



This poem by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) was first published in 1715 under the name "Against Idleness and Mischief" but it is more commonly known by the title given here. Charlotte Mason quotes several lines from the poem in Volume 1 of her Home Education series: Part 2, Chapter 5: Living Creatures.

How Doth the Little Busy Bee

By Isaac Watts

How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower!

How skillfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labors hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

In works of labor or of skill,
I would be busy too;
For Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do.

In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be passed,
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.