



**WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION DO WE WANT FOR OUR CHILDREN?  
HOW THE CHARLOTTE MASON METHOD FOSTERS JOY, BEAUTY, AND  
RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING IN YOUR HOMESCHOOL**

My answer is that education can / should foster joy, beauty, and relationships. It should honor a child in a way that fosters a love of learning and preserves the dignity of the child.

**WHO WAS CHARLOTTE MASON?**

Charlotte Mason (1842-1923) was a British educator who ushered in revolutionary ideas about the way education is taught. She believed that ALL children deserved an equal education and she built an educational philosophy that values each child as an individual person. She established an educational method that spread throughout England and the far corners of the globe. She shared her ideas in a set of six books known as the [Home Education Series](#). This series has been the basis of a homeschooling movement here in the United States as well as globally.

Her ideas speak to parents who are searching for an educational style that values a child's individual needs above a mere system of education. She set down a list of [20 Principles](#) which form the basis of the Charlotte Mason philosophy. I value her ideas so much that in order to make her books easier to understand, I am currently [annotating each of the six volumes](#).

Her method is gaining a resurgence in popularity because it speaks to the heart of what we, as parents, really want for our children:

*"The question is not 'How much does the youth know?' when he has finished his education, but 'How much does he care?' And about how many orders of things does he care? In fact, how large is the room in which he finds his feet set? and, therefore, how full is the life he has before him?" -Charlotte Mason*

We want our children to have a full life – one that has meaning and brings purpose and joy. We want, not just an education, but an education that matters.

Charlotte's method includes Principles of truth such as:

- Children are born persons
- All education is self-education
- Education is the science of relations

To learn more about Charlotte's 20 Principles, join our [Free 20 Principles Study: Finding Your Way with Charlotte Mason's 20 Principles](#).

And it includes practices such as:

- Narration - see this [video on Beginning Narration](#)
- Living books
- Short lessons



- Includes practices such as JOY subjects:
  - Nature study / observation is the basis of science
  - Artist study / Composer study / Music / Handicrafts
  - These are things that bring us joy – and reduce stress

All of this fosters JOY, BEAUTY, and RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING.

If you'd like to learn more about the CM method:

- We have [CM Your Way Form Guides](#) – which have everything you need to plan your homeschool
  - List of subjects that need to be taught and how to implement that subject
  - Links to books and resources for each subject
  - How to schedule your homeschool for peace and joy
- We offer [Homeschool Consultations](#) to help you get started - you can find more info about consultations on our [New to Homeschooling page](#)
  - Hourly consultation with me
  - Special Needs consultation with Amy Bodkin, Ed.S.
  - Premium Consultation
- Free resources such as the [CM Subjects Pages](#) where you can find info about EVERY subject that needs to be taught as well as books and resources to implement that subject
- Free Resources on [homeschooling with special needs](#)
- If you'd like to read one of Charlotte's Volumes, we recommend starting with either [Volume 1, Home Education](#), or [Volume 6, A Philosophy of Education](#)
- Be sure to [subscribe to our YouTube channel](#)
- And, of course, [join our Facebook Group!](#)

I hope to chat with you soon!



Rachel Lebowitz  
A Charlotte Mason Plenary  
[rachel@cemplenary.com](mailto:rachel@cemplenary.com)