

A photograph of a forest path covered in bluebells. The path is a narrow, dirt trail that winds through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in a thick carpet of small, vibrant blue flowers. The trees are mostly bare, with some green leaves visible in the upper canopy. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a bright day. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

A Growing Time

with Charlotte Mason

by Sonya Shafer

SAMPLE

A Personal Calendar Journal

July 2013—June 2014

School Year Edition



Children learn, to grow," stated Charlotte Mason many years ago. Most parents would agree with her. We want to see our children grow. Yet sometimes we run ourselves ragged because we forget the basic principles of growth. We spend all of our time and effort trying to force-feed learning and control growth on our own time-table.

But growth cannot be dictated. It will happen in the right conditions on its own schedule. Our job is simply to cultivate those right conditions by providing the right atmosphere, pulling the weeds, and nourishing the plant.

This year take a breather and be refreshed by some basic truths about growing:

- The gardener's attitude greatly affects the growing atmosphere.
- It's easiest to pull weeds when they are small.
- Sometimes a weed is just a displaced plant.
- The best food to help a mind grow is ideas.
- Growth often occurs way down deep where we can't see it.

This handy school-year edition calendar will take you from July through June with encouraging articles, real examples, extra Charlotte Mason quotes, and plenty of room to write your personal notes.

Regain your perspective as you experience a growing time with Charlotte Mason!

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Charlotte Mason
.com

A Growing Time

*A Charlotte Mason
Personal Calendar Journal*

2013-14 School Year Edition

by Sonya Shafer

Excerpts from Charlotte Mason's books are surrounded by quotation marks and accompanied by a reference to which book in the series they came from.

Vol. 1: Home Education

Vol. 2: Parents and Children

Vol. 3: School Education

Vol. 4: Ourselves

Vol. 5: Formation of Character

Vol. 6: A Philosophy of Education

A Growing Time with Charlotte Mason, 2013–2014 School Year Edition

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JULY 2013						
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AUGUST 2013						
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JUNE 2014						
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Journal Notes

July

Gentle Reminders

Prayer Requests

Books I Am Reading

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	1	2	3
7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24
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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 <i>Independence Day</i>	5	6
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JULY 2013						
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AUGUST 2013						
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Lessons from Frog and Toad

Frog and Toad can teach us some good life lessons. Have you read their story about the garden? Toad sees Frog's beautiful garden and decides he wants one. So Frog gives him some seeds.

Toad plants them and impatiently watches for them to grow. He paces beside the garden; he shouts at the seeds, "Start growing!"

Frog reassures him: "Leave them alone for a few days. Let the sun shine on them, let the rain fall on them. Soon your seeds will start to grow."

But Toad wears himself out trying to do everything he can think of to make those seeds grow. Finally he falls asleep, exhausted; and while he is not looking, the seeds sprout.

"And now you will have a nice garden too," says Frog.

Toad agrees, but adds, "It was very hard work."

Lessons from Frog and Toad

While we may smile at Toad's unnecessary exertion and stress, we may also see a little bit of ourselves in him. Charlotte Mason taught that the goal of education is growth: "Children learn, to Grow" (Vol. 1, p. 171). Yet sometimes we forget some of the basic principles of growth and get ourselves all worked up over what we see or don't see. Let's take a breather and remind ourselves of four basic truths about growing.

1. Growth happens down deep where we can't see it.

So much of growing occurs under the surface, especially preparation for blooming. Just because we can't see a dramatic change in a child (yet) doesn't mean he's not growing inside. Be patient.

2. Growth shows up in spurts.

We've probably all seen a physical growth spurt in our children over the years, and other types of growth happen in spurts too. As

much as we would like to think that education is a steady climb in a certain direction, it's not. Just as with all of life, there is ebb and flow; a time of resting and preparing, then a time of moving ahead. Therefore, we would do well not to confine our focus to just one day of education, or one week, or one month. We can get a better perspective if we look at a whole season of growth. How has the child grown over the school year? How has he grown comparing this year with last year? Look at the big picture.

3. Sometimes we run ourselves ragged when we don't need to.

Poor Toad wore himself out trying to do everything he could think of to push those seeds to grow. He didn't realize that he was already doing what was most important: providing good soil, a sunny spot, and rain. He just needed to calm down and add some time.

Some of us just need to calm down and add some time for a child to grow. It's easy to stress out when growth hasn't appeared by our self-imposed deadline. But if we have provided what is most necessary, there is no need to run around looking for ways to force that natural growth.

So what is most necessary? I hear some of you asking. That is the question we will be discussing over this year. Read on.

4. Growth is a natural process in the right circumstances.

God made plants to grow in the right set of circumstances. And He made people the same way. Growth will happen if we focus on three essential things.

- Provide the right atmosphere.
- Pull the weeds.
- Nourish the plant.

Over the coming months we will ponder and discuss each one of those essentials for a growing time. Not every plant will look the same; each one's growth will be unique. But we can encourage that individual growth if we make sure of these three things. It doesn't have to be as hard as some of us make it. Trust the process.

Education is all about growing, not just knowing. I hope this year we will be reminded to be patient, look at the big picture, calm down, and trust the process.

July



"Children learn, to Grow" (Vol. 1, p. 171).

30 • SUNDAY

1 • MONDAY

2 • TUESDAY

3 • W E D N E S D A Y

4 • T H U R S D A Y *Independence Day*

5 • F R I D A Y

6 • S A T U R D A Y

JULY 2013						
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July



“In this time of extraordinary pressure, educational and social, perhaps a mother’s first duty to her children is to secure for them a quiet growing time, a full six years of passive receptive life, the waking part of it spent for the most part out in the fresh air” (Vol. 1, p. 43).

7 • SUNDAY

8 • MONDAY

9 • TUESDAY

10 • W E D N E S D A Y

11 • T H U R S D A Y

12 • F R I D A Y

13 • S A T U R D A Y

JULY 2013						
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July



“What we desire is the still progress of growth that comes of root striking downwards and fruit urging upwards. And this progress in character and conduct is not attained through conditions of environment or influence but only through the growth of ideas, received with conscious intellectual effort” (Vol. 6, p. 297).

14 • SUNDAY

15 • MONDAY

16 • TUESDAY

17 • W E D N E S D A Y

18 • T H U R S D A Y

19 • F R I D A Y

20 • S A T U R D A Y

JULY 2013						
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July



“Now no external application is capable of nourishing life or promoting growth; baths of wine, wrappings of velvet have no effect upon physical life except as they may hinder it; life is sustained on that which is taken in by the organism, not by that which is applied from without”
(Vol. 6, p. 24).

21 • SUNDAY

22 • MONDAY

23 • TUESDAY

24 • W E D N E S D A Y

25 • T H U R S D A Y

26 • F R I D A Y

27 • S A T U R D A Y

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July



*“Who shall fix limitations to the power of parents?
The destiny of the child is ruled by his parents, because they
have the virgin soil all to themselves. The first sowing must
be at their hands, or at the hands of such as they choose to
depute” (Vol. 2, p. 29).*

28 • SUNDAY

29 • MONDAY

30 • TUESDAY

3 1 • W E D N E S D A Y

1 • T H U R S D A Y

2 • F R I D A Y

3 • S A T U R D A Y

JULY 2013						
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