



MAKE A MO PUZZLE!

by Lamb Amsterdam;
Rotterdam, Holland

Start with a regular jigsaw puzzle and a coloured MO Letter cover or Bible picture that is as close as possible to the size of your puzzle. Trim the picture down to the exact size of the puzzle, and cover with clear plastic on the picture side only.

Place your picture on the made-up puzzle, pasting it down lightly on the four corners. Carefully turn the puzzle over on the back side and start taking off one piece at a time as you trace each piece onto the back of your picture. When all puzzle pieces have been traced with a sharpened pencil onto the back of your picture, cut out the picture according to your tracings and paste each piece back onto the jigsaw puzzle pieces—and there you have your MO or Bible puzzle!

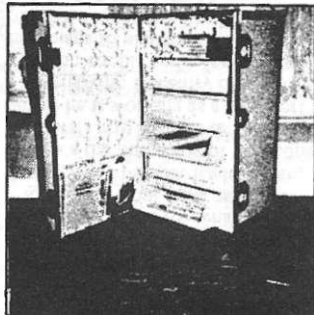
MOBILE SCHOOL SHELVES!

by Malachi & Priscilla Wind;
Padova, Italy.

For travelling families with children, we found a simple and convenient way to carry and store their school books and equipment!—in the school trunk itself!

At a hardware or office-supply store, there are plastic or lightweight type stacked shelves that can fit into a trunk as it is standing up on its side. If the shelves don't fit exactly, this leaves extra space on the side or top for larger items.

Also, on the lid of the trunk, shelves could be constructed to hold books. Wheels are also available in hardware stores and can be attached to the bottom, if the trunk is sturdy enough.



Send in your tips & testimonies today! To: Maria Campos, Apdo. 46131, Madrid, Spain (with "attn: FN" in lower left corner. Do not use COG or FOL on the envelope.)

FAMILY NEWS compiled, typed & layed out by Zebedee & Zorah Rabbit.

THE FAMILY NEWS

OF LOVE! --BY YOU!

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D.O.

Edited by Maria & The Zs.

Teaching Our Children

FAMILY CARE SERVANTS SPEAK OUT!

- *on System Textbooks!
- *The Montessori Method!
- and
- *THE ALTERNATIVE!

—by Sara, Paul Theophilus
and Sarah Ireland

SCHOOL-IN-THE-HOME

by Paul T.

I feel our education programme should take into account some of the following:

1. It should be simple and useful in the home situation.
2. Materials need to be in-expensive and easy to order and obtain.

3. The material needs to be such that it encourages the parents to learn along with the child and should eliminate the feeling that one needs special system training and diploma to teach.

4. It has to be portable enough to fit into a very small suitcase. If you have heavy wooden equipment, great!—Use it! Otherwise, look for something more practical and portable. The "Brown stair", for example, weighs five kilos and may



"The greatest thing we can teach our new disciples and children—and each new generation has to learn it for itself—and that is to follow God and hear from Him fresh every day!"
(“New Bottles” No. 251:39 by Father David.)

hardly even get used by the child.

5. The teaching program, however simple, needs to be sufficiently organised, progressive, comprehensive to stand up for “inspection” and encourage not just our Family, but friends and contacts to show

them we have something in common with them—an interest in their children!

6. Give everyone confidence to move into opportunities involving the care and training of children in “closed countries”, “refugee” and “orphan” situations, Third World countries, private tutoring, etc.

7. Hopefully our teaching aids and programme will be a source of income and a good “cause” for our friends and associates to contribute to.

SYSTEM TEXTBOOKS

Comments by Paul T.

The textbook industry is out to make money more than educate. Almost all textbooks, but especially American, are written and printed with the idea of replacing them in three years by a new set of revised books. Also, they are very expensive; they have a lot of special gadgetry you feel you need to buy; they use some “special” “new” approach which often limits the child to one set of books based on someone's particular philosophy that ignores the basics; nationalism is plugged in textbooks; they usually are hard-covered and heavy; they are usually only usable by one age group.

About the only books I have found to be useful from the system are information, reference-type books. I believe we can take the good out of all the different books and methods and include our spiritual teachings in these classes and thus create our own educational program in which our children will

be fed both educationally and spiritually.

We only have a few more math classes to finish in order to complete this course. With the English “Language With a Purpose” course we hope to replace the very inadequate grammar program that Montessori goes into, thus making our own course which will include the spiritual feeding as well as the educational instructions.

P.S. from SARA on System Textbooks

Amen, amen! I know from the vast amount of research I have done with system books that there is only a very small amount of information we can glean from them.

What I have learned more than anything is what not to do from their systems! I have sent off for lots of books that have been recommended by good educational book companies and references; I have read and marked them. Then I give what information I think may be useful on tape, have it transcribed and kept on record for a type of reference system in case we want to compile classes on certain subjects such as arts and crafts, playground equipment, potty training, discipline, caring for the home, etc. I am not as interested in books on theoretical ideas on raising children as I am in practical teaching tips and economical, good ideas.

Only about 20 out of the hundreds of books summarised have we recommended investing our Family's money for. This is why we hope to be able to recommend books we definitely feel are worth the Family's time, and we are depending on your

teaching classes and materials which put the right type of spiritual light and feeding into the children's education.

To me, the education of our children has little to do with the classroom, but the most important thing is that they are trained in the revolutionary discipleship life in serving Jesus and winning souls for His Kingdom. Dad has set the example with his own children, and this is the example we are to follow. So I always want to stress the spiritual training and Biblical teaching far above any kind of system education.

If you do not agree with any of the books we've recommended to the Family, please let us know. I need to know.

THE MONTESSORI METHOD

Comments by Paul T.

As far as the Montessori equipment goes, it has been my burden to replace this equipment with more portable and practical materials (such as we have done with “Keys to Reading” and the math classes). I feel that the modern Montessori equipment is not in its present bulky, heavy, expensive form suitable for the educational needs of our small mobile families. I am more interested in getting the ideas across that lie behind the design of the materials so that the parent can easily improvise in his own situation. I do not feel we should recommend the large red rods or large number rods, but I do like our own redesigned miniature number rods that can fit into a mother's purse and are easy to make and carry.

The small counting rods that Demetrius makes in the school kits are not pure Montessori equipment, but a combination of Quisnaire rods, Dienes blocks and our design. They are meant to replace all the Montessori bead material, which is so heavy, expensive and cumbersome. The rods are light and are stored in a box and they are important in teaching math to young children.

Other miniature wooden or plastic rods are usually available in most countries and are suitable to teach math. We have found the best size is when the “units” symbols are 1 cm. cube. Also, we will soon be drawing up a class on how to make or buy your own rods and will include basic plans that anyone could give to a carpenter in any language to have them made. Demetrius will be working on these carpentry classes.

P.S. from SARA on the Montessori Method

Let me just give you my “speel” on the Montessori method and materials, ha! I hope it doesn't shock you to realise that I am one of the most inexperienced and uneducated “desperate-type” mothers on the field. I don't even understand the Montessori method as much as I've tried to study everything I can about it.—It's all Greek to me—pink towers, broad stairs and all those terms. It's completely new to me, so I do not understand or agree with it all. But let me say this, I do agree with everything Paul has to say about materials in our own educational programme for the children.

I would love to see us get away