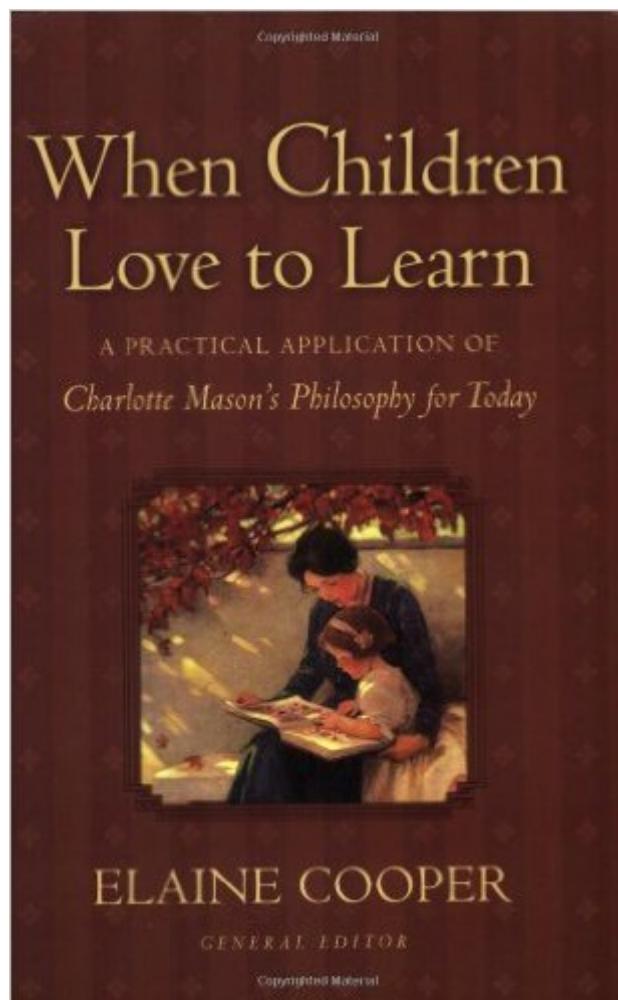


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# When Children Love To Learn: A Practical Application Of Charlotte Mason's Philosophy For Today



## **Synopsis**

They're hallmarks of childhood. The endless "why" questions. The desire to touch and taste everything. The curiosity and the observations. It can't be denied-children have an inherent desire to know. Teachers and parents can either encourage this natural inquisitiveness or squelch it. There is joy in the classroom when children learn-not to take a test, not to get a grade, not to compete with each other, and not to please their parents or their teachers-but because they want to know about the world around them! Both Christian educators and parents will find proven help in creating a positive learning atmosphere through methods pioneered by Charlotte Mason that show how to develop a child's natural love of learning. The professional educators, administrators, and Mason supporters contributing to this volume give useful applications that work in a variety of educational settings, from Christian schools to homeschools. A practical follow-up to Crossway's *For the Children's Sake*, this book follows a tradition of giving serious thought to what education is, so that children will be learning for life and for everlasting life. Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I should preface this review by stating that I own every Charlotte Mason book on the market today, including her original six volumes. Aside from her own words in those writings, I consider this the most helpful book I own when it comes to actually implementing her methods. Honestly, I hesitated to buy this book for quite a while because the editorial review wasn't especially glowing and there weren't many reader reviews describing its incredible attributes. At any rate, I figured I should keep my collection complete, so I bought it to see what it had to offer. I am extremely pleasantly surprised

by its content. The beauty of this book is that it was collectively written by educators who are involved with modern Charlotte Mason schools. Unbeknownst to many of the homeschooling folks who are drawn to her philosophy and methods (myself included), there are actually real brick and mortar CM schools currently in the United States. Because of the nature of the authors' experience, this book is full of practical information! The funny thing is that I wouldn't necessarily describe it as the most inspirational Charlotte Mason book I own. For the Children's Sake and A Charlotte Mason Companion are actually vying for that role. Those two books sure do give you a warm fuzzy for CM. The problem for me, personally, has been moving from the warm fuzzy to my practical homeschooling in 2008. I have spent more hours than I would like to admit reading homeschool philosophy and perusing Charlotte Mason web sites. The problem that gnawed at me until I read this book, however, was the feeling that CM lovers of today were hearkening back to Victorian times a bit too much for my liking.

This is the most useful book relating to either teaching or parenting that I've read thus far in my life (well, other than scriptures). Maybe it would help to qualify this statement to say that I'm a licensed clinical (mental health) therapist and have studied about every developmental and parenting theory out there. The proper word for this book would be inspiring. The philosophy, based very specifically on a recognition of a child as a PERSON, and a child of God; very directly correlates teaching in any form with a way of being, with an active recognition of the innate value of each person. It is also a very applicable philosophy, for which this book in particular, is a tremendous aid. I've been intrigued with Charlotte Mason since I began researching methods for homeschooling...and at first loved the idea, but had a terrible time understanding exactly how to use it. This book cleared that all up for me and gave me a solid, working knowledge of how to teach using Charlotte Mason's philosophy, as well as a foundation of exactly WHY she used each method of teaching. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has any interaction with children. I've found myself wanting to recommend it to all of the mothers I know who have children of school age...not to encourage homeschooling, but to help them judge the quality of education their children receive, and help them make better decisions regarding it. So many parents seem ignorant of what their children are actually learning, not to mention how and why. After reading this book, I feel that I would be unable to allow any less for my own children than what is described in its pages...which for me means an overhaul of my own interactions with them.

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