



Class 5: Presenting

Weekly Agenda:

Notebook- You may find it easier to print the PDF lessons and house them in a 3-ring binder or notebook for easy reference and highlighting.

Lesson Availability- You can download your weekly lessons by accessing the webpage above. The material will be available up to 60 days after the end of the course to make sure you have had time to get everything. I recommend downloading as we go and participating to get the most from this class.

Participate- Ask questions, share ideas and make friends with the others in the course for best experience. You can ask questions under comments on each weekly lesson. I will try to answer as specific as I can, but since this is a group class we may not be able to cover specifics to every situation. If you need further help, email me for private guidance at donnaashton@thewaldorfconnection.com.

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Week 5 Overview :

Time to take what we have been building on and start teaching what we know. Knowing our children and ourselves is a big part of this.



*Class 5: Presenting ****

Meeting Your Child Where They Are

Understanding your child has been your job since they were born and you have been teaching them that long as well. They watch and imitate your words and actions and you teach and guide them.

Homeschooling has the advantage of having YOU be the one bringing the material to your child. It is not so different that what you have already been doing.

If you have been following along through this program, and building on each step, then you will have your rhythm, homeschool space, and plan ready.

Now, it is time to add the “school” part.

What does this mean? We looked at a typical homeschool day in a previous lesson and discovered it is a lot like life, only you are adding a bit more school structure.

In a homeschooling setting you have the ability to speed up or slow down lessons depending on how your child is learning. This “meeting your child where they are” can mean academically and developmentally.

Example: If you have a young first grader, they may not be ready to dive right into reading and writing. You can slow the pace down and give more crafts or nature stories until you feel they are more interested.

Likewise, things can be sped up if they seem to pick it up right away. Or you could delve deeper into the subject if it is one they love.

It is tailoring your school to fit your child.

The Four Temperaments

Rudolf Steiner talked about the Four Temperaments or personalities and how understanding them can be a tool for communication with your child.

He likened them to the 4 elements. (We also use the characters of the Winnie-the-pooh stories to help illustrate)

There is a lot on this subject available in books and online, (see resources at the end of this summary) here I will give a general overview.



*****The Temperaments*****

Choleric: The fire element. This is an energetic person who cannot be ignored, has high energy and makes a good leader. They can be quick tempered, but also quick to forgive and move on. They have a purpose, like a challenge and must be 'first'.

Character: Rabbit

Sanguine: The air element. This is the social butterfly that flits around, has many friends, is happy and loves what is “new”. They love beautiful clothes, items and can be easily distracted by the next thing that comes their way.

Character: Tigger

Phlegmatic: The water element. They can be soothing, loyal, go with the flow and in their own world. They like to finish what they start, but can sometimes have a hard getting started on something new. They think deep and act slowly. They love food.

Character: Winnie-the-pooh

Melancholic: The earth element. From the earth we see rocks as solid and hard. Melancholics can be heavy in their manner, and thin skinned, over emotional people. They are usually detail oriented and can sympathize with others troubles.

Character: Eeyore

There is much to learn about the temperaments and I encourage you to research your temperament and well as your child's.

There is much you can use as tools when teaching your child by understanding their motivations and preferences. Also, by knowing what makes them tick it alleviates pressure on you as a parent thinking you don't understand your child.

It was an eye-opener to learn the traits of my phlegmatic daughter who is so opposite from my choleric demeanor. I can look at her from a different perspective now.

I know she is not just trying to annoy me or doing things “on purpose”; this is how she processes information. It allows me to be patient and let her be herself.

Teaching Waldorf Methods

Main Lesson

Main Lesson is the time when the actual curriculum material is being presented to your child. Depending on the age/grade it can last from 20 minutes to 2 hours.

You can choose to do the main lesson in the school room setting, a casual living room or even outside! Don't limit yourself, but get creative and make it fun.

In a first grade main lesson, the teacher (mom or dad) would present a chalkboard drawing and then tell a story (fairy tale) to introduce a letter of the alphabet.

Then the teacher and child draws a representation of the story in their main lesson book. The next day the story is re-told back to the teacher by the child and a summary sentence, paragraph or letter is added to the main lesson book.

Most material is told through stories, especially during the early grades. Math, science, history and geography are brought through wonderful stories.

A helpful tip for learning a story; read the story 3 times, make an outline of the main plot/ideas/characters. You can use this outline if you need while telling the story.

Don't worry about not remembering everything. Enjoy yourself and it will come across that way to your child!



Chalkboard Drawing

Get some good quality chalks and practice drawing on the board. It is a bit different from the techniques in the main lesson books.

You can chose to create a drawing and cover it with a silk, curtain or cloth to “keep the element of surprise” before you begin your story. My girls loved this! The seemed extra interested when I covered the chalkboard.

There are many beautiful chalkboard drawings in the Waldorf style on the internet. Go get some inspiration, but don't be intimidated. Wherever you are on your artistic journey it is fine. These techniques do take practice.

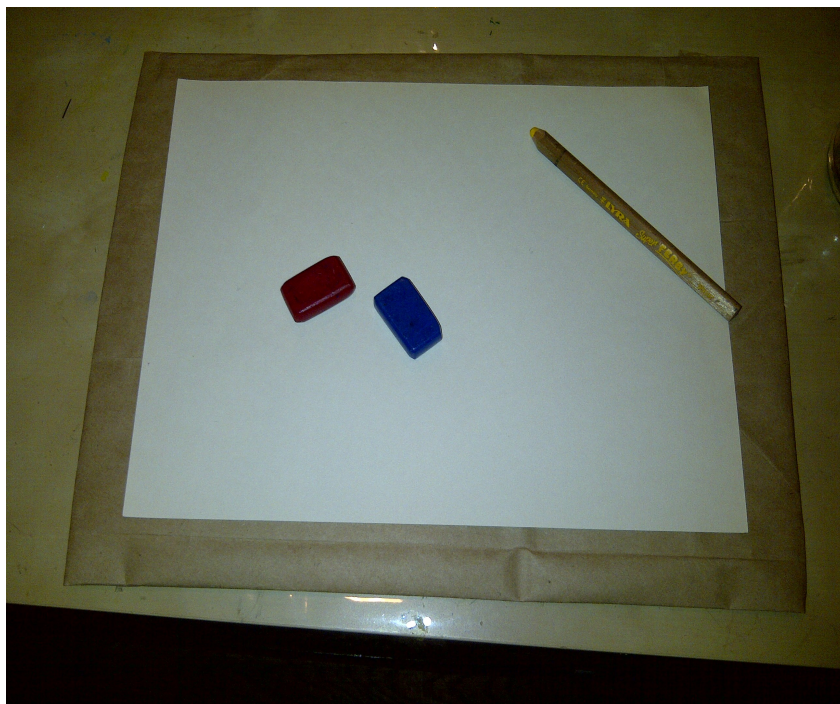


Block Crayons

I wasted a few years of owning these before I had a clue what to do with them. I couldn't figure out how these blocks of color would somehow allow me to create amazing Waldorf-looking pictures in the main lesson books- but it happened.

I suggest the DVD "Coloring with Block Crayons". She walks you through the basics and it was an amazing transformation for me. The techniques you will learn will serve you for *years*. I use similar concepts to create the chalkboard drawings.

You only need red, blue & yellow for a long time. Invest in these and they will last for years. (I keep the yellow in a baggy so it doesn't get other colors on it)



A pad of newspaper print (available at craft stores) is used for cleaning the crayons. We have had the same pad since first grade.

Practice with these until you feel comfortable and slowly guide your child to create beautiful art.

Wet-on-Wet Painting

(I have included a tutorial on this on the website)

This is another skill that takes some practice. I had never painted on wet paper before I started with Waldorf.

There is so much you can experience with this painting technique. And they are beautiful!

Supplies:

*High quality painting paper for best results (and so the edges won't curl and bubble). A 140 lb weight is good. The younger the child, the larger the paper (this goes for main lesson books as well).

* ½ to 1 ½ inch brush is recommended. We have 1". They may seem large compared to what you would think. This way of painting is not about the details, but the blending of color and feeling.

*Stockmar paints (red, yellow and blue only in the early grades).

*Natural sponge for smoothing wet paper and removing air bubbles

*Rag to wipe brush and excess paint

*Water jar to rinse brush between colors

*Rubbermaid large container to submerge paper in.

*Paint board to paint on and allow painting to dry before removing

I mix the colors in large jars and leave them in the fridge ready to go at anytime. Then I dispense into small baby food jars to each child.

Instructions:

Dip paper into water until submerged. Remove and place on painting board. Smooth with sponge.

Dip brush into water and into paint. Make sure to clean between colors to keep them true.

Have fun! Colors will soften as the painting dries.
Don't remove from board until dry.

Some teachers like to clip the corner off the paper, to keep gentle, rounded edges.



Enhancing Your Skills



What gifts do you bring to your homeschool?

Perhaps you are a musician, or already knit or speak a foreign language. Are you a great baker, cook or mathematician?

See where you have skills that can lend a hand in the homeschool realm.

I played the flute in school, so it was easy to pick up the recorder and teach my girls with practically no prep.

But my math skills are another story. For this I use my husband as back up and I am re-learning the Waldorf way so math makes sense this go 'round.

If you need to learn to knit, take this time before you get started schooling to learn a new craft or hone your skills.

You only need to learn what you will teach in the upcoming year. Take it bit by bit; one step at a time. You will build on your skills as you go.

For a kindergarten aged child, get the basics of painting, drawing and finger knitting down.

Then you can add knitting and recorder for first grade.

Troubleshooting “hot spots”

You may need some help in your homeschool if there is a skill you want to bring to your child, but for whatever reason can't or don't have time for.

Check with your homeschool group, co-op, friends or family.

There may be someone who can easily help!

A friend who speaks Spanish, teaches a class at her local co-op.
A local music teacher teaches a homeschool group.

There are endless possibilities and you don't have to do this all by yourself!

If there is something you are having trouble with (maybe storytelling or painting) ask for help from a friend. Or practice until you feel comfortable.

These basic concepts may feel foreign to us. Some of us haven't painted since we were in grade school! It's ok to feel uncomfortable when trying new things. Just keep at it until it falls into place.

Resources

The Temperaments:

<http://www.openwaldorf.com/temperaments.html>

[Steiner's temperament lectures](#)

[Temperaments: The Adult-Child Relationships book](#)

http://www.writing.com/main/quiz/item_id/1145443-Temperament-Test

<http://shop.teachwonderment.com/Coloring-with-Block-Crayons-3-DVD-set-DVD-cbc.htm>

[Main Lesson.com/Baldwin Project](#)- free Waldorf stories (excellent!)

<http://www.chalkboarddrawing.org/>

