



2021 HOMESCHOOLING FAMILY CONFERENCE

Frameworks & Structures



August 2-5, 2021

Session 7 | How to Teach - Part 1

Recommended Book:

- *The Seven Laws of Teaching*, by John Milton Gregory

Learning: all the branches of knowledge and how they are discovered, developed, and perfected. All children have the capacity to learn.

Teaching: the communication of experience, both personal experience and the experience of all humanity (past and present).

- Painting in the mind of your student what you can see in your own mind.

In order for children to be both trained and taught:

1. They must have a love of learning.
2. They must have good habits and the ability to study on their own (or to find other teachers, other than you).



The Law of the Teacher

- **The teacher must know the subject matter in order to teach it.**

How can something come out of nothing?

1. Faint recognition
2. Ability to describe to others
3. Easily explain, prove, illustrate, apply
4. Change my own conduct



Imperfect knowledge means imperfect teaching.

- Remember, a teacher fired with enthusiasm will inspire her students!
- Give fresh study to your lessons before teaching.
- Tie unfamiliar concepts to familiar topics with illustrations.
- Talk the topic over with a friend (or better, your spouse).
- Write down your thoughts.

The Law of the Learner

- **The learner must attend with interest to the material to be learned.**

Passive attention

- No effort of the will is involved
- Letting forces around him control his mental thoughts

Active attention

- The mind controlling, rather than being controlled
- Choosing to do what must be done in spite of alluring things that are more pleasant, more attractive
- Self-control

Secondary passive attention

- Absorbed in one's work
- Subjects attract him because they are attractive in and of themselves
- Learning for the sake of learning
- Grows out of persistent effort and active attention (self-control)

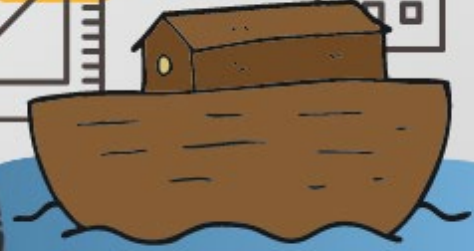
It is not easy to pay attention! If it were easy, we would have no need for teachers or schools!

- Interest is purchased at a price: ***strenuous effort!***



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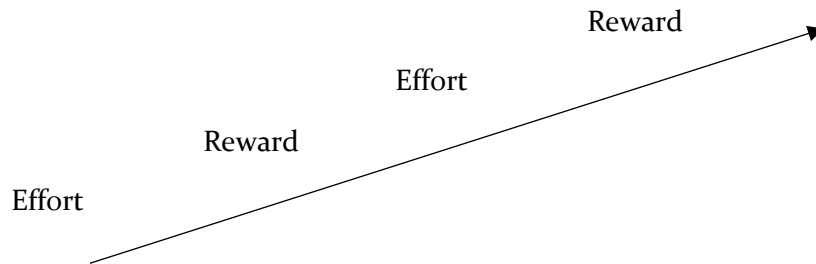
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- Don't leave the ship of learning to the mercy of the wind; it might drift into a safe harbor – but it might not!
- If you are a **hard master**, a **slave driver**, you are unlikely to develop a permanent interest in learning. Rather, you'll probably get a permanent dislike for the topic.

Make the Stages of Advancement Gradual:



This is why knowledge should be arranged in order.

- The teacher uses skill to link old information with new information.

Knowledge isn't a material object:

- The teacher must present.
- The student must think – with **attention! Shema!**

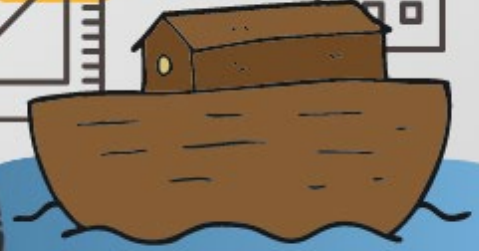
Start by Getting the Student's Interest:

1. Use the five senses (seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, touching).
2. Use your own face, voice, and hands to get their attention. Watch their eyes to see if they are listening.



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3. Relate the subject to experiences of the student. Tell stories so you can share your experiences.
4. Show your own delight in the subject. Students love what the teacher loves.
5. Teach little and often – because attention spans grow over time.
6. Pray! Ask the Ruach to open eyes and ears.

Hindrances to Interest:

1. Apathy (I don't care...)
2. Weariness (I'm tired, hungry, sleepy, etc...)
3. Distraction (Squirrel!)

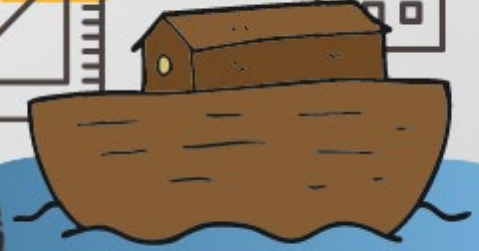
Ideas:

- Don't start teaching until their eyes show their ears are ready.
- Pause when attention is lost.
- Don't wear out the students. Stop when fatigue is present.
- Adapt lessons to the ages of the students.
- Have variety in your presentations (but don't let change itself become a distraction).
- Tell stories to help with understanding. Give mental pictures.
- Ask questions to get them thinking.
- Enthusiasm is contagious!
- Use your eyes and hands to keep their eyes and ears. 😊



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The Law of the Language

- The language must be common to both teacher and learner.

Language: Not just words, but a system of signs and symbols; how we understand anything.

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

- Romans 10:17

Is language “artificial”? No!

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

- John 1:1

The teacher must use the vocabulary of the student – or else teach the vocabulary so that they share the same experience.

- Beware: Words can have more than one meaning. You must both be using the same one.
- It doesn't matter what the teacher *says*, but what the student *hears*.
- Think more about the needs of the learner than your own needs.

Learning is complete when the learner can express it in **words**.

- Talking is thinking.
- State the problem clearly in order to solve it.
- Don't merely repeat the words of others. “Put it in your own words.”
- It is difficult to obtain sufficient mastery of a language to express our thoughts. Let them try to express things in another language.



Language is the *storehouse* of our knowledge – how we measure (test) what a student knows.

Language is the springboard to gaining new knowledge.

Words are not the only language:

- Body Language
- Pictures
- Creation (Parables)
- Math

Give time and space for silence, which is the absence of language.

- Use the simplest words you can.
- Use the fewest words you can.
- Use short sentences with the simplest construction you can.
- Repeat in another language, or in another way.
- Encourage students to talk freely.
- ***Make haste slowly!***
- Test your student’s understanding of words.

Notes:

- Interested looks don’t equal understanding.
- When there is no understanding, check for language problems first.
- Increase your own vocabulary.