

Week 1

MONDAY

- Poetry:** Begin with the poem “Rain” by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is short and cheerful and easy to memorize. Read the poem aloud to your child. Ask him to repeat the title and author a few times. If he likes, read it again. (This poem and all those that follow can be found in *The Harp and Laurel Wreath*.)
- Phonics:** Begin the book *How to Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*. The first lesson begins on page 31. Do Task 1.
- Handwriting:** Introduce the letter *A* on p. 3 of the text. This is handwriting, not phonics, so while it is a good idea to teach the sounds that the letter makes, concentrate on the manual task of writing. I have learned that it is important for young children to put pencil to paper daily, but how long each child spends at this task depends on that child’s readiness. Teach your child how to make the letter by demonstrating it, following the instructions given on the page. Then have him trace the letter, and then make at least one letter himself. Watch how he holds the pencil and instruct him in the right way.
- Religion:** Read aloud the story of the creation of the world as it is found in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 1. If you have *The Children’s Bible* begin on page 14 and read the 1st through the 4th days. Read slowly and discuss each day of creation in simple terms.
- Art:** Using the first level of *Mommy, Its a Renoir*, show the cards to your child. Talk about the different pictures; which you like best and why, something that one reminds you of, why you think one looks more cheerful than another, and so on. Encourage your child to do the same.
- Literature:** Use the booklists in the back of this syllabus throughout the year. There is a list of books to help you observe the saints’ feast days, and a calendar of saints’ feast days. There is another list of books for the liturgical seasons of the year, and a third list of good children’s books. There should be some “read aloud” time every day.
- Music:** Listen to track 1, “O Come, Little Children”, of the CD accompanying Alan Jemison’s *36 Traditional Roman Catholic Hymns*. The object here is to become familiar with and actually learn to sing some of the kinds liturgical songs that the Second Vatican Council, in *The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, said were “...a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art.” (Paragraph 112) Mr. Jemison even includes some Gregorian Chant, about which the same Council said, “The Church recognizes Gregorian chant as being specially suited to the Roman Liturgy, Therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services.” (Paragraph 116) These hymns are suited to different parts of the liturgical year, so those in the curriculum for this year are listed in the appropriate section of the Book and Music list for the Liturgical Year.

TUESDAY

Poetry: Ask your child if he remembers the name of the poem that you read yesterday. The author? If not, tell him again and ask him to repeat it. Read the poem aloud. Repeat the first line, "The rain is raining all around," and ask him to say that. Then ask him to say the title, author and first line. Help him if necessary. Let him repeat it until he is comfortable with it. Read the whole poem to him one more time.

Phonics: *How to Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons*. Do Task 2.

Handwriting: You can have your child trace the word on the third line of p. 3, but talk him through the process. If you are unsure of how a letter should be formed, look that letter up in the text. Once he has traced the word, have him make some more capital A's, either on line one, if there is room, or in a composition notebook that has lines with a dotted line in the middle. Or you can just have him practice the capital A. Don't let him make the letters in the wrong way.

Religion: Ask your child if he remembers what God created on the 1st day, the 2nd, and so on. Help him remember if he has trouble. Then, on a piece of art paper or on the first page of an empty art tablet, ask him to draw a picture of what God made on any or all of those days. Be sure to keep an area at the bottom of the page blank. Explain that this is the first page of a "Bible Book" that he will be making. You may make suggestions, or draw an outline for him to color. After he has finished his picture ask him about it. In the blank area at the bottom of the page write down what he tells you about the picture and about the creation.

Math: Show your child the number flashcards, 1-10. Ask him to identify each one. If he can do so easily, show him the next 5 cards, continue up to number 25. Put aside the cards with the numbers he knows well. Tell him the names of the ones that are less familiar. Show these to him a second time, putting aside each card that he can identify this time. When you put the cards away keep the ones that he recognizes easily separate from those he does not.

Literature: Read aloud some books from the booklists.

Music: Listen to track 1 of the CD accompanying Alan Jemison's *36 Traditional Roman Catholic Hymns*.

WEDNESDAY

Poetry: Ask your child to tell you the name of the poem he is learning, and the author. Can he say the first line? Help him if necessary. Now read the whole poem aloud. Repeat the title and author and the first two lines, e.g.

"Rain' by Robert Louis Stevenson,
The rain is raining all around,
It falls on field and tree,"

Ask him to say it with you, or, if he can, to say it alone. Say it a few times together. Then ask him if he remembers what else it "rains on." If he knows have him repeat the next line, "It rains on the umbrellas here," correcting any mistakes. If he can't remember, tell him.

- Phonics:** Do Lesson 1, Tasks 3 & 4 in *100 Easy Lessons*.
- Handwriting:** Introduce the small *a* today. As on Monday, teach your child how to form the letter by demonstrating it, then have him trace it, and then have him make at least one more small *a*.
- Religion:** Read page 14-15 of *The Children's Bible*, the 5th through the 7th days of creation. Stop after each day and ask him what God created on that day.
- Art:** Ask your child to match the identical cards.
- Literature:** Read aloud some books from the booklists.
- Music:** Listen to track 1 of the CD accompanying Alan Jemison's *36 Traditional Roman Catholic Hymns*.

THURSDAY

- Poetry:** Have your child repeat all that he can of the poem. Read the poem aloud. Repeat the first three lines, then ask him to repeat them. Now say the fourth line, "And on the ships at sea."
Ask him to repeat just the last two lines. Now ask him to try to say the whole poem. Help him when he gets stuck. Read the poem one more time.
- Phonics:** Complete Lesson 1 of *100 Easy Lessons*.
- Handwriting:** Have your child trace the word on the last line of p. 3, once you show him how to make the letters, and then you can have him make some more small *a*'s, either on line one, if there is room, or in a composition notebook that has lines with a dotted line in the middle. Or you can just have him practice the small *a*. Don't let him make the letters in the wrong way. (I speak from experience here.)
- Religion:** Review with your child what God made on the 5th and 6th day, and what happened on the 7th day of creation. Now ask him to draw a picture about these days in his "Bible Book." In the place reserved at the bottom of the page write down what he tells you about his picture and about the story of creation. (In subsequent weeks, every time the syllabus instructs the child to 'retell' a previous story, you will be writing his summary in this "Bible Book.")
- Math:** Take out the number cards that were not familiar to your child. Hold up one card, ask him if he knows what it is. If he does, put it aside. If he does not, tell him what it is and ask him to make a tower out of that number of wooden blocks, or Duplos. When the tower is built have him put the number card in front of it. Continue with the next card in the same way until all the unfamiliar cards are used. If this becomes tedious, stop. Continue next time.
- Literature:** Read aloud some books from the booklists.
- Music:** Listen to track 1 of the CD accompanying Alan Jemison's *36 Traditional Roman Catholic Hymns*.