed History by Piotr Socha
Take Along Guides by Various
Preschool Math at Home by Kate Snow
New City Catechism by Kathy Keller

Favorite Products

The ABCs of Yoga for Kids Learning Cards
Melissa & Doug Lacing Beads
Melissa & Doug Wooden Magnetic Pattern Block Kit (120 blocks with case)
Vintage Alphabet and Counting Cards Flashcards by LifeAbundantlyBlog.com
Rainbow Writing Workbook from LifeAbundantlyBlog.com
Memory Statement Flashcards/Planning Cards from LifeAbundantlyBlog.com
Montessori Science Packs from LifeAbundantlyBlog.com
Melissa & Doug My First Daily Magnetic Calendar
ALEX Toys Little Hands Squeeze Scissors

Favorite Books for Mom

The Mission of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson
The Ministry of Motherhood by Sally Clarkson
The Life-Giving Home by Sally Clarkson
Teaching from Rest by Sarah MacKenzie
The Well-Trained Mind by Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise
The Core by Leigh Bortins
Home Education (Volume 1) by Charlotte Mason
Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

The following items are included in this Appendix but are also free for download from Life, Abundantly.

Simply visit www.LifeAbundantlyBlog.com and enter your email in any newsletter form on the site. You'll immediately receive email access to this Practical Joy Resource Library!

Downloads Available at LifeAbundantlyBlog.com

107 Books to Read Before Age 7

Opportunities for Independence in Your Day with Toddlers

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Weekly Planner

The Gentle + Classical Preschool Rhythm Planner

Name Spelling Worksheet

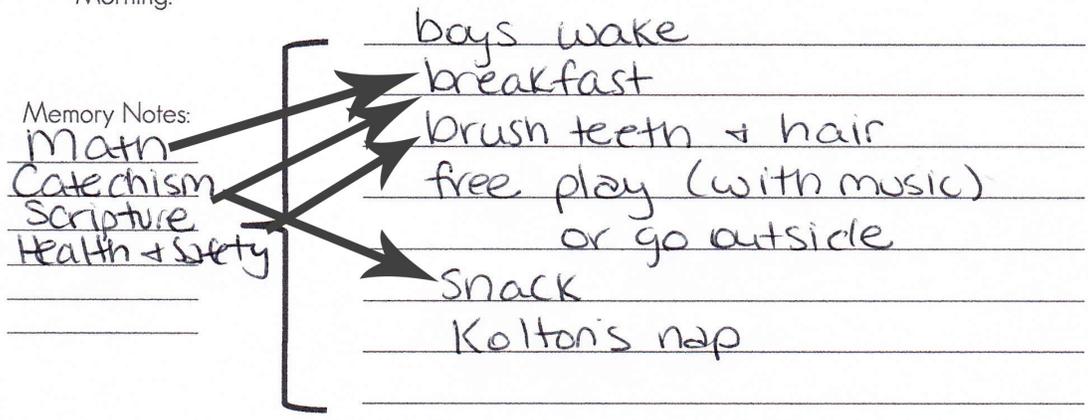
Menu of Handicrafts

Music Information for TGCP Level 1

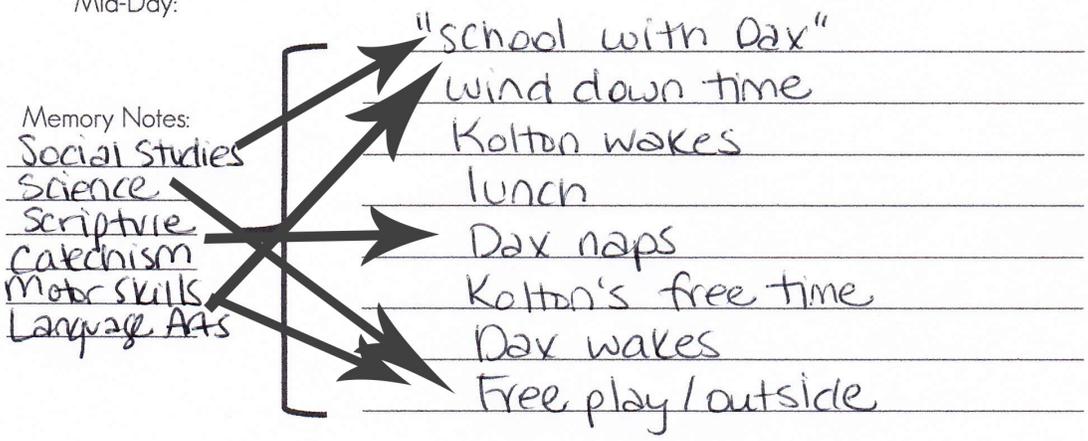
SAMPLE

Our Daily Rhythm

Morning:



Mid-Day:



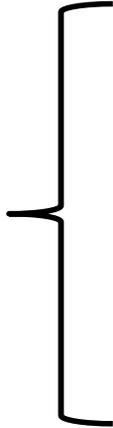
Afternoon + Evening:



Our Daily Rhythm

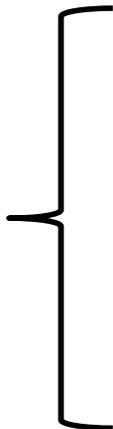
Morning:

Memory Notes:



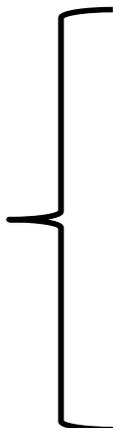
Mid-Day:

Memory Notes:



Afternoon + Evening:

Memory Notes:



Opportunities for Independence in Your Day with Toddlers

There are so many opportunities throughout our day to allow our littlest ones to help out. Unfortunately, their help doesn't always feel very helpful! It usually requires that we take 5 times longer on simple, menial tasks. However, the benefit to their confidence levels, motor skills, ability to think sequentially and logically, and sooo much more depends upon us taking a minute to slow down and enjoy watching these little people thrive and grow while performing "grown up" tasks. The Montessori philosophy is very intentional about integrating children into the normal aspects of home management to foster independence and thusly mental, physical, and emotional development.

To assist a child we must provide him with an environment which will enable him to develop freely. - Maria Montessori

Fold Towels/Cloths

Pouring station

Stirring {anything}

Transfer {anything}

Sort silverware

Dust

Set the table

Sweep small spills

Put toys away

Get dressed

Scoop {anything}

Wash plastic dishes

Hang "clothes" with clothespin

Match socks

Sort Laundry {lights/darks}

Cut soft foods {banana, avocado, etc}

Put away groceries

Weed flowerbeds

Water plants

Help in garden

Feed pets

Dress self

Put on shoes

Button + Zip

Bathe self

Brush teeth

Wash face

Retrieve items for Mom + Dad

Music Information for The Gentle + Classical Preschool

There are many, many free version of these nursery rhymes available on Amazon, iTunes, YouTube, etc. I've created a list of them by name below. Feel free to use your own version or the ones I've indicated in a few instances.

(The bulk of the music has been compiled into a playlist at Amazon.com for your convenience. You can access that via the link shared in the Resource Library at LifeAbundantlyBlog.com or create your own playlist.)

General Music Suggestions

Tour the States by Renald Francoeur

The President's Song by Classical Conversations

The Timeline Song by Classical Conversations (purchasable only via their website on CD)

Catechism

Songs for Saplings: God and Creation; Questions with Answers Volume 1 by Dana Dirksen

Language Arts

(use any artist/version of your preference unless otherwise noted)

The ABC Song (by AJ Jenkins) **uses a slow cadence during "L, M, N, O, P"*

Hickory, Dickory Dock

5 Little Monkeys

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Phonics Song (by AJ Jenkins)

Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Ring Around the Rosie

Old MacDonald

Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes

If you're happy and you know it...

Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

The Short Vowel Song (by Kim Mitzo Thompson)

Dry Bones, Dry Bones

Who Did Swallow Jonah?

Jesus Loves Me

This Old Man

Mary Had a Little Lamb

Learning Our Long Vowels (by Nashville Kids' Sound)

There's a Hole in the Bucket

America, the Beautiful
The Farmer in the Dell
London Bridge
Row, Row, Row Your Boat
I've Been Working on the Railroad
He's Got the Whole World (in His Hands)
Jack and Jill

Math

Counting by Tens Songs (by Have Fun Teaching)
Counting by Twos Song (by Have Fun Teaching)
Counting by Ones Song (by Have Fun Teaching)
Shapes Song (by The Learning Station)
The Opposites Song (by The Kiboomers)

Social Studies

Days of the Week Song (AJ Jenkins)
Months of the Year Song (AJ Jenkins)

