

# Dictation

Dictation is one of the core parts of language arts in a Charlotte Mason based education. I have assigned two dictation assignments for each week. In the beginning, you may want to only do one dictation a week and build up to two over the course of the year. The main thing to remember is that dictation takes focus and listening skills on the part of the student. You, the parent will read the passage slowly and distinctly to the child, one phrase at a time and they will write down what they hear. Because this is all about good listening skills, it's important that you do not repeat yourself over and over. When I give my children dictation, I will read through the whole passage once at the end, so they can hear it all the way through one more time. This is often enough for them to catch missing punctuation or incorrect wording. They should spend some time before this, studying the passage. I advise having them use it as copywork before giving to them as dictation. A good schedule for one passage a week might look like this:

- Day 1 – Read through the passage with your child – talk about any interesting punctuation, difficult words to spell, etc.
- Day 2 – Carefully copy the passage.
- Day 3 – Go over those difficult words and have them write each word 2 – 3 times.
- Day 4 – Give the dictation assignment. Have the child look at the original passage beside their dictation so they can check their work.

For two passages a week it might look like this:

- Day 1 – Read through the passage with your child – talk about any interesting punctuation, difficult words to spell, etc. Have them carefully copy the passage.
- Day 2 – Go over the passage again, noting words they need more work with – practice those words by writing them 2 – 3 times each. Give the dictation assignment. Have your child look at the original passage beside their dictation so they can check their work.