

Choosing Curriculum & The New Formula For Success

This year I revisited the [The Well-Trained Mind](#) by Susan Wise Bauer and Jessie Wise. I read it 5 years ago and decided a Classical approach wouldn't be the best fit for my Visual-Spatial daughter.

But I love the Classical approach and wanted to give it a try. Now, I'm thinking to myself...

Classical Education + Visual-Spatial Learner = Disaster

How can I have my cake and eat it too? I've come up with a new formula for curriculum development...

(Mom-friendly Curriculum)Tweaking + Visual-Spatial Learner = Success for Mom & Daughter

Choose a curriculum and method that works with **your** learning style. Then "tweak" so it works with your **child's** learning style. It's going to be easier for you to plan and implement PLUS your enthusiasm and love for the curriculum will ignite a learning wildfire within your child.

The following worksheets show how I am tweaking the goals of a Classical approach to work with my Visual-Spatial daughter.



Now it's your turn! Use my example and the worksheets that follow to tweak your favorite curriculum - *so you can have your cake and eat it too!*

To your child's success!

Jena

Course of Study – 6th Grade

I compiled these goals from 2 sources: (1) areas my daughter needs to work on and (2) goals of a classical curriculum. Many (okay, *most*) of the classical curriculum resources are not a natural fit for my Visual-Spatial daughter. So I've brainstormed "tweaking" activities using the **Visual-Spatial Lesson Ideas Worksheet** that follows.

Art Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Refine drawing skills	Consistent practice.	Drawing With Children	Have
Improve perception	Picture study.	A Child's Book of Art/Come Look With Me	Have
Experience different methods and mediums	Use resource as-is.	Great American Artists For Kids	Have
Recognize artists' work	Picture study one artist per month	A Child's Book of Art/Come Look With Me	Have

Bible Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Memorize Scripture	Choose most interesting passages after reading.	The Illustrated Bible New Testament	Have
Study Paul and his books	Use concept mapping, summarizing, and illustration.	The Illustrated Bible New Testament	Have
Character study	Use resource as-is.	Our 24 Family Ways	Yes
Relationship with God	Prayer journal	Journal	Yes

History Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Memorize the States & Capitals	Play games.	States Fact Cards	Have
Memorize Presidents	Play games.	U.S. Presidents Fact Cards	Have
Understand the major events and people in Ancient History	Pictorial timeline, summarizing, notebooking, memorize events & people, novels, hands-on projects.	The Usborne Internet Encyclopedia of World History	Yes

Understand the major events and people during the World Wars	Summarizing, notebooking, novels, hands-on projects.	Usborne The World Wars	Have
Identify cause and effect relationships	Use T-chart.		-
Organize and classify information	Pictorial timeline, memorize events and people.		-
Draw outline of USA and states by memory	Practice drawing on grid paper.		-

Language Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Conversational Italian	Computer program.	Rosetta Stone	Have
Understand Latin Grammar	Picture cards, unit chart.	Latina Christiana	Yes

Literature Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Enjoy American poetry	Read aloud	The Oxford Illustrated Book of American Children's Poems	Have
Biographies	Read about historical figures in the Usborne Encyclopedia	Library	-
Fiction	Read and Read-aloud	Library (see book lists)	
Non-Fiction	Read and Read-aloud	Library (see book lists)	

Logic Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Familiar with critical thinking skills	Use resource as-is.	Building Thinking Skills Level 2	Yes

Math Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Apply concepts	Give a real-life problem to solve.	Math Wizardry For Kids, How Math Works	Have
Memorize addition/subtraction facts	Picture cards.	Memory Joggers	Yes
Neatness when working problems	Use lined paper.		-

Pass division tests with B or better	Math U See DVD, manipulative blocks	Math U See Delta	Yes
---	-------------------------------------	------------------	-----

Memory Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Memorize 'grammar' of history, science, math, English grammar, geography, Latin	Use resource as-is.	Cycle 1 Memory CD	Yes

Music Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Continue learning to play the piano	Use resource as-is.	John Thompson's Modern Course For the Piano - First Grade Book	Have

Science Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Use the scientific method	Draw a visual flow-chart of scientific method. Mind map before doing experiment. Sketch/diagram as much as possible.	Creepy Crawlies and The Scientific Method	Yes
Understand classifications and systems (Biology)	Create unit chart. Diagram, flow charts.		-

Writing Goals

Goals	Activities	Resources	Buy
Improve spelling	Study words by creating picture cards.	Spelling Power	Have
Finds and corrects spelling errors	Review final drafts to find and correct spelling errors		-
Divide syllables and hyphenate	Clap out syllables		-
Apply the rules of punctuation and capitalization	Dictation. Review final drafts to review punctuation and capitalization.		-
Write complete sentences	Draw concepts while teaching, demonstrate, picture cards	Rod & Staff Grammar -6th	Yes
Well written paragraphs	Mind map the topic. Build paragraph using a visual outline. Then write paragraph.	Rod & Staff Grammar -6th	-
Create an outline of central	Create a concept map from text. Build		-

and supporting ideas from a selection of text	outline using a visual outline.		
Evaluate primary sources	Use a graphic organizer to answer checklist questions.		–
Summarize information	Discuss reading. Illustrate (or demonstrate) using narration questions, then write a one page summary.		–
Decipher word meanings using Latin roots	Create picture cards for root meanings.	Vocab. From Classical Roots 4	Yes
Learn to type	Color-code each finger and corresponding keys.	Internet program	–
Master cursive	Use resource as-is.	Daily Handwriting Practice	Have



Visual Spatial Lesson Ideas Worksheet

I've used this worksheet to brainstorm ideas for using the Classical curriculum resources to meet my daughter's learning goals. I'll revisit this worksheet again to brainstorm additional ideas when I create lesson plans.

Now it's your turn...use the following worksheets to brainstorm your own ideas!

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Visuals	Reading Aloud	Flow Charts Scientific method
Unit Charts 1. Classifications used in Biology 2. Latin grammar	Colored Pens Typing	Videos
Field Trips	Drawing While Teaching Grammar concepts	Visuals In The Room Unit charts

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...

<p>Drawing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grammar concepts 2. Sketch/diagram in Science 	<p>Webbing</p>	<p>Concept Mapping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writing paragraphs 2. First step for writing outlines 3. Mind map before doing Science experiments
<p>Working With Maps</p> <p>Draw outline of USA & States</p>	<p>Manipulatives</p> <p>Math U See</p>	<p>Graphic Organizers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visual outline for paragraphs 2. Visual outline for outlining 3. Answer questions from primary sources 4. Summaries of books read 5. Flow chart of scientific method 6. For identifying cause and effect
<p>Storyboard</p>	<p>Dramatize or Demonstrate</p> <p>Grammar concepts</p>	<p>Pictorial Timeline</p> <p>Organizing events and people</p>
<p>Websites and Computer Programs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Math U See 2. Italian 	<p>Picture Cards</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Spelling words 2. Grammar concepts 3. Latin roots 4. Latin grammar 5. Learn add/sub facts 6. 	<p>Graphs/Charts</p>
<p>Construct Models</p>	<p>Collages</p>	<p>Mural</p>

Auditory Lesson Ideas Worksheet



Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Lectures (Live, CD, Online, DVD)	Read Aloud	Facts Set to Music
Interactive Computer Program	Discussions	Videos

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...

Oral Assignments	Oral Presentations	Narration
Create Songs	Discuss	Read Aloud
Interactive Computer Programs	Audio	Books-on-CD
Group/Partner Activities	Music	Create Rhymes

Kinesthetic Lesson Ideas Worksheet



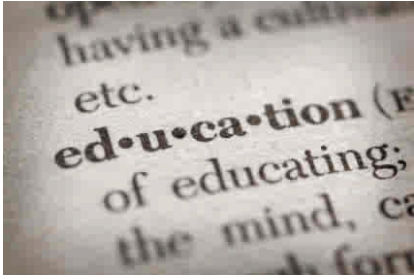
Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Field Trips	Experiments	Reading Aloud
Simulations	Role Play	Learning Centers

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...

Construct Models	Demonstrations	Manipulatives
Role Play	Dramatization	Educational Games
Videos	Websites and Computer Programs	Hands-On
Drawing/Coloring		



Visual Print Lesson Ideas Worksheet

Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Assigned Reading	Outline of the Unit	Flashcards

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...

Reading	Notetaking	Outline

Journal	Writing	Worksheets
Research	Timeline	Copywork

Visual Spatial Lesson Ideas Worksheet



Topic: _____

Brainstorm ideas to teach the topic using...

Visuals	Reading Aloud	Flow Charts
Unit Charts	Colored Pens	Videos
Field Trips	Drawing While Teaching	Visuals Around The Room

Brainstorm ideas for your child to interact with the topic...

Drawing	Webbing	Concept Mapping
Working With Maps	Manipulatives	Graphic Organizers
Storyboard	Dramatize/Demonstrate	Pictorial Timeline
Websites and Computer Programs	Picture Cues	Graphs/Charts
Construct Models	Collages	Mural