

Sacred and Sane: Breadth and Balance in a Charlotte Mason Education

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This is, briefly, how it works:—

A child is a person with the spiritual requirements and capabilities of a person.

Knowledge ‘nourishes’ the mind as food nourishes the body.

A child requires knowledge as much as he requires food.

He is furnished with the desire for Knowledge, i.e., Curiosity;

with the power to apprehend Knowledge, that is, attention;

with powers of mind to deal with Knowledge without aid from without—such as imagination, reflection, judgment;

with innate interest in all Knowledge that he needs as a human being;

with power to retain and communicate such Knowledge; and to assimilate all that is necessary to him.

He requires that in most cases Knowledge be communicated to him in literary form;

and reproduces such Knowledge touched by his own personality; thus his reproduction becomes original.

The natural provision for the appropriation and assimilation of Knowledge is adequate and no stimulus is required; but some moral control is necessary to secure the act of attention;

a child receives this in the certainty that he will be required to recount what he has read.

Charlotte Mason, *An Essay Towards a Philosophy of Education* pp. 18-19