Mon Pelights' Homeschool Schedule

Just an example of how a simple, excellent, and affordable curriculum can be used with children of multiple ages.



Day 1	Early Learner	Middler	Intermediate	Together With Mom
	 Phonics flashcards: Short and long vowel sounds, Basic consonant sounds, Th, ch, sh—only once through (to keep away from fatigue and frustration). 10 minutes We read a little bit from McGuffey's Primer (we are starting the pictorial). 10-15 minutes I have a prepared page in a composition book for her to copy some of what she is reading with a place for a drawing. On her own; 15 minutes Math Play: we might use some dice that she rolls and then counts, or adds, some playing cards that we play "war" or some other simple game with, or we might use a 100's board and number flash cards. 10-15 minutes *These activities are not all done sequentially or one-after-another in the same slot of time. I might work with her older siblings for a while in-between each one, and she might be playing dolls or free-coloring, swinging outside, or tinkering on the piano keyboard in-between. 	 McGuffey's: Discuss picture and read word list together Point out anything new/significant She reads lesson aloud 10 minutes She copies word list in spaces I have created for her in a composition book. On her own, 10-15 minutes She completes a narrative drawing for the lesson in a space created for her in her composition notebook. On her own, 10-20 minutes *This child is often the second in line for reading with me; I put the Intermediate first, since she is able to be more independent and I can get her started and then go on to the younger ones. She and the Early Learner will often be happy playing for a little longer, or sometimes I have to satisfy them with something "schoolish" like a simple coloring page while I tend to the older siblings. 	McGuffey's: Read vocabulary together and point out anything new/significant (syllabication, prefix/suffix, plurals, past-tense, etc.) Look up definitions of strange words She reads lesson aloud & discusses 15-30 minutes She writes out her vocabulary words in a composition book She completes a narrative drawing for the lesson. On her own, 45-60 minutes *Sometimes it's best to take care of the tiniest child first, say, while the older siblings are cleaning up after breakfast or doing other chores. This way you've given him/her attention so that he/she is satisfied and happy while you turn to the older ones. Oh, and don't forget, a small snack goes a long ways towards peace!	I often have the Early Learner and the Middler play a math game or two together, either with dice, playing cards, or dominoes, which we make up according to what needs to be practiced. 20-30 minutes Read aloud from Little Visits With God 15-20 minutes Bedtime: RA a story or chapter from our current novel

Day 1	Advanced	More Advanced	Most Advanced	Together With Mom
Suy 1	 MCuffey's (Fifth): Read lesson to self. Copy a paragraph of your choice. Create original sentences using vocabulary list at the end of the chapter. Write a full-page narration. Harvey's: One lesson. 	McGuffey's (Sixth): Read lesson to self. Copy a paragraph of your choice. Write 10 original sentences which include words you found interesting/challenging in the lesson. Write a full-page narration. (she has already completed Harvey's)	 Notebooking: Takes specific directions and answers each in sections in a notebook. Delving deeply into subject of interest. Lately it is InDesign and Illustrator. Sometimes photography. 	Reading the Word or a Christian novel that applies the Word aloud with discussion.

Day 2	Early Learner	Middler	Intermediate	Together With Mom
Day 2	 Read a story (either fairy tale or simple story or story book) to her and have her "tell back" to me. 10-20 minutes Picture narration in a composition book I have prepared, perhaps with a little short copywork (if she is willing) or she will dictate to me a short narration that I write for her. (partly on her own) 15-20 minutes Sounding out practice. This can be done with either the book <i>Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons</i> or any basic word list. 10-15 minutes Math play (sometimes, or just 	 Copywork from yesterday's McGuffey's lesson. On her own, 10-15 minutes Practice reading in any simple book we choose (we have been reading a few pages in an old 50's reader, <i>Up and Away</i>, each 2nd day). Or, we might do some remedial phonics training using some exercises I have come up with. This child needs extra practice because her sight memory abilities aren't that well developed yet. 15-20 minutes Penmanship practice—we are currently using the worksheets from Donna Young. On her own, 10-15 minutes White's Arithmetic: Since she is a whiz at math we are breezing through this book, but I make sure we go over and over a concept until she understands it thoroughly before we move on, even if that means taking a detour and doing some worksheets (found for free online) or work 	 McGuffey's copywork from yesterday's lesson. I assign her two paragraphs. On her own, 20 minutes A lesson from Long's Language. On her own, 10-15 minutes Copy and study the words from a lesson in the McGuffey's speller. On her own; 15 minutes Penmanship: She is currently on the verge of writing in cursive, which I have taught her according to the revised McGuffey script. On her own, 15 minutes Math: she is working through White's, too, but we are also reinforcing some math concepts using worksheets. Math is not currently her strong area so she needs a little more help. 20-30 minutes 	More math games for the Middler and Intermediate. 15 minutes Bible time. I read a lesson from The Bible in Pictures For Little Eyes, then I pass out Bibles and we look up the actual story in the Bible and the readers take turns reading the passage aloud. 20 minutes Bedtime: RA a story or chapter from our current novel
		on a white-board or with manipulatives for a while. 15-20 minutes		

Day 2	Advanced	More Advanced	Most Advanced	Together With Mom
	 Khan Academy, one hour, working through the pre-algebra section. Science: Start each section with subject title and date (you can put this at the top or create a title page). Page 1: description/explanation of subject. Page 2: Graphics, drawings, etc. Page 3: Interesting facts, examples, stories, etc. MUST use two or more sources and note the sources at the end of the entry. 	Saxon Algebra: One lesson World Studies: Read a chapter in Coffin's "Sweet Land of Liberty." Include a map or other graphic. Include an important quote from the chapter. Write down your own thoughts or ideas and a bit of information on the subject rom another source.	 Chapter from "Home Comforts" and notebook entry on the chapter. Delving deeply into subject of interest. Lately it is InDesign and Illustrator. Sometimes photography. Baking: old or new recipe; cookies, bread, etc. 	Reading the Word or a Christian novel that applies the Word aloud with discussion.

Day 3 Early Learner	Middler	Intermediate	Together With Mom
 Read a story (either fairy tale or simple story or story book) to her and have her "tell back" to me. 10-20 minutes Picture narration in a composition book I have prepared, perhaps with a little short copywork (if she is willing) or she will dictate to me a short narration. Partly on her own, 15-20 minutes Sounding out practice. This can be done with either the book <i>Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons</i> or any basic word list. 10-15 minutes Math play (sometimes, or just playing quietly is fine, too) 15 minutes 	 Copywork from yesterday's McGuffey's lesson. On her own, 10-15 minutes Practice reading in any simple book we choose (we have been reading a few pages in an old 50's reader, <i>Up and Away</i>, each 2nd day). Or, we might do some remedial phonics training exercises. This child needs extra practice because her sight memory abilities aren't that well developed yet. 15-20 minutes Penmanship practice—we are currently using the worksheets from Donna Young. On her own, 10-15 minutes White's Arithmetic: Since she is a whiz at math we are breezing through this book, but I make sure we go over and over a concept before we move on, even if that means taking a detour and doing some worksheets or work on a white-board or with manipulatives for a while. 15-20 minutes 	 McGuffey's copywork from yesterday's lesson. I assign her two paragraphs. On her own, 20 minutes A lesson from Long's Language. On her own, 10-15 minutes Copy and study the words from a lesson in the McGuffey's speller. On her own; 15 minutes Penmanship: She is currently on the verge of writing in cursive, which I have taught her according to the revised McGuffey script. On her own, 15 minutes Math: she is working through White's, too, but we are also reinforcing some math concepts using worksheets. Math is not currently her strong area so she needs a little more help. 20-30 minutes 	 More math play for the Middler and Early Learner. 15 minutes Discovery time. We sit together and either read aloud a nonfiction title (such as a book on weather or the Eskimos) and discuss it, or we will take a concept, such as the seasons, and use a globe to explain, etc. Sometimes I help the children pursue something only each individual is interested in and we follow up with a notebooking page. Bedtime: RA a story or chapter from our current novel

Day 3	Advanced	More Advanced	Most Advanced	Together With Mom
	Khan Academy, one hour, working through the pre-algebra section.	Saxon Algebra: One lesson	Notebooking: preset questions	Reading the Word or a Christian novel that applies the Word
	World Studies: Work through the history of the U.S. one state at a time using the World Almanac with the following notebooking entries: Brief narration of the history of the	 Start each section with subject title and date (you can put this at the top or create a title page). Page 1: description/explanation of subject. 	 Delving deeply into subject of interest. Lately it is InDesign and Illustrator. Sometimes photography. Baking: old or new recipe; cookies, bread, etc. 	aloud with discussion.
	state.	Page 2: Graphics, drawings, etc.		
	 Interesting facts and comparisons. Graphic; usually a hand-drawn map 	 Page 3: Interesting facts, examples, stories, etc. 		
	of the state with interesting areas noted and labeled.	 MUST use two or more sources and note the sources at the end of the entry. 		

Day 4 Early Learner	arner Middler	Intermediate	Together With Mom
Phonics flash cards (just to keep the sounds fresh in her mind until the next day of formal academics).	sounds fresh in her mind until using the Reading-Literature series b	tice on this day.	 This is the children's favorite day, because this is the day they get to explore and make and do as they are inclined. Many times we do it as a huge group (the older children included). For instance, we noticed a sign on our nature walk about mountain lions in our area, so we will be gathering all of our research materials together and watching video footage about mountain lions, and then creating notebooking pages on them. Bedtime: RA a story or chapter from our current novel

Day 4	Advanced	More Advanced	Most Advanced	Together With Mom
	Khan Academy, one hour, working through the pre-algebra section.	Saxon Algebra: One lesson	Volunteering.	Reading the Word or a Christian novel that applies the Word
		Bible:	Work eight hours at a local food pantry	aloud with discussion.
	Bible study , using "Beauty in the Heart"		run by one of our relatives.	
	from Doorposts	Pick a passage and reference it on the		
		page.		
	Catch up on any of the other days' as-			
	signments	Write down cross references, narrate the passage, look up and define key words.		
		Or		
		Pick a subject or word and study it in		
		depth, conclude with a narration.		
		Catch up on other days' assignments.		

Notes:

This schedule reflects the "official" times we homeschool. I have not included here the books the children pick up on their own throughout the day, or the many, many drawings they create, or the projects they are involved in, such as sewing doll clothes, learning to crochet, learning to bake cookies, etc.

Besides this, we go on regular nature walks where they make all sorts of discoveries, find items for collections of rocks and weeds, and come up with lots of questions that we then rush home to find the answer to. Lately we have been using our walking time to memorize scripture (Psalm 1, Psalm 23, etc. chanted in something that resembles iambic meter). The children also like to jump on the trampoline or ride around on their scooters. They are very excited about our garden this year.

Their older siblings pass bits of knowledge and wisdom to them, and they are included many times when we are singing or discussing subjects a little bit above their heads.

They are also have regular chores and are taught many, many things as our days flow and as the different subjects come up.

We might watch a show or two together, but not regular television programming. We also do not allow computer/video games to be played, which I consider a waste of time and something that can become addictive in some people.

BRAGGING is so important—little children need to know they are on the right track, even if they aren't doing everything perfectly, you need to make sure you tell them they are making progress, and if they struggle, don't let your own fears take over, but make sure you give them the confidence that God will help them!

I don't use grade levels, because I believe these hamper children. In any given conventional classroom not every child is at grade level; some are ahead, some are below, but usually in different areas. I want my children to reach milestones, not feel as though they are pigeon-holed and expected to know how to do certain things by certain ages. Sometimes they will be ahead, sometimes behind, and both are fine!

Notes:

Most of their work is done independently, I only look in once-in-a-while to see how they are doing. I also have them turn in their notebooks so that I can review them and write personal notes to each person.

Their daily required work only takes three to four hours, and their chores only take about three or four more. Besides family time, this leaves them with plenty of hours for reading novels, writing novels, tackling crafts, connecting online (with supervision), entrepreneurial pursuits, baby sitting, etc.

In good weather they are required to get some sort of outside exercise daily. Sometimes this means jumping on the trampoline, other times it means a long walk (we live on the outskirts, so long country walks are a favorite pass time in our home).