

Little Hearts For His Glory
By Carrie Austin, M. Ed.
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Here's another jewel from Carrie Austin with Heart of Dakota Publishing. Little Hearts for His Glory is an early learning program for children ages 5 to 7. There are 34 units with daily plans. Each unit contains five days of instruction so that's a total of 170 complete lesson plans.

As a mom and teacher, I've always believed that learning should be fun, especially at this age level. However, this usually meant pulling together many different resources. Carrie has made it easy! I only wish it would have been available a few years ago when my children were this age or even a few years before that when I was teaching full-time. Thankfully, I still have opportunity to share what I've found. I will highly recommend this book to parents entering homeschooling so they can make progress teaching as they get their feet wet in this new position.

Now to quote Mrs. Austin as to the way the program is broken down. Each day of plans is divided into the following two thematic parts: "Learning Through History" and "Learning the Basics."

The core purpose of the 'Learning Through History' part of the program is to show Christ is the center of all history. Bible stories are integrated with other stories from history to show children God's hand in the making of history. Bible memory work, devotions, science, art, dramatic play, thinking games, rhymes, gross motor skills, and music are all linked with the daily stories.

The central purpose of the Learning the Basics portion of the program is to teach language arts and math skills in a fun and engaging way. Choices for handwriting and phonics are included, and daily activities focus on fine motor skills, story time, language, and math.

The thought that went into the design of this program didn't stop with her wonderful ideas. She has selected one of the best phonics programs on the market, Reading Made Easy by Valerie Bendt. In

addition, she includes classic literature selections, which include various Thornton Burgess animal stories. Optional literature supplements are listed in the appendix. These are also in keeping with the historical themes.

The 90 minutes of lessons can be broken down into separate parts to keep young learners fresh and involved. Furthermore, these fun times will increase little learners' intelligence without boring them with busy work. For the teacher, it is easy to keep the focus because the key ideas are listed in each activity section.

The simplicity of implementation, breadth of coverage, and glorious activities make Little Hearts For His Glory a wonderful curriculum choice!