

Educational Mission Statement, Philosophy, and Goals

Mission Statement

The Newton family homeschools to instill in our children the fear and knowledge of the Lord, to develop godly character and discerning minds, and to prepare them for a life of service.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ” (Colossians 2:8 NAS).

“For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil” (Hebrews 5:13-14 NAS).

“He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, But he who ignores reproof goes astray” (Proverbs 10:17 NAS).

Philosophy

- The purpose of education is to teach a child to learn and to think and communicate logically. Mathematics and logic are the primary tools to develop thinking skills.
- The student’s mind must be trained to think by a teacher who gives examples for the student to model.
- All people are innately evil and must be taught the truth and trained in righteousness.
- The information taught to a student is the material to be used to develop thinking skills (the humanities and the sciences). Knowledge itself is not the goal of education (that leads to Faustian pride), but wisely applying that knowledge according to biblical principles is.
- Information is given to the student through reading “living books,” some texts, and original documents, and through hands-on work (writing, experiments, field trips, and interviewing people).
- Evaluations will either be done through formal testing for the object subjects (math, science, spelling) or the teacher’s observations for the subjective subjects.

Goals

To teach our children

- To follow God with all their mind, soul, spirit, and strength.
- To understand the gospel and salvation, and to know the Bible and apply it to their lives.
- To develop godly character and a Christian worldview.
- To seek, discern, and articulate the Truth.
- To think logically and reasonably.
- To be self-learners and to develop a lifelong love for learning.
- To communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
- To understand the history of ideas and therefore understand how our culture and the world became what they are today. Also, how to speak the truth in a meaningful way in those contexts.
- To develop the skills necessary for life and service.
- To discover God's calling on their lives and to pursue what skills they need to fulfill that calling.
- To respect and love others.
- To know how to care for their bodies through proper nutrition, exercise, and hygiene.

Using the Goals

- Keep field trips and other educational materials targeted on goals and current course of study. Does this away-from-home program further our educational objectives?
- Lesson plans help us focus on our goals.
- Reflect on goals and educational experience by journaling periodically (concerns, learning milestones, struggles, doubts, funny moments, what is working and what isn't). It could be in a notebook with lesson plans.
- What are my goals as a teacher? What character traits do *I* need to work on? What personal growth and education do *I* need to pursue? Why do I do what I do?
- Where does the child want to go? How does he get there?

*“And Jesus increased in wisdom [soul/mind] and stature [body],
and in favor with God and man [spirit]” (Luke 2:52 KJV).*

*Based on Daniel 1:1-18, our children need to learn the language, literature, and knowledge of
this world without compromising their faith. (The Checklist)*

Goals for our son for the fifth grade

Soul/Mind

- See Program of Study Goals sheet.
- Emphasize writing and communication this year (summarizing, dictation, speaking).
- Read biographies provide role models for him to model his life after.

Body

- Study human anatomy for science.
- Health focus: exercise, nutrition, safety, and sex education.
- Teach that his body is the temple of God, and he needs to take care of it as such.

Spirit

- Help him make Jesus the Lord of his life in all things.
- Work on first-time obedience to all authority figures.
“You cannot be a true man until you learn to obey.” —Robert E. Lee
- Work on serving the family.
- Learn how to be a big brother.
- Develop good manners to show love and respect toward others.
- Learn to work independently.

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Goals for our daughter for preschool/kindergarten¹

Soul/Mind

- See [Program of Study](#) Goals sheet.
- Teach her to use and understand English.

Body

- Check her small and large motor skills.
- Proper dressing and hygiene.
- Visit a physician, dentist, and eye doctor.
- Participate in ballet or other dance.
- Get physical exercise.

Spirit

- Teach her about who God is and his unfailing love.
- Teach her about his plan of salvation and Jesus.
- Teach her to pray and worship.
- Teach her how a family loves one another and works together.
- Teach her to trust us.
- Teach her first-time obedience.
- Develop good manners to show love and respect toward others in our culture.

¹ We adopted our daughter from India when she was nearly six years old. She didn't speak English.