



### **Waldorf Homeschool U Module 3: Transcript**

#### **What Your Homeschool Needs: Set up, Supplies & Tools**

Hi! This is Donna with The Waldorf Connection and welcome to lesson 3 of our Waldorf Homeschool U and this week's class is all about your etheric curriculum and your homeschool space. I just want to remind you that you can ask questions right on The Waldorf Homeschool U page. You can just post, also on the blog, you can just post comments below each lesson and go ahead and just questions along the way.

We got some conversations going in there but feel free to share ideas, ask questions, whatever you need, if you need more clarification on something or think of something I didn't cover because that's what this for, this class is for you to get everything you need to get out of it and I want to make sure that I'm giving you the right information and that I've covered everything you need. Please feel free to use that during this 6-week course as we're going along so I can make sure to give you everything you need so you'll be successful in your homeschooling.

Alright, let us go along here and get started so we're going to talk today about kind of getting into more of the practical side of it here and that is talking about curriculum, what homeschooling really looks like and your space and how to set it up and all of that. Let's just talk about what does homeschooling really looks like. I think that when I started I had this idea in my head, it was going to be like this, it felt a little overwhelming, a little scary maybe and I wasn't sure exactly what it would be and if it was going to take up most of my day and how was I going to juggle it with all the other things that I had to do and this whole thing.

Anything unknown could seem a little intimidating but once we really got into it and once I really had my rhythm and again I'm going right back to the rhythm because it is such a big key here. Having that rhythm setup that we talked about in lesson 2 is about 80% of really what you need for homeschooling and it may sound odd that we're talking about having that rhythm but really that is such a key piece and

that's why we talked about it as one of the first lessons for you to start working on your rhythm because what I saw was most of the things we were already doing since they had a pretty good rhythm, when I girls started first grade we already had a pretty good rhythm going and it didn't seem like we had much to add to what we are already doing.

Basically we had our morning routine that we did, we took our walk, we had our breakfast, we took our walk, we came back, we did circle time and then the rest of the day was sort of mapped out with meals and errands and play and even getting together and doing maybe some light handwork. Before they were into doing handwork, we did some finger knitting and craft and things. We had it pretty much setup and when it was time for first grade, all I had to do was add the main lesson piece after the circle time and that really seemed very effortless that there wasn't a big transition and "okay now we're finally homeschooling. Everything's going to change, it's going to be all different" it wasn't like that at all. In fact in was just the opposite, it almost felt like "surely I'm not doing this right because this does seem too easy and it does seem too flowing and there must be more to it than this." I felt like there must have been something missing or I was doing something wrong but actually because the rhythm was setup and I had a good solid rhythm with those pillars and everything, it really did seem quite easy to make that transition over and I'm going to go through here in 15 minutes and I have it on there on the pdf as well, the example of my day.

As far as what our day looks like, you might be surprised to look at it. It just really looks a lot like life with some regular day to day activities and a little bit of homeschooling. If you've already been bringing some Waldorf inspired ideas like baking and singing and circle time, maybe some story time, painting; it really feel very comparable to that and if you haven't, if you're just sort of starting to get into that, if your children are little bit younger, not ready for the days, then it's perfect time for you to start establishing that and bringing something that you can call school time if you like or whatever you'd like to call it, just circle time. Circle time, time to get together and share.

Having that in place will really make a big difference if you're planning to go on and actually go into the grades and do the homeschooling because it's not like you have to block off 8 hours of your day to do homeschooling. It really does not take but a few hours and on the early grades, less than that to get to what we need to get to as long as there's some other things you're doing and there probably is other things you're doing throughout the day like I was saying you might be baking or you may be doing some light handwork or craft or singing, painting or drawing and doing some of those things at other times and I'll show you how I set up mine.

Basically for those earlier grades, it really will not take more than 2 hours for kindergarten, first or second grade. Just as you've always been doing with your children, they're always learning, right? They're all fun in nature and they're learning things as they go. There are a lot of things that happen in the homeschool environment that's just very organic and the learning just happens. It doesn't have to be "okay we're going to sit down here, we're going to start learning about these butterflies flying around outside." It doesn't work like that, it's very organic.

It just happens and just unfolds and I made a recommendation to someone early one who just started homeschooling and she said she didn't think she was doing enough and I said "just keep a notebook or a journal or something." And you may want to do this too if you're feeling the same way or start to feel the same way. Just jot down all the things that you are doing or little things that happen throughout the day that you consider school, a learning lesson. It could be 10 minutes in the car when you're talking about math or something. Keeping up with all those little things, it does add up and just because you're not sitting in front of a desk while you're doing it doesn't mean that it's not happening and that they're not learning.

That's the beauty of homeschool. You don't have to be sitting in the traditional behind the desk with their notebooks out and their pencils to learn things. We want them to learn hands on. We want them to do something while they're gardening, they're planting and they're trimming and they're raking and they're building things and everything. It all counts towards school. That's what I'm saying, as far as what school looks like; it can look whatever you want it to look of course. It just really looks a lot like life happening and there is a little bit of more formal school if you will but you can decide how you want that to look and we'll talk about that a little bit more when we get into setting up your homeschool space.

Picking a firm time to begin school, I am sort of a stickler with that. of course there are days when we start school later but to keep the rhythm flowing and to keep the children's attention as well as your own, usually starting in the earlier morning works better and it just depends on your schedule as far as when that will work for you. Around 9 o'clock seems to work for us. It gives me time in the morning to get the house together, get the breakfast done, throw a load of laundry in, maybe check a few emails and then we start school. It gives the children to play a little bit in the morning and kind of get a little energy out but not too much time that they're like gone. If we do start sometimes too late, it's really hard to pull them back from what they're doing when they really get involved in their play.

For me it helps because it's time to get going and I know I have to start my day, kind of keeps me on track and whatever time that works for you. You have to look at your own schedule. If you're getting up real early with babies or whatever, you could start at 7:30 and do some schooling around your other children's nap, feedings or whatever, husband's schedule maybe they're working a night shift or something, depending on when your children are going to bed and getting up, what's the best time or if you're working part time, you may have to homeschool in the afternoon.

It's really hard to say a one-size-fits-all, really again according to your rhythm, your own needs, your values, like we talked about last week with mission statements and where you are, what fits you and your family. It's something you will have to decide depending on what's going on in your own life. Are you actually the one doing the schooling? Are you having someone like a mother or a childcare provider come help with lessons while you do work or many scenarios. There's not the one-size-fits-all here. You have to work out something that works for you.

We'll talk a little bit more about that but for us, this is kind of the way we've done it and it's kind of stuck with us and that works for us. I'm just giving you example as far as picking a time and sticking with it. Also you may want to turn off your phone ringer, close your email reminders, anything that could keep distractions down because while it's a blessing and wonderful to be schooling at home, there's also things going on in your home. It's not like you're in a classroom where you're not going to be disrupted. You got dogs barking, laundry and the phone ringing and people knocking on the door, maybe babies crying or waking up from naps. There could be other things that happen. Just try to; if possible, it doesn't always work but try to limit the distractions if you can, whatever you can control.

I tell people don't call me before lunch time because I won't be answering the phone or you can just leave a message. I just devote the morning to the children and to school. In that way and everybody just learned that okay she's not going to get back at me unless it's an emergency or something. That kind of a thing, just try to stick to that and try to keep your distractions to a minimum because sometimes there are a lot of things going on, Facebook looks great, you start getting on there and surfing and doing things and the next thing you know an hour has gone by, you've missed that window.

Here's kind of brief outline of our day. We usually begin school around 9 am. We do our morning routine, morning chores, whatever we need to do, breakfast and then our morning walk and then circle time is how we start and of course that can last anywhere for us about 20 – 45 minutes, depending on what we include. In the earlier grade, kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, it was much shorter and just increased a little bit more because we add, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we extended it a little bit by adding the times table, spelling practice, by throwing bean bags I ask and give them spelling words or we do the times tables.

I did add recorder in 1<sup>st</sup> grade and that is up to you if you would like to do something like it. If you want to have a recorder time within your circle time or that could be one of those afternoon activities that you can come back in with your children and we'll talk about that in a minute where you do something at a different time depending on their attention span and just how involved you want to be with the circle time and how long you want it to go. This is something that we worked out that worked for us and you can certainly model mine if you like but you probably will have to make different adjustments depending on your children and situation.

Our first grade circle time was probably 10 – 15 minutes at most. Don't freak out if you get down and you think "oh my gosh, circle time is supposed to be 30 minutes" and you just keep trying to add more stuff. It's not supposed to be that long. It's really just a short time where you come together, light a candle if you like, have an opening verse. You do some movements and maybe some finger play, a song. I've got an example of the video there, if you'd like to watch. It's just short. I didn't do the whole circle time but just a couple of things where we sing a song or do some movements. We do our monthly verse. You can do a seasonal verse, a couple little things and it's done. It's not supposed to be something where you're really prolonging it unless when you get a little older and you start doing more songs or singing longer things, playing longer recorder songs or whatever.

Then we move right on to main lesson and we do our circle time in our living room just to give you a feel around where our sofa which has always been there. We used to have carpets and I think that's probably why we started in there because we would sit on the carpet and we would do things and everything. We since pulled the carpet out and just have a wood floor but we're just so used to doing it in there. Again it's that rhythm. We just keep doing it and then we light our candle on our coffee table and the girls can go around the coffee table and the sofa.

Sometimes we just do jumping jack and knee ups just to get the blood pumping and stretching, whatever feels good. Some yoga poses; you can add those in some circle time. That's really nice, a good way to get things stretched out and going and then when we finish our circle time we moved into our schoolroom, I've got pictures of it on here and on the video which was our dining room that we never use except for Easter and Christmas and a few holidays. The rest of the time it just sat there, a big, huge unused room that we just moved some things around and it became our craft or schoolroom where we do all of our craft, sewing and of course school projects and anything like that. That's kind of the room and it's great.

We use it every day now and there's plenty of room there for us. We move in there and we do schoolwork with the table and chairs where the girls can sit with their feet flat on the ground. We have a long table that we got from IKEA which is very inexpensive and what I love about it is it has adjustable legs. We got the same table; I did replace the table top I believe. I had the table for years and then we got a new table top last year and as they grown, we just make the table taller so that we don't have to buy a new table and then we have stools that we replaced with. It looks like those little office chairs on wheels but again, adjustable so that they can go higher or lower as the girls have grown because when they started actually doing a lot of writing, it was important for them to be able to have their feet flat on the ground and sitting with good posture for holding the pencil and learning to write. We got that worked out in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade I believe when we did cursive.

We do our main lesson which could last anywhere from an hour, it depends on what we're doing. If we're doing a painting day it may be a little bit longer. For 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, the early grades I would say it's probably no longer than 30 minutes because you're telling them stories, they're doing their drawing in a book or you're retelling what happened the day before and they're writing out a sentence or whatever. It really doesn't take that long and that's the whole thing. It's not this long, drawn out thing that you have to prepare your days for and it's very effortless and it's done and it's enjoyable.

They don't have to sit there for 4 hours while we go through school. I'll say in the earlier days we did have sort of a break for snack, it seemed like after circle time we might have a short snack. They always wanted snacks. We would have a snack, I'd have them chop, we'd have some snack, some yogurt and fruit, cheese and crackers, something quick and easy that they could help with and that would just give them that thing to sit now through the main lesson even if it was just 30 minutes.

Now we pretty much get down around lunch time or well before lunch time and they just go off in what I deemed or coined 'free-play' years ago which meant they just go do their own thing and I go and get

ready to start lunch or whatever I need to do for a little while, may go out and do free play. It's kind of their own thing. Whatever they want to do, I'm not having them do anything. They can do whatever it is they choose.

Then we get back together for lunch and then in the afternoon I usually have some kind of work I have to do, again they're playing usually outside and then I have a time where we get back together in the afternoon, usually at 3 or 4 o'clock for some other kind of school activity, kind of school in parenthesis here. It could be handwork, painting, craft, baking; again it could be music practice, recorder, if we're doing a foreign language. Something else that you could bring in. it's like in and out, in and out flow. They go play then they come back. You can do story time if you got younger children and you're not really doing anything. It could be finger knitting or then winding a ball of yarn or helping you sort colors of yarn while you do 15 minutes of knitting and then they watch. It's just coming back, when you have younger children and they wanted your attention.

By giving that 15 minutes of attention of whatever, it's just what they need and they go off again just in time for you to start your meal prepping or whatever for dinner and then it's coming back, it's connecting with them again, giving them a hug, reading them a story or doing something else with the else. If it's older of course it may take a little bit longer. If you're involved in painting or doing something, then they help you clean up and they're off to play again and you can say "good, I know I've got at least 30 minutes probably that I can get in there and start getting dinner ready or getting things ready or finishing some emails" whatever you might need to do.

Think of it as sort of a birth of being together and then they go play, being together and coming together and this in and out, in and out again. Just think of the tide flowing in and out, in and out because you don't want to say "okay I've seen a few hours" because that won't work anyway. They'd be like "where are you? What are you doing?" they just want to know you're still there and they want to have that connection. If you build that into your rhythm and into your day, it just makes things easier and it won't have to feel like "they're bugging me again, I'll never going to get all these chores done or whatever" and then of course it depends on your day. If you got errands or things to do then it could be the same thing, maybe you've gone out to do some errands and then when you get home, you do a short saying together and then they're off to play.

If you think about it, it is really just a lot of life here with homeschooling mixed in because during that day, you'll be doing all of the other thing that you need to do, washing the dishes and doing the laundry, letting the dog out, feeding the baby or whatever that you need to do. These all just kind of come in between in these little snippets throughout the day and if anybody has questions on this, please go ahead and ask.

I had a note here that said "it took me years to established this and get this right for our family." It did, it's a process. It's not something that you're like "oh okay great, I've got it" it may have to change, you may have to tweak things if things are not working and you're trying something over and over going, you just have a feeling that this is not working, I'm not feeling right about it. Try to have another pair of eyes

look at it. Maybe someone else has a question or you composed, like I'm trying this but this is not working. You maybe just like thinking it has to be this certain way, instead think outside the box a little bit and say "maybe we really need to shift this whole thing around and kind of look at it from a different perspective or ask someone who's close to you, who know you to help you. It's just nice sometimes to have someone else look at the situation that you've been trying to make it work and it just isn't or maybe you're trying too hard to kind of force something you really want but it's not working for your family, keep that in mind but it is a process and you will keep tweaking at.

Again, this 'how do I get there from here' that's what I'm talking but it's building this whole thing and it takes a while. It's not just going to happen overnight. Start with the rhythm, start with getting the bedtime routines and the morning routines and the meal plans, everything in place and then build the next thing and then add the next thing and then add the next thing. Once you get something going for a couple weeks, add the next thing. Don't try to just scrap and redo the whole rhythm in one weekend and then you're going to be like "Oh My Gosh! I'm going to do all of this" and it's going to seem very overwhelming.

Just try to add little things as you go and build on it. Know that it's okay if you're over here and you're trying to get over here, it's alright. If you just take short little steps and make those steps in the right direction and just keep moving to where you want to go, as long as you're staying on that path and you're going in the right direction then that's it. We're all on the path. Nothing's ever perfect here. Nothing ever goes exactly the way I would love it to go but I try to get as close as I can. I try to make sure I'm staying true to what I really want for my children and also what I can actually accomplish without killing myself with exhaustion and putting all these too many goals that I know I'll never be able to obtain and just trying to reach so high that I'm so frustrated. Be realistic with all of that.

Like I said I hope I haven't burst your bubble as far as what the whole Waldorf homeschool day looks like but it really is nothing out of the ordinary. It's fantastic and it's really all about rhythm and like I said, there's a little schooling there. The rhythm is really the big key. That's all I have to really say about that.

Let's move on to curriculum, what types of curriculum are right for you. This is kind of the big subject here and this might be something where you're like "okay, I want to find out this right away. What's my curriculum type?" There's a few questions I want you to ask yourself to narrow this down because there are quite a few curriculums out there, of course there's a do it yourself where you create your own curriculum just based on what you were supposed to be doing this year, doing the fairytales and all of that.

You can do your own, a lot of people do. They don't buy a particular curriculum. They may buy a few supplemental books and then they just make up their own lessons based on the fairytales, they make up their own stories. They make up everything that goes along with it and there are plenty of people out there who love that and do that. I did a little bit of that myself in the beginning because it's something I felt comfortable doing and like doing and I worked out big and it's not that I don't like it but I realized that running a business and doing that, it's too much for me and I have to be realistic and say "I'd love to

be able to do that every day and every week but it wasn't realistic for me" so I had to get something that I at least had a backbone that I had something there that I could follow and then I can bring my own flare and add my own projects and tweak things. I don't really want to do that, let's do this other things. At least I had something there as my base, my starting point, my spring board.

Let's look at the first thing there at that's time. I think that's a big issue for most of us, is how much time do we have. Before you go out there and start looking at the curriculums that you love, let's really look at where you are instead of looking for something. Figure out what would be right for you and then go look based on that, and that is how much time do you have to devote to planning your daily or weekly lessons? I really want you to be honest.

Like I said, if you have one child and you're not working and you got a spouse or whatever and you've got support, you'll have some time and you may want if you're very crafty, this maybe the thing just for you that you want to dip your foot in and make your own curriculum up pretty much and just use some books here and there and that's great but if you have 3 children, maybe one is a baby and you got a toddler and a seven year old, it may not be as feasible or if you've got 2 or 3 children in the grade, you have to do more than one grade.

If you have to plan 3 grades, that could get quite taxing. You got to do main lessons for all of those; it could take a lot of time. If you work part time or work outside the home, have a job or your own business, take all of that your regular responsibilities and what time you have even while you're not homeschooling. Do you have any free time or you're just totally slammed and then don't put yourself in a situation where adding this huge homeschooling planning thing is just going to set you up for failure, even though you may really want to do it at this time, it's not feasible but by having a curriculum that's all planned then it is feasible. You have to decide, you got to pick something that really works for you and doesn't stress you out. Really being honest here, take a look at how much time you have.

The second thing is your personality or your temperament and that's another thing. If you're very organized person who like to control what's happening, love details and all that planning then again that might be something that you find a curriculum that doesn't have everything planned day to day. This gives some general ideas and you can take that and run with it.

That's awesome, that's great or if you're more of a person that really has to follow something step by step, then it's taking that into consideration if you're sort of a go with the flow kind of person. Looking at that, you might say "oh my gosh I would love this over here" but be realistic with yourself. Are you a person who's really going to follow through? Are you going to plan ahead? Are you going to be the one to be able to do that? Because it does take some discipline to do it and if you take a look at your track record, not to say you can but you know in your heart that that's not you and you probably won't be able to follow through, then you don't want your child to be the one ending up with not getting what they need to get from you because you just wanted a certain lesson plan or some curriculum that looked pretty online or whatever.

The third thing is about cost and this also could be a factor depending on how many grades you have to purchase or what investment you would like to make, some are smaller pretty reasonable and then some are little more expensive. Not to say they're not worth it because they're probably are, I mean they're great and a lot of the stuff is very amazing and there's a lot of stuff. Cost is a factor too. Take a look at that. Do I have to buy just one grade? If you do then you can go ahead and invest maybe if that's the one you want and know that you can resell those, depending on the curriculum.

There are certain rules, depending on who you have. Some will let you sell it back and some will not but you can also get that on the Yahoo group where you can buy used curriculum. That's what I do, I buy the stuff, I use it for the year and when I'm done I sell it back and I get the money back or most of the money back to put in for the next year. It's on to someone else to use it as a discount and great for me because I can purchase what I need for the next year.

I don't mind making the initial investment because I know I'll get most of it back and I have every time on any of the materials, toys, books, anything that's still in good shape or practically decent shape and most of it lasts and you can really get a good money back when your kids have outgrown it or you've gone on or if you've got another child in another grade and you know you'll be using it again, then it's like you get double the money. You can hang on to it and you can use that when your younger child is coming up to the first grade or whatever. Take a look at that. If something is totally out of your budget, best not to even go there and look at it and there's plenty out there you can get for reasonable price so you don't have to feel like you're really missing out at all.

We can talk a little bit more about that. I am going to be adding some audios that I did last year for our expo that interviewed moms who would use the top 5 or 6 curriculums out there and it was moms who would use them for at least 2 – 3 years. I wanted them to be pretty versed with the whole curriculum, not just 1 year and they kind of told how it's laid out, what the features and benefits are, what they liked about that curriculum. You can hear directly from the moms. I have not used every curriculum though I have seen I think all of them. I haven't used every one every year of course.

This way you can hear it from them and I'll let you have those audios so that you can take a listen and see maybe you'll hear right away what you like about something or that might interest you that you can go check it out and I will have all of those up on the website so you can check them out. If you have questions after you've listened to them, please post and I'll be happy to answer them or of course you can always contact the person directly who wrote that curriculum if you've got questions. I'm usually very happy to answer anything and you can certainly tell them that I sent you over there. I know most of them.

Again, you can also do something on your own which is making your own curriculum. I talked a little bit about that where you can get a few fairytale books from the library. Let's just use first grade as an example. First grade is an easy thing. In one way it's easy because now looking back it seemed easy but at the time I really wanted something that I could follow so I know exactly all the stories that went along, all the fairytales whatever but you could certainly get fairytales in the library and some nature

stories, teach the four processes through the stories about math gnomes, you can find online or even make up your own. Some use squirrels and things, all very doable without purchasing a done for you curriculum. It can really be done.

I did this a lot in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, I felt a little more confident about “okay I kind of got a handle on it now.” We got fables from the library and I used them and made up my own, kind of blocks there, we did tall tales, a lot of the legend stories and that kind of thing. I braced myself out there in the second grade and even though I did have something I was following, I mostly did a lot of it myself and it can be done and it can be done in the earlier grades pretty simple just by borrowing books in the library. You may already have some of these books and you can do it yourself. That’s also another, you don’t feel like you have to purchase a done for you curriculum. You can have just some supplemental books here and there and your basics for circle time and the things you need. That’s a totally doable way to do it, as far I know there are many out there that do that. I don’t want you to feel like you have to buy a curriculum.

Let’s go on to setting up your homeschool space and again I’ve got pictures that you can look at on the video that I did and also on the pdf of our schoolroom. It actually was taken a couple years ago, I might post more recent one up here. Basically this is our dining room space, you can see the table that we have right here, the main lesson books. You just have to look in your house and see what space you have. Maybe you have a dining room like I have that you really don’t use or maybe there’s a bedroom but I tend to think it’s better to be out in an area that’s in the main living space where there’s a kitchen, a dining room, a living room or something because probably you’re not going to be want to be back in the bedroom.

There should be other children running around. They’re going to want to be around near the kitchen to get supplies of water or snacks. Probably one of the main living areas will work better if you can do that. Even if you just have a kitchen or dining room table that you use during your school time, it doesn’t have to be a specific room set aside. It can be done at the desk or even a coffee table. It can be done sitting on a couch. It can be done outside.

A lot of times we do our school outside. It’s a beautiful day. Let’s just go outside and do school, why do we have to sit in here? You want something to write on or paint on or even if they’re just listening, they may just have to sit and listen to you tell a story. Don’t be afraid to think outside the box there as far as your schooling and where you can do it. You may have a back porch that’s enclosed or a screened porch or something that might be the perfect spot if it overlooked the garden or it’s got a beautiful view.

Try to give the children kind of a nature space depending on what you’ve got available. Even if you’re just on an apartment, you just got a small space, you got a table of some type, you can even use a snack tray or something if you have to, a small little table in the kids room. Even if you have a desk or something, there’s no excuse really. You could just use anything. It doesn’t have to be something that’s setup spectacularly. Depending on what you have available. The thing you really need to have I would say is a desk or a table or something to write on and some kind of cabinet, shelf or some kind of a place to house your materials.

It could be like a bookshelf where you make a little room on where you can put some of your materials, a cabinet that you share...in the picture here I got some cabinets and on the other side we have a pantry which is for our food and/or supplies. I share with the chalk and different things, they share that pantry. Wherever you can make a little bit of a room and if it has doors that you can close, all the better so that you don't have to stare at all the stuff or maybe use a silk to cover it up, a beautiful silk to cover, something you dyed together that you can cover up, like an open bookshelf. You can put it in front and then some few basic materials.

Basically there's not a whole lot that you have to have, that's what I'm saying. There are some things you can have and I've got some more things listed here like an art board, a light piece of...I don't even know what this is, kind of like a laminate, like a think art board that we got years ago and we still use the same ones for a painting board or I can it an art board, painting board.

Recently I added 2 small chalkboards for them, like little slates. They're little bit bigger than that. Probably 8 ½, 11 size that they use for math problems, form drawings. We've gotten into more difficult form drawings so something they can practice on before they put it in their main lesson books. I have a chalkboard on the wall that I use. I've seen big chalkboards that people has on wheels that they wheel in and out or just one of those that you can hold up and draw your chalkboard drawing on. It is nice to have a chalkboard. Some people even paint their walls with a chalkboard paint right in there kitchen, their dining room or whatever and have a little space that they just paint right on the wall with the chalkboard paint and then they turn into a chalkboard. You can paint over it if you move or change room.

Also, a drawing pad made out of newspaper and brown bags from the grocery store. There's a link to that right on our pdf, you can make those little drawing pads to put under your drawings. They're really nice and easy and you can make new ones anytime you need and of course some basic supplies which I list here as some basic, kind of startup supplies that you'll need – block crayons, really depends on the age of your child to begin with; 1<sup>st</sup> grade, you really only need 3 colors of crayons, the blue, the red and the yellow. You could really do with on the budget.

I will give you one hint as to get yourself supplies, you'll need a main lesson book, you'll need 3 crayons, you'll need a paint board and an art board. I didn't think that I would need it. I didn't think about it. I just ordered two of everything for the girls and then when it was time for me to show them how to do it, I was like "I get now how to use these two." Get yourself a paintbrush, get yourself a main lesson book, get yourself an art board. Just make sure you have a section...we do share like the crayons. Crayons I think I do have my own set.

We share the colored pencils and pen and that kind of thing now that the girls are little older. In the beginning we just had a few things, like I was saying the block crayons, if you want to have a couple stick crayons. You don't even need pencils. We introduced pencils at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and pen; you don't need anything like that. Colored pencils I think I've got some on the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. The paint, you don't need to stock more. Again, 3 colors – blue, yellow and red; one paintbrush, you can use a

natural sponge or any kind of sponge. I use this big and I've got this on my video. You can see a big plastic bin that I think is for toys and we just use that or you can use like one of those leather made to dip if you want to wet the paper right there, you can use that and just the main lesson books. You only need a few things here and there like some silk, maybe some beeswax. There's really not a whole lot, maybe some counting.

I use those little jewels in the first and second grade, little round gems you can get at the craft store. They were the gnome's jewels. They look like those little round, they're flat not like pebbles but flat things you might put not like the things on the fish tank, these look like a penny almost, the size of the penny but little bit thicker and I got them in the same gnomes colors – yellow, blue, red and green and then we use those for counting, for other things you might need right away, when they start to learn the processes in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade where they really start getting into counting and making the piles for division and multiplication and things like that.

You can really get started with just the basics of what you need and just add as you go and these things will last you so long that it's worth it. They may seem like "oh my gosh, do I have to spend that much for paint?" but you'll use those paints the whole year and maybe in 2 years, depending on what you paint. Some good painting paper, you'll need some thicker weight painting paper for the painting and anything else I just kind of add on to my list here of some kind of basic supplies to get started. Baby food jars to mix the paint and the water, any kind of pickle jars when you rinse out putting them in the recycle bin. For their water, for their paint so we just keep the same paint, we keep them altogether in a bin and in the early days they just have a t-shirt or an art smack to put over their clothes to keep it right altogether so they don't get paint everywhere.

It's really not that difficult. There's not a lot of stuff that's needed. You don't need all kinds of things. You just need a few things that we use that last a while, they're great quality and they're worth every penny because they last.

If you have any questions as far as any other things like to get started, what you need or where you can do it. Go ahead and post. I'm going to go ahead and let it go at this. I don't want to overwhelm you too much but again, ask questions and I'll be happy to answer them and don't forget to watch the video and listen to the audios about the curriculum and I'll talk to you again, bye

**End of Audio**