

have many notebooks that have developed over the years. There are some that have had seasons of intense focus...followed by YEARS of dormancy...only to come back with such a passion that they have developed into workshops, magazine articles, books, and even several series of books! There are also many that have developed during a study that is now complete. Those are no less special. It is just that they are not "life" studies as others seem to be. In fact, some have been just for personal edification and for personal study. We keep them ALL! They are all beloved! They grow with us and sometimes they even let us outgrow them. They are still beloved friends along our journey! Each has helped us to be more and more creative. Each has nurtured our delights and interests and in turn, continued our self-education.

### Encourages In-depth Studies for LIFE!

When I began notebooking, it had nothing to do with homeschooling. It was as a practical discipline for my own studies. I began as a young wife to study in depth what the Bible said about being a godly wife, mother, mentor, and woman. I just naturally began to compile information along the way. Where did I keep it? In a three-ring binder of course!

If I had not had a place to put little goodies that came along my way, I would probably have never continued the study for the last 20 years. I am also pretty certain that I would not write as much as I do had I not been able to find the information in "its spot" after I collected it. I probably would have grown very discouraged to not have a good system for keeping all of my dear information.

**Notebooking is a discipline you will find in common with many of the greatest writers of all time.**

Our children are wired the same way. Notebooking is a discipline you will find in common with many of the greatest writers of all time. I love that in Scripture we see God commanding that the kings be trained by copying His Law in a book of their own so that it could be with them all of their lives (Deuteronomy 17: 18-20). Oh, it is not just for training...it is also a practice kept by God Himself (see Malachi 3: 16). Can't you just see heaven? Full of shelves and shelves of binders???? Hoot! Hoot!

My dear friend, this is not just a technique that has been thought up over the last few years. It is eternal. It can continue as long as they would like to continue with a notebook or a topic. It is not limited to certain ages or grades, and of course, not to just one project or just in accompaniment to projects that come along the way. Notebooking can be a life discipline. No scope-and-sequences...focus on subjects...or hurt feelings from grading their hard work with red pens and abundant criticism. Instead, your children can develop a discipline of collecting gems and great information. They can dig deeper in areas of interest. And imagine...this covers all of those subjects naturally and EASILY!

**God's very best always wraps around the gifts, bents, talents and interests of those He uses. He makes no mistakes in creating each and every one of us different.**

### **A Unique, Individual, Personalized Education!**

As I think of all of the benefits of notebooking, I have to say that of all of them, I think this one is the most precious to me. Let me explain why!

A few years ago, I began a study on what the Bible says about education. One of the things I found that was very interesting was that the greatest men and women in the Bible each and every one had completely different preparation for their callings. This spoke to my heart deeply about the individual training that is necessary for greatness. God's very best always wraps around the gifts, bents, talents and interests of those He uses. He makes no mistakes in creating each and every one of us different.

Perhaps this is where education today is not making it. Education today is more focused on making all of the students conform to the group, and ultimately society. We can do better within our homes.

This brings us back to notebooking. Notebooking encourages a completely unique, individual, personalized education. There are NO topics off limits. ANYTHING can be a topic. If it can be a topic for a career or a book, it is game. Think of those most mothers find their most reluctant writers "into"...

Baseball

Dogs

History

Sewing

Racing

Cooking

Travel

Games

Science Fiction

On and on!!

- All can be used for notebooks (Did I leave out your child's topic?? Oh, keep reading! It is bound to be included somewhere in this book! If not, then let us
- know!). There are no limits! Notebooks can adapt to your child's personality, creativity, and talents. There is NO right way to create a notebook NOR any
- wrong way to make a notebook. This is not to be vague, rather it is to encourage independence, creativity, and originality!

### So...Ready???

- All right...fired up yet? Ready? Chomping at the bit to get busy building those notebooks???
- Let's dig in! Yes! You CAN be a binder-queen too!

# Easy as A...B...C!!



Bear buddies read together

"My heart overflows with a good theme;  
I address my verses to the king;  
my tongue is like the pen of a ready writer."

Psalm 45

## Where Do I Begin???



You are ready...totally convinced that Notebooking would be great, your children would love it; but, you have ONE hindrance to being a binder queen! You have no idea where on earth to begin. We can take care of that!

The rest of this book is written to be as easy as A, B, C! So, let's jump in with some easy how to's that should get you going on the right track...

### Begin With ONE Notebook Per Child...

Yep! It is this easy! Begin with just ONE notebook per child. Our favorite notebooks are the 3-ring vinyl notebooks that have the clear pockets on the outside so the children can design their own covers. We usually choose the white notebooks (Either 1 or 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, although some of the more beloved studies have required larger notebooks.) and fill it full of plastic sheet protectors. Then, all our children have to do is add their work each day.

**Don't worry about divisions for subjects or topics. Add to the notebook each day.**

Don't worry about divisions for subjects or topics. I have found that adding to the notebook each day, with the work for the day in the plastic sleeve protector following the work from the day before, is simple, yet not frustrating. What do I mean by simple? No big plans are necessary, or any major divisions. What do I mean by frustrating? Well, I have to say that there is nothing more frustrating than having sections that are hardly used. Not to mention, it is frustrating to not be able to do it all by themselves (say five times to yourself—"This is NOT another thing for ME to do!" ☺). In addition, it is EXTREMELY frustrating to divide up life and interests that are SO much more interesting in their whole. Make notebooking simple and easy! Keep notebooking simple and easy!

Add material of interest to the notebook each and every day. This is a

principle that comes from professional writers. Want to know their secrets to greatness...productivity...fresh ideas...and creativity??? It is usually in two basic tips...

**Write SOMETHING every day!**

**Write about what you love!**

**Each creation worth anything is a process.**

Your children are no different from your favorite writers...they are writers-in-training. They need to write something EACH and EVERY DAY. What they write needs to be centered around what they LOVE.

Ready now??? Well, word of warning. There is a down side to every great writer. *Each creation worth anything is a process.* OK...I can almost visualize the confused look on your face, "BUT...Cindy, you JUST said that our children NEED to write each and every day AND they are to write what they love...what gives???"

Writing MUST be a daily discipline. Plus, if we want for our children to LOVE writing, it must be centered around topics of deep passion and delight. HOWEVER, most mothers take this counsel, assume that it means that the work must be original, only to the detriment of their children.

Sooo, what DO I mean? Going back to the disciplines of professional writers... professional writers do not write original work each and every day, even on areas of their greatest interest. Most professional writers develop their ideas in several key ways (these are key for training our young writers as well!)...

- ⇒ They read constantly on areas of interest.
- ⇒ They keep notebooks/journals in which they copy their favorite quotes, notes on topics of interest, articles, brainstorming, etc.
- ⇒ The topics they write on are almost always areas of deep interest and delight.

Have you ever wondered how books, magazine articles, movies, etc. come to be? Many are birthed after years and years of material of interest feeding the mind of the writer. Did you notice that one of the keys to developing ideas was reading constantly? It takes years of pursuing an area of deep interest before

something just seems to be THE TOPIC that beckons one into the process of writing. THE topic that seizes and takes control of the screen until it is out as a finished "baby." Usually during those years of dormancy, there are just thoughts and ideas that BEG for one to collect them. Where does the writer "put" them? In their favorite journal or notebook, of course! Then, their beloved quotes and information are easily accessed FOREVER! Perfect when the writing process begins. They are right at the fingertips of the writer. (Getting a pattern here??) Oh...and most collections of information are on areas of deep interest. (In my personal collection, you won't find ANY notebooks or even journal entries on hunting...fishing...well, or on LOTS of topics. Just those I LOVE!)

Soooo, let your children dig into their favorite study. ALL studies are game! ANY can be used to teach the Language Arts skills that are necessary for each child. The key is to find the best quotes, stories, narrations, terms, pictures, etc. (see further in this book for ALL that can be added into ANY study) that can be added to the notebook. Always be on the lookout for the best resources for copywork, pictures, and interesting information. Collect information everywhere you go—library, friends, family, professionals in the field of interest, magazines, books, internet, field trips, on and on. Build the notebook so it reflects your child's personality and education!

The fruit of this method begins to overflow as we allow our children to direct their education more and more.

### **As You Begin to Fill a Notebook, Divide Into Natural Divisions (NOT SUBJECTS!)**

It won't be very long at all until you will begin to see natural divisions in areas of your child's greatest interest. Don't limit interests in any way—either TO that notebook only OR AWAY from that notebook. Don't force work in areas that YOU desire. This is where we see the difference in the "long-run" between young writers that LOVE writing and those that would rather be tortured than pick up an ink pen. The fruit of this method begins to overflow as we allow our children to direct their education more and more.

ALSO...one other note. Don't try to work in more than ONE notebook each day. No matter how old they are! Nowwww...if your children are CHOOSING to

work in different notebooks that are based on different topics, by all means! **GO FOR IT!** However, our tendency is to go back to the way we learned in our educational upbringing. This steals away any fruit that may be trying to burst forth. So, do not try to force work in more than one notebook each day unless it is child-led, child-directed, or their choice in their free time. ☺

### Try Fun Ideas for Making the Notebooks Special!

Talk about FUN! This is where notebooking gets FUN! We all like to try new skills AND spice up our work. Our children are no different. Notebooking offers freedom for our children to try out new skills and spice up their work **AND CALL IT SCHOOL!** Anything is game...

Just have FUN!  
Decorate the notebooks so they reflect the personality of the owner. Make them special. Keep them fresh. You will find them soooo addictive that even the most reluctant writer will devour the art of writing!

Scrapbooking!

Stamping!

Calligraphy!

Sketching!

Painting!

Using neat borders!

Using stickers!

Using lettering!

Embellishing with paper edgers!

Your imagination is the only limitation!

I am sure you can think of much, much more. My limited imagination by all means serves as **NO LIMIT** for you and your children!

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### Let Your Children Pursue Their Interests!

Every single child, every single age has **SOMETHING** that they are interested in studying. I remember when Matthew was five-years-old and **SERIOUSLY** considering being a "lion-tamer" for his life calling. We checked out **ALL** of the

books our library had on lions, the circus, and lion tamers. You would NOT believe how many there were!!! (Really!) He collected information EVERYWHERE! The perfect place to "keep" this precious information was IN A NOTEBOOK!

Even information on a topic like "lions" is very, very important. It is where we meet our children's interests that we seize their heart for learning. Once we have their heart, the skills of learning are taught to them EASILY and most NATURALLY!

Now, do note...our children will have MANY interests in life. Some will be very quickly pursued to their end; however, others will be pursued for long periods, sometimes even for their entire life.

Matthew has one study on the Civil War that has been his passion since 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. He is now in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (ugh...just graduated AND still loves studying this topic!) and keeping up that study and its notebook with most of his focus.

What will he do with ALL of that information? Will this kind of focus put him at risk of missing something else? I have no idea how God will actually use all of the information Matthew has found through the years. Perhaps, most of the information is just building his mind and abilities to research, record, and set his own pace in a study.

Matthew was first introduced to the topic as our family was covering different periods of history. After six months of being "stuck" on the Civil War, I told him that we REALLY needed to move on, BUT he could continue studying about the Civil War in his free time. I am still amazed at what happened as a result. He had already learned HOW to get information, so he continued searching at the library, our local Chamber of Commerce, historical sites, and everywhere he went. He had also learned how to collect his information into notebooks AND how to share that information with others.

As I look back, I think that this one area has given him the foundation needed to learn ANY topic. He knows how to find the best (most reliable and most dependable) information on any topic of interest. Since then, he has pursued many areas of deep interest. He enters into every study with the same intensity and passion that he had as he began the study on the Civil War. This

**Once we have their heart, the skills of learning are taught to them EASILY and most NATURALLY!**

**Wrapping studies around the interests and delights of your children may seem foreign to you. Actually, it may scare you to death! However, this is THE KEY to encouraging your little ones to write AND enjoy learning.**

is crucial if he is to continue living a lifestyle of learning all of his life and continue to share what he knows with others all throughout life.

Wrapping studies around the interests and delights of your children may seem foreign to you. Actually, it may scare you to death! However, this is THE KEY to encouraging your little ones to write AND enjoy learning. For one thing, there is not one topic that cannot be documented by writing—now, some are a little more difficult than others; but all can be documented. (More on that in the ideas section!) Also, all topics have a weaving of subjects as you pursue their study. This keeps learning natural, interesting, and easy. Finally, when your child is interested in learning, you have their WHOLE attention. You are guaranteed that what they learn will stick!

Soooo, how do you determine whether your child's interest is valuable? Think for a moment about those interests... A while back I was teaching a workshop on notebooking in Syracuse, NY. It was probably one of my most favorite workshops because the families brought in their children for the notebooking session. I loved it! I was able to get some feedback from the children. When I asked them to share their interests...those interest that would be their choice "IF they could study ANYTHING of choice, what would it be?" They were very interesting. I pray that they really relieved their parents because they were ALL intensely academic...

Revolutionary War...

Operation Desert Storm...

Civil War...

Sewing...

Knitting...

Dogs...

Cats...

Birds...

Cooking...

On and on!

How do I KNOW that these topics are academic? Valuable? Good choices???

Think for a moment... Any of these topics can be found in a multitude of books. In other words, there is SO much information out there that SOMEONE ELSE has found that they could write a WHOLE book on it! That sounds pretty academic to me! Also, almost all of these topics can become careers of some sort. In fact, there are entire degrees wrapped around History... Home Economics... Veterinarian Science... etc. Any of these studies could very easily develop into a life calling! Plus, any of these studies could be a Unit Study, covering any subject more naturally than a textbook. Yes, ANY of these studies are totally valuable!

Inevitably, there is someone out there saying, "But, Cindy...you have NO idea...my children like ----." Yes, my dear friend, I mean ANY study is valuable—even your child's favorite topic.

If the study encourages a child to read, it is priceless! If the study encourages a child to dig in deeper, especially during their free time, it is perfect! If the study encourages a child to continue to research and collect information, then you can be assured that the child is being prepared PERFECTLY for any other study in the future! Oh, and if the child learns how to find information that they are interested in, we can be assured that they have the best preparation for the future because they will develop a LIFESTYLE of real learning for their entire life. Especially, if they learn that they can pursue ANY area of interest and delight! So, yes, *anything goes!*

Oh, and by the way if you are concerned about one of these studies leading your child along the wrong path (ha!) ...the story about becoming a "lion tamer" did have a very quick ending. After MONTHS of looking into this calling with all of the seriousness of any other man searching for his perfect career, we went to the circus. We knew that THERE, at the circus, Matthew could see other men and women in action doing what he was dreaming of doing. Little did we know that God would have a special plan...THAT DAY was the day the lions were being a

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wee-bit cantankerous and they ATTACKED the lion-tamer. I have to tell you, the dream of the career in taming lions came to a quick and abrupt halt as soon as Matthew's wide eyes could turn to look at me and murmur, "I think I would prefer to be an Alabama State Trooper after all!"

### Keep Adding to the Notebooks!

**Let me stress this again, this is NOT ANOTHER thing for YOU to do! Notebooking is for your children!**

So, how do you do it? Just add work from any study or any life experience. It may be pictures drawn or pictures taken or found in periodicals, terms, articles from magazines and newspapers, narrations from books read, memorable quotes, Bible verses, information collected, memorabilia, projects, or any variety of information. If you can get it flat into the notebook, go for it!

Our children have always been responsible for keeping their notebooks from day to day. We provided them with the materials needed, then let them be the ones responsible for all upkeep. Let me stress this again, this is NOT ANOTHER thing for YOU to do! Notebooking is for your children! Notebooking has taught my children responsibility for their own work AND helped them to learn early how to be neat and orderly. Plus, it has kept me from doing things for them that they really needed to learn to do for themselves, ensuring that I am less likely to burn-out along the way.

When our children were little, I helped them set up their first notebooks. I chose the binders, prepared their writing paper, and added enough sheet protectors inside the notebooks so they only had to add their work inside every day. I gathered materials (markers, glue, paper, etc.) that we allowed them to use (kept them in a set place so they could easily find them when they needed them) and turned them loose to do the rest!

Whenever they had things they wanted to be copied for their notebooks, we set them aside until we could take them to a copy center for copies. Many families have fax machines, scanners, or copiers in the home. They really help with making copies pretty quickly. They are certainly worth the investment when the children are set free to dig into deeper and deeper studies! Since my children are older, they have learned to set aside their materials and make copies for themselves. For many of our unit studies,

This may sound expensive, but there are other options too. If you have internet access or an encyclopedia on your computer, you can access pictures and information that can be printed off for each child. Many mothers find old encyclopedia sets at rummage sales or used book sales or in their parent's attic. They use them to cut out pictures, charts, and information for the adornment of the notebooks. We have found great information at local historical sites, our local 4-H office, and local government agencies. There are options that can be uncovered if we are just creative. Trust me, we have found our notebooks well worth any investment, especially when we see those delights take off!

### **Get Ready, Get Set, GO!**

Soooo, ready? Take a look at YOUR child. Take the time to really get to know those deep interests. Have no idea, yet want to begin somewhere? Try beginning each day copying a Bible Verse each day. This will develop the daily discipline of writing WHILE pouring God's Word into their hearts.

In the meantime, watch your child. Talk with your child. Get to REALLY know him. It won't take long until you will notice **that one thing** that your child chooses to do when there is nothing else vying for his time (or when EVERYTHING else is vying for his time!). You will notice that thing that he wishes for MORE TIME to do. Then, you can capitalize on that interest while you teach him those skills that are more difficult and unnatural to learn any other way. Watch what happens! You will only wish your education could have been so much fun!

*"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it."*

Psalm 90:17

## Down to the Nitty-Gritty... What Do I Need???



If there is ONE hard part to notebooking, I believe that this is probably it. Finding the materials that will make the notebooks easy to put together for you and your families and getting started. I hope that this chapter will make this step a LOT easier for you. Don't forget that it is perfectly fine for you to use ANY material that you would prefer to use. There is no perfect way or wrong way to create notebooks for everyone. THE perfect way is YOUR way...THE wrong way is any way that you will not use on a daily basis. ☺ Sooo, make notebooking unique and individual for your family!

DO remember that there is only thing you have to PLAN for with this technique. The word plan may send a shiver down your spine, but this "plan" is very, very easy! All you have to prepare is the materials that your child will need. Provide all materials needed. Make them easily accessible. Make sure there is a good variety. As you do, you will find that your children will be encouraged to work harder AND they will be set free to be more creative.

Need to know what you need to gather???

I have tried to make this easy for you too. Through the years, we have had less and we have had more resources and materials. You can notebook with very little...or as you find this technique more valuable to your child's education, you can invest in more materials and equipment. Hopefully, this list will meet you wherever you are whether you need help you get started OR to continue to grow in this technique. Here goes...

### ⇒ Pick Your Notebook

You can use ANY notebook...3-ring binders, composition books, folders, or journals. We have even comb-bound some of our materials with laminated covers, much like we produce our books with our ministry. Find your favorite way and go for it!

It is SO important to do this YOUR WAY! Do what works for you and your family. This will make everything—notebooking AND homeschooling—easier for you! For years, we tried journals for our nature studies. I had read all of the ideas in books. I kinda had an idea of how they should be. BUT, I could not bring myself to carry those expensive journals outside for my children to sketch in. After all, there was mud and bugs and dirt and squiggly things. I was not certain that I wanted them in those expensive journals.

We ended one of the school-year's with only TWO pages of sketches in our nature journal...tons of poems and sketches about nature and science all over our copybooks...and pressed specimens all safely tucked inside our bulging phone book. I knew that something had to change. We needed ONE PLACE for everything. But, we needed for that "one-place" to really work for OUR needs!

I don't know why, but if you are like me, you will appreciate knowing that it is PERFECTLY OK to do this YOUR WAY! Make it work for you! In my feeble attempts to try the ideas of someone else, I failed to do ANYTHING! As I began doing things the way that made sense for me, we saw real progress.

Now, those journals? Still empty! ☺ BUT! Our binders are packed full, to overflowing with our treasures! Moral to this illustration? Make this work for you! (Did I say that already??? Only because it is important!)

We use the 3-ring binders for most of our notebooks. They can be easily used for almost all materials, since almost anything can be pressed flat and mounted on cardstock paper. New material can be added easily. Plus, they look really nice as the children add to their special touches. We love the binders that have clear pockets on the cover because our children can design their own covers. Elisabeth loves to draw her own covers...Matthew loves to create his covers on the computer. Plus, 3-ring binders come in a wide variety of colors, enabling your children to choose their favorite color OR color-code different topics.

The other notebook types each have their advantages. Many families

love the composition books because they are so compact and easy to carry. One of my friends shared one that she had re-covered the cover to make it more personal. She used floral, contact paper. It was simply beautiful. Inside she glued pretty pictures and copied her favorite poems and quotes. Oh, yes...that friend was a MOTHER. Moms CAN and SHOULD keep notebooks too! ☺ In fact, if you want for notebooking to really be successful, it needs to be a "family thing." So, get your notebook going too!

My daughter, being a very typical little lady, LOVES pretty journals. We have found them very reasonable as we shop. One of the prettiest ones was only \$4.98 at Sam's Discount Warehouse. It had 250 pages!!! The quality was excellent. Be on the lookout! You are sure to find some treasures along the way!

⇒ **Sheet Protectors...**

Plastic sheet protectors are absolute MUSTS! They work great at protecting your child's work from spills, rips, and smudges. They work great if you are using 3-ring binders. Especially for preserving pressed specimens.

We use the 8 ½ by 11-inch sheet protectors. We buy them by the box at Sam's (the best price at the writing of this book). I choose the NON-GLARE type, because they are more durable. They do not scratch easily and they are not as brittle as the shiny ones.

Wondering if you should invest in plastic sheet protectors? I cannot express the importance in communicating to your children how precious their work is. Investing in their work speaks volumes to your little ones. Time and time again I have received letters from mothers who have just given it a try—their last try since nothing was really encouraging their young writers. They had done everything else, except invest in plastic sheet protectors. The difference was amazing! Their children finally felt that if they did a good job on their work that it would be "safe" and "protected." The parents were more selective about assignments (to be sure that they did not waste money on the plastic sheet protectors) and

in turn were really being selective about the TIME and ENERGY that their child was investing in their work (humm...which is worth far more than a million boxes of plastic!). Something happened. It all clicked. And it can for you too! Just give it a try!

⇒ **Paper!!!**

Yep! This is where you can REALLY have some fun and make those notebooks special! You can use any paper you can get your hands on... choose your favorite.

When our children were beginning writers, we used the "Third-grade" "Primary" paper from our local Wal-Mart. It was vertical so it fit nicely in our sheet protectors. All I had to do was cut off the bottom so the sheet was not too long. I usually cut a whole bunch of pages and wrote out copywork so the children could pick their favorite for the day. This only required occasional times of planning and preparation on my part. Now, there is a program called *Start-Write*, which can be used on your computer to design the pages with lines and typed models. Talk about saving time! We also created paper for our children (you have printable sheets on your CD with this book that are perfect for you to print off for your children's copywork lessons).

On one of our "tough days" we found another idea that really helped make our notebooks special! Elisabeth came to me in tears one day. She had drawn a beloved picture (Art is Elisabeth's thing!). As she wrote her copywork on the page, she messed up, bringing her to tears. Being a "MOTHER" who just wanted my little one to be relieved in her agony, I grabbed the nearest pair of scissors, which you would KNOW would be my paper-edgers (SCRAPBOOKING!). I trimmed around her pretty picture, quickly glued it to a bright piece of paper, and asked her to write the verse on another piece of lined paper, which I would also cut out for her page. She was happy as could be. The light-bulb came on in my mind, and our notebooks have never been the same since! We could use our Scrapbooking ideas to make our notebooks super special (and CUTE!). It has been a blast since then! Just imagine Scrapbooking and calling it SCHOOL! Woohoo!

You can find bright colored, often acid-free cardstock paper at your local office supply store for VERY reasonable. We choose a wide variety of paper depending on what we need...

- ♥ **110 pound white**...for an art project (great for watercolors and markers and glue projects), book or notebook covers, sturdy pages, and timeline notebooks/books.
- ♥ **110 pound colored**...for book covers... for sturdy pages... for mounting specimens... for mounting backgrounds for pictures and text.
- ♥ **Any pound**...any color! Great for adding a touch of color and emphasis to any page.
- ♥ **Printed paper**...for cute combinations and contrasts! We also use cute stripes/prints/florals as backgrounds for our covers. We have found MANY great options right at our fingertips!
- ♥ **Plain lined paper**...use paper for their level of handwriting. We cut out small strips for captions, titles, poems, labeling pictures and specimens. I keep them on hand in our supply cabinet. All the children have to do to write is grab a page and WRITE!
- ♥ **Copy paper**...for printing off of the computer and Internet. We also use copy paper for printing our "hard-copy" from the computer and for printing the inside pages of our books (covers are printed from cardstock).
- ♥ **File folders**...fold in a shutter-fold to make a fun, lapbook/desktop project! Great way to safely produce a whole project book with all of your little books. See Dinah Zike's books for how-to's, information to include, and great ideas! Another great resource that is HOT off the press is Tammy Duby's new book *The Ultimate Lap Book Handbook*. You CAN use 11 X 17 or 12 X 18 paper for nice desktop projects, but the file folders are very sturdy. Both can be stored in your Notebook or in a gallon size plastic bag.

⇒ **Staplers...**

We keep the *regular staplers* AND the *heavy-duty, long-arm booklet staplers*. These are especially great for making books. They are well-worth your investment for any projects that your children want to pursue. If your children are like my children, they will get hooked on creating books. You will find them using them regularly!

⇒ **Camera...**

Yes, you can use those disposable cameras if that is your only option. However, this year I found something that is simply priceless...digital cameras! Not only do you save money on film processing, but you can also paste-and-clip all of your pictures into documents that your children are writing. Printing is as easy as the click of a button.

NOW...if you have a nice camera, you can still have your film processed in most locations so that you can request a disc with the pictures on it. Those pictures can be used as clip-and-paste into your documents as well.

This unleashes those children who are hands-on into a whole new world of writing. If they are your children who are constantly building, cooking, creating, or tinkering; they can document what they are learning through Scrapbooking the process. Yes, Scrapbooking in a BINDER!! Get those cameras out! Turn those little ones loose!

· **Other "Essentials" ☺...**

Scissors!

Hole punchers!

Highlighters!

Pens!

Pencils!

Markers!

Watercolor Pencils!

Sketch Pencils!

Mounting Tapes!

Mounting Corners!

Glue Stick!

Scrapbooking Books and Magazines!

Stickers!

Rubber Stamps!

Paper Cutters!

Colors!

Paints!

**YOU CAN DO IT!**

Busting at the seams to get going??? Finding all of these goodies already in your home?? Get them out and get going! You can notebook with what you already have. As you find this Notebooking to be an essential to your child's education, you can invest in more materials and equipment. Just have fun and enjoy capturing those interests!

## What Goes Into A Notebook???



Now...you are convinced about the value of notebooking! You have ALL of your materials ready. Now...WHAT goes into a notebook???

- Oh, this is where it gets fun and easy! Fun...because your child can now make the notebook his own.
- Easy...because YOUR CHILD does it! Not you!

- I know what most parents are thinking..."That is NICE...but, what IF my children put something 'wrong' in their notebook???
- Sooo, REALLY what can go into a notebook???
- What SHOULD go into a notebook???"

Anything goes into notebooks! Well, ALMOST anything!

All that your child comes in contact with in his real life...

All that your child learns from his studies...

All that interests them...

AND fits into the binders! (FLAT!)

Just about anything!

- ⇒ **Writing**...essays, copywork, narrations, character sketches, book sketches, articles, book reviews!
- ⇒ **Pictures**...collected or created. All drawings, sketches, photos (we LOVE our digital camera for capturing so much of what we are really studying), postcards!
- ⇒ **Neat quotes and mottoes**
- ⇒ **Favorite verses**
- ⇒ **Information on topic**
- ⇒ **How-to's**
- ⇒ **Museum memorabilia**...sketches, handouts, and information learned
- ⇒ **Timelines**...for the period, person, or event being studied.
- ⇒ **Projects**...describe project, pictures of project, plans (especially if the child planned the project)
- ⇒ **Maps**...track events, map areas being studied, even place historical figures on the map where they are from.

⇒ **Books or booklets created...**Need ideas? See Barb Shelton's *Booklet Building Book* for LOTS of great ideas! Great for short-term projects. We keep our books/booklets in our binders with topics or if there is not a topic with more depth, we keep them in our copybook.

Ideas, Ideas,  
Ideas... There's  
Gotta Be One  
JUST FOR  
YOU!



Bear buddies read together

"And let the beauty and delightfulness and favor of the Lord our God be upon us; and confirm and establish the work of our hands—yes, the work of our hands, confirm and establish it."

Psalm 90:17 (Amplified)

## Ideas, Ideas, Ideas... There's Gotta Be One For YOU!



As I come to this section of the book, I want for you to know that I write these ideas with ONE great fear! What would that be?? That some poor soul will try to do them all! Yes, the fact is that you have found my greatest fear of all as I sat down to write this book!

May I ask one teeny, weenie favor?? PLEEEEEEASE do not try all of this at home?? In fact, WE have not tried all of this at home. One more fact, we assuredly will not try all of these at home. Feel any better?

Actually, I even want to stress that you are not reading the work of a woman that is even very creative. I have so many of YOU to thank for the following ideas. As we have traveled and as I have read through all of the awesome letters that come into our offices every week, I have kept a collection (Yes! In my OWN notebook!) of all of these ideas that now I want to pass on to all of you in one compiled list.

My prayer in sharing them is that you will find an idea that will encourage your young writer. I pray that you will realize the value of your child's interests and how you can capture those interests on paper. Actually I pray that as you read through these ideas, you will let your mind go!

Don't disregard ANY area of study. Don't disregard YOUR way of Notebooking! Please know that that these are IDEAS not requirements or limitations. Also, realize that Notebooking grows with you. You may not need all of these ideas today. OR you may have been Notebooking for years and need a fresh supply of ideas. This book is for ALL of you, wherever you are in the journey. Sooo, without further "ado" let's get going!

## Copybooks \*or\* Journals???

What's the  
difference???

What's the difference??

Copybooks are a hodge-podge of collected works written by others. Journals are mostly filled with original work. Copybooks are for your younger writers and CAN have some original work in them. Journals are for your MUCH older writers and CAN have some copied work adorning them.

Beginning to see a little overlap?? Yes, they can be whatever you prefer.

My suggestion is to lean more toward Copybooks until your children take off with journals of *their own*. In fact, if you were to see MY own notebooks and journals, you would find much more material that is collected than is originally written by me. Yes, even me!

## Copybooks...

Copybooks are probably the best place to begin Notebooking. Keeping Copybooks dates back to Ancient History. One of my favorite passages in Scripture comes from Deuteronomy 17: 18-20. There God commanded that those preparing to be Kings of His people be prepared by keeping copies of the law in a book of their own that could BE with them all of the days of their lives. I love how intensely practical God's Word is. It always offers ideas for any area of need that we may have. I found this passage as I needed direction for training up my little ones for their callings. Could God be ANY MORE specific for my need???

This passage is not the only one! You may want to research in Scripture how many times God commanded His people to WRITE in a "book" what was going on, what He wanted them to remember in their history, and what God did for them. Oh, and I must tell you how thrilled I was when I found the passage in Malachi that told about how GOD HIMSELF keeps a copybook! For REAL! He calls it His "**Book of Remembrance.**" What is in this book???

Oh, you will love this one too! He keeps a copy of the praises we say to one another about Him. Can't you just imagine how wonderful it will be to sit at the feet of our Lord and hear Him read aloud the quotes HE found precious throughout all eternity?? (My goal is for God to find more quotes worthy of His "**Book of Remembrance**" from my mouth than He has already copied from Corrie ten Boom!!! I still have time!)