



Seasons of Education

In the Biblical book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon states, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted." After a seed is planted, it germinates. When it is watered and cultivated, it will eventually bring forth fruit in the harvest. So, too, a child's life is conceived, born, nurtured, educated and fulfilled.

Like the four seasons, the years of a child's life can be characterized in four stages. These stages of development, or better yet, these seasons of education are planting, watering, cultivating, and harvesting. Your partners in education at LCA understand these developmental stages, and through the use of A.C.E. curriculum and resources, seek to help the homeschool parent make the most of the opportunities afforded by each season of education.

Planting

Studies indicate that by the time a child has his six-year molars, he has already acquired 80 percent of the attitudes, values, fears, and loyalties he will demonstrate for the rest of his life.

With the A.C.E. individualized mastery-based program, the planting stage begins in the preschool years and continues through completion of the ABCs with Ace and Christi program. During this time the academic foundation and character development of the child germinates, takes root, and begins to grow. Homeschool educators should realize the importance of this critical developmental season and prayerfully sow with love, patience, and wise counsel.

Watering

The second season of education is that of proper watering. This watering process is imperative for your child's growth and future productivity, and your LCA Advisors stand ready and willing to help you succeed. This season of education involves the foundational mastery of academic subjects received in grade-levels two through six.

Parents, please remember, this developmental stage of education is not only a time of academic mastery, but research shows that nearly 50 percent of people who trust Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, do so during this season of education and life.

There is no better opportunity to instill the Word of God into the heart and mind of a child than during these watering years, for a child's ability to memorize is at its peak. Thus, within the A.C.E. curriculum, there is a significant emphasis given to the memorization of Biblical truth as well as academic facts. The PACE Scripture memory verse is repeated several times in each PACE at this level—an optimal rate of repetition for memorization.

Cultivating

The third developmental stage spans academic Levels seven through twelve and can be described as a most challenging period of cultivation. This season of education is a time when concepts previously learned will be evaluated and synthesized for full understanding and application.

It is not uncommon for students in conventional schools to experience an academic/character “crop failure” during this season of education. Some become turned off to education and lose their desire or motivation to learn. Why? Because substantial planting and sufficient watering did not take place in the earlier years. When such children cross the threshold between the presentation of concrete facts and the introduction to abstract concepts, they cannot make such a transition. However, the spiral approach of the A.C.E. mastery-based system, as well as LCA's accredited Courses of Study (Honors, College Preparatory, General, and Vocational), greatly enhance the student's opportunity for successfully passing through this transitional season of education.

Harvesting

The final stage or season of the educational process is harvesting. The receiving of the cherished high school diploma is the beginning of the harvesting process. It is the culmination of the seasons of planting, watering, and cultivating the educational and spiritual life of a child.

A.C.E.'s individualized mastery-based curriculum in partnership with LCA's accredited programs of study prepares students academically.

Our emphasis on Biblical principles along with the sixty character traits of Jesus Christ and the Scripture memorization mold the student spiritually to stand firm in his faith and bring forth abundantly the fruit of the Spirit. These seasons of education—planting, watering, and cultivating—bring forth a Christian educational harvest whereby our children, teenagers, and young adults give honor to their Creator God and love and respect to their loving, caring, homeschool parents.

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