



MACHE 2009 Annual Conference Friday Workshops

Workshop: The Transforming Power of Relationships and Ideas

Speaker: Tammy Glaser

Session: I **Time:** 10:30 a.m.

The Transforming Power of Relationships and Ideas

Origins of Mason's Principles

First Teaching Job (1861)

- Only 19 years old
- Teaching degree incomplete
- 160 pupils, 2 to 9 years old
- Staff of 3 to 5 teachers
- Government funded
- Payment by results

Relationships and Ideas

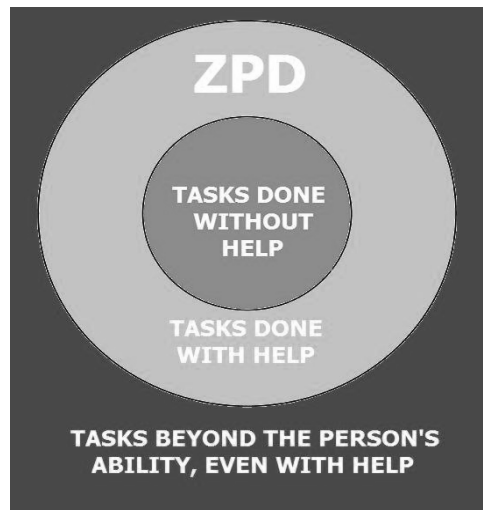
Educational Law

- Spent 13 years in the field
- Studied child development
- Viewed it as God's plan
- Assumed it was rational
- Sought principles
- Tested them by experiment

Behaviorism of Her Day

Science of Relations

- Intimate with things/thoughts
- Mind to mind connection
- Linking unknown to known
- Access to the Holy Spirit



“Children Are Born Persons”

Zone of Proximal Development

- Zone of competence
- Individual development
- Tasks done with help
- Guided by adults, children

Limits of Yellow Zone (ZPD)

- What the child does alone
- What is in reach of learning

Pamela's Handwriting Zone

IEP Goal – Outside ZPD

- No hand preference
- Unable to cross the midline
- Unable to speak sentences
- Habit of frustration!

1st Year at Home – In the ZPD

- Developed left-handedness
- Pre-writing fine motor skills
- Only scribbling with crayons

Charlotte's Handwriting Zone

Pre-Writing before Writing

- *Spell words with letterbox*
- *Write capitals in the air*
- *Write lowercase in sand*
- **Blackboard>paper**
- **Capitals>lowercase by stroke**
- **Good copy of simple letters**
- **Large>medium>small size**
- **Letters>words>sentences**

Standard vs Zoned Composition

SC Writing Standards versus Snakes in Ireland

- Graphs on page 3

Narration

Dialog about Activities

- Simple, not verbose
- Ordered sequence
- Uncover cause and effect
- Assess motives

- See people as mental beings
- Lessons on life and conduct
- Inspire worthy character
- Story: Talking about Sticky Glue

Ideas for Guiding Children

Shared Understanding

- Mind to mind
- Share perspectives
- Make connections
- Link unknown to known
- Figure out known
- Sow worthwhile ideas
- Story: Reciting the Lord's Prayer

Self-Regulation

Changing Your Thoughts

- Good or bad choices
- The mind fed with ideas
- Mental connections
- The will changing thoughts
- Submitting reason to right
- Accepting or rejecting ideas
- Accessing God
- Story: Ripping Open a Christmas Gift

Joint Problem-Solving

Charlotte Mason's Principles

- Real things in the real world
- Love of knowledge
- Good habit training
- Masterly inactivity
- Mind fed with ideas
- Wide curriculum
- Story: Cranberry Sauce and Hurricane Hannah

Encouragement

Warmth in Habit Training

- Uses a "bright, friendly voice."
- "Does not cry out."
- "Calls pleasantly."
- "Adopt various little devices."
- Never "a cause of friction."
- Acts like a "friendly ally."
- Story: The Goofy Girl Narrates

Imagination and Play

Changing Your Thoughts

- Idea-guided behavior
- Greater self-control
- Stronger attention
- Better sense of story
- Adult-supported (not directed)

Changing Your Thoughts

- Organized games
- Living out stories and books
- Play important as lessons
- Story: Overcoming Fear of Elevators

Example: Geometry

Planning

- ZPD – Moving Target (Random/Creative)
- Shared Understanding –
Consistent errors are easier to fix (me).
Any errors frustrate David (him).
We will target consistent errors first (us).
We will fix random errors through habits (us).
- Ideas for Guiding David –
People need lots of practice, even mathematicians.
Extra work is for more practice (not punishment).
Taking notes helps David pay closer attention.
You cannot plug and chug math. You must think.

Problem-Solving Habits

- Write neatly (win-win for both).
- Explain reasoning.
- Write knowns, unknowns.
- Write formula.
- Work down the page.
- Ask if it stops making sense.
- Stop skipping steps.

Execution

- Dialog – Find easier steps; discuss why or why not some strategies are good; cover why mistakes happen.
- Self-Regulation – Celebrate when his logic or technique is solid; talk about errors.
- Encouragement – Friend bolstered confidence by noticing neatness!
- Play – Humor, quiet music.

The Joys of Full Human Life

Dynamic Relationships

- Scientific/natural objects
- Persons of all classes
- With each other as human

- Of oneself with oneself
- Self-managed clubs
- Almighty God
- Power over materials
- Connections with animals

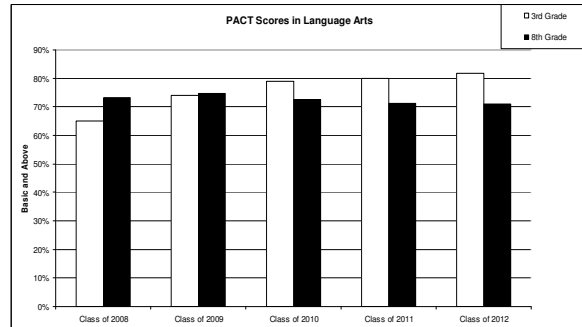
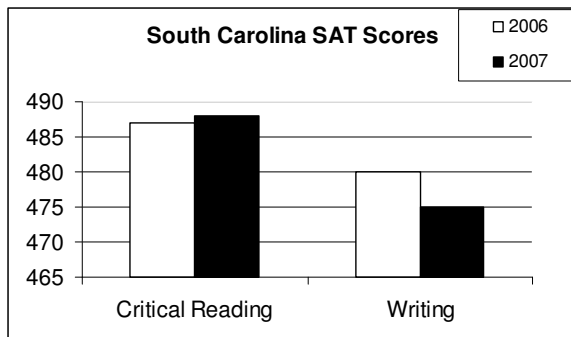
South Carolina Language Arts Standards

Grade	Expression				Reading					
	Speaking	Articulation	Penmanship	Written Narration	Instruction	Reading	Material			
K	Oral narration	Poems, rhymes, songs	Print upper/lowercase	Compose words	Alphabet, Phonics, Sight Words		Picture books, fantasy, autobiographical and biographical sketches, poems, drama, trade books, magazine articles			
1st				Compose sentences					Fables, textbooks	
2nd	Discussions	Reading aloud	Cursive	Compose paragraphs	Vocabulary	Listen to read aloud, Independent reading	Historical fiction, realistic fiction, tall tales, folktales			
3rd	Presentations		Write in either cursive or manuscript				Multi-paragraph compositions			Chapter books, adventure stories, legends, myths, essays, speeches, historical documents, news articles, journal, advertisement, encyclopedia
4th						Movie reviews				
5th										
6th										Science fiction

Charlotte Mason's Zoned Language Arts

Age	Expression				Reading	
	Speaking	Articulation	Writing		Instruction	Material
Under 6	See outloud	Rounds Sing rhymes	<i>Spell letterbox</i>		<i>Alphabet</i>	<i>Letterbox</i>
6-7	Oral narration	Recitation Read poems	Print upper/lowercase letters Print words Print sentences		Alphabet Phonetic families Sight words	<i>Letterbox</i> Poems, nature stories, fables
7-8			Cursive	Copywork		History spine, legends, fairy tales Bible, myths, adventures, classics Travel tales, science, Plutarch
8-9						
10-12						

Red italics means when the child shows readiness and not a moment sooner!



The Transforming Power of Relationships and Ideas

Book References:

Awakening Children's Minds by Dr. Laura E. Berk – This book written for parents and teachers discusses how to guide children eight years old and under through relationships and ideas and explains how to work within the Zone of Proximal Development at school and at home.

Home Education (Volume 1) by Charlotte Mason – Six lectures about the raising and educating of young children (up to age 9) written for parents and teachers – These ideas were covered in today's presentation:
Handwriting Zone – Pages 159-160, 201-202, 233-243
Zoned Composition - Pages 45-51, 199-247, 295-300
Narration – Pages 231-233
Ideas for Guiding Children, Joint Problem-Solving, Encouragement – Parts III, IV, Pages 317-329
Imagination and Play - Part II, Pages 151-154

Parents and Children (Volume 2) by Charlotte Mason – A collection of 26 articles from the original "Parent's Review" magazines to encourage and instruct parents – These ideas were covered in today's presentation:
Ideas for Guiding Children – Chapter 4

School Education (Volume 3) by Charlotte Mason – Thoughts about the teaching and curriculum of children aged 9-12 with details and examples of books, exams, etc. – These ideas were covered today:
Narration – Pages 178-181
Ideas for Guiding Children – Chapters 14 and 22
Joint Problem Solving – Chapters 3 and 17
Imagination and Play – Chapter 15
Full Human Life – Chapter 8

Formation of Character (Volume 5) by Charlotte Mason – Stand-alone chapters to enhance all parents, regardless of the ages of their children and case studies of children cured of bad habits – These ideas were covered in today's presentation:
Imagination and Play – Part I

Towards a Philosophy of Education (Volume 6) by Charlotte Mason – Charlotte's final book, written after years of seeing her approach in action – Though more philosophical, this volume gives the best overview of her approach and includes the final version of her 20 Principles – The best place to start for parents of older children – These ideas were covered in today's presentation:
Zoned Composition – Pages 180-185, 190-211
Ideas for Guiding Children – Book 1: Chapters 2, 6, and 7

Internet References:

"The Real Charlotte Mason" by John Thorley
http://www.childlightusa.org/review/Spring2007_Review.pdf

The Original Homeschooling Series by Charlotte Mason – Her six-volume series is online for free and in book form in both Charlotte Mason's original words and a paraphrase with modern language and context. Concise summaries of her books and principles are also online and free:
<http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/toc.html>
<http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/ModernEnglish.html>
<http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/Summaries.html>
<http://www.amblesideonline.org/CM/20Principles.html>