



Parent Education Resource List

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers. To support you in our **Parent Education** section, we've compiled a comprehensive list of books and resources that align with the educational philosophy and values of The NEW School. These resources cover financial literacy for kids, Christian educational philosophies, alternative learning approaches, and more. The list is organized by category for easy navigation, and each resource includes a brief description. Many of these titles can guide you in nurturing your child's learning journey at home and understanding the principles behind our school's approach.

Financial Literacy & Life Skills

1. Rich Dad Poor Dad by Robert T. Kiyosaki (with Sharon Lechter) – A personal finance classic that contrasts the money mindsets of two fathers: one “Rich” (an entrepreneur mentor) and one “Poor” (Kiyosaki's educated but financially struggling father). **This book advocates financial literacy, financial independence,** and building wealth through investing in assets, owning businesses, and increasing one's financial intelligence[1][2]. It highlights what the rich teach their children about money that others do not, stressing practical lessons like understanding assets vs. liabilities and escaping the “rat race”[1][2][3]. By reading this, parents can grasp key concepts to pass on to their children about earning, saving, and investing wisely from a young age.

2. Rich Kid Smart Kid: Giving Your Child a Financial Head Start by Robert T. Kiyosaki – A parent-focused guide to teaching children about money and learning. Kiyosaki wrote this book for parents who “want to give their children a financial head start in life” and are willing to take an active role[4][4]. It fills in the gaps left by traditional schooling in the realm of practical money skills. Rich Kid Smart Kid shows parents how to **awaken a child's love of learning,** it talks about finances and the real world, providing tools and “**real-world experiences (financial field trips!)**” to share with their kids[4][4][5]. It emphasizes that our fast-changing Information Age requires new skills not always taught in school, and it helps families bridge that gap with fun, hands-on learning about money and entrepreneurship. * 2026/2027 enrollments will receive a FREE copy of this book from us!

3. Smart Money Smart Kids by Dave Ramsey and Rachel Cruze – A practical guide from financial expert Dave Ramsey and his daughter, aimed at helping parents raise children who are **wise with money.** This book offers a “no-nonsense approach for teaching your kids and teens the basics of money”, with lots of personal stories and proven strategies[6]. It covers commonsense lessons such as **where money comes from, the value of hard work, how to save/spend/give,** how to avoid debt, paying cash for college, and living generously[7]. Written from a family perspective (and a Christian-friendly viewpoint), Smart Money Smart Kids equips parents to instill **responsibility, stewardship, and sound money habits** in their children from an early age.

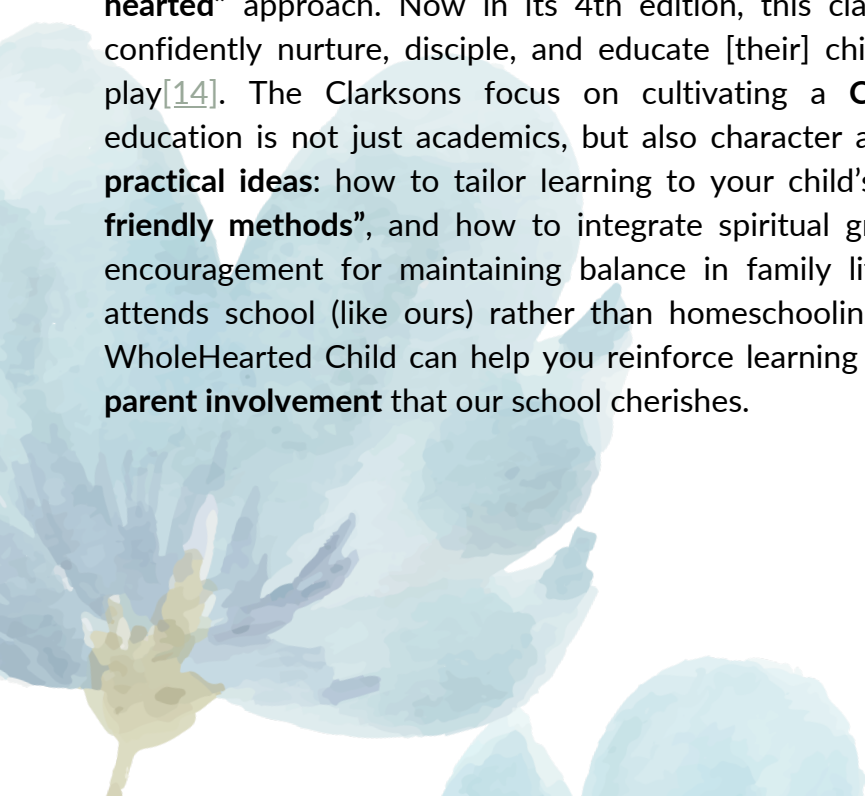
Additional Suggestions: You might also explore “The Opposite of Spoiled” by Ron Lieber (on raising kids grounded about money and generosity) or “Do Hard Things” by Alex & Brett Harris (which, while not about money, encourages teens to challenge themselves and develop character, complementing the life-skills focus of the above books).

Christian Philosophy of Education

4. Kingdom Education: God’s Plan for Educating Future Generations by Dr. Glen Schultz – A foundational book on **Biblical educational philosophy**. Dr. Schultz outlines 10 Biblical Principles of education and emphasizes the partnership of **home, church, and school** in raising children according to God’s Word^[8]. This book calls parents and educators to view schooling as a “life-long, Bible-based, Christ-centered process”^[9] of leading children to Christ and building them up in truth. **Kingdom Education** has influenced many Christian schools^[10], and it will help you understand our school’s commitment to integrating faith with learning. It’s an insightful resource for parents who want to ensure that their child’s education is firmly grounded in a biblical worldview and kingdom values.

5. For the Children’s Sake: Foundations of Education for Home and School by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay – An inspiring introduction to the **Charlotte Mason** approach to education from a Christian perspective. This short, engaging book outlines what a “**rich, life-giving education**” looks like when we view children as whole persons^[11]. Macaulay, the daughter of theologian Francis Schaeffer, brings **Charlotte Mason’s** 19th-century ideas to modern parents in a practical way. Key principles include respecting each child as an individual created by God, cultivating good habits, and using “living books” (quality literature) rather than dry textbooks. The book presents education as “extending learning to every aspect of life, instilling in children a richness and joy for living”^[12] – fully in line with a Christian/biblical worldview^[13]. *For the Children’s Sake* will encourage you to create a nurturing home atmosphere and to cooperate with our school in educating with **wisdom, delight, and faith**.

6. Educating the WholeHearted Child by Clay Clarkson (with Sally Clarkson) – A comprehensive handbook for **Christian home education and parenting**, emphasizing a **discipleship-based, “whole-hearted”** approach. Now in its 4th edition, this classic resource helps parents “faithfully and confidently nurture, disciple, and educate [their] child at home”, making learning as natural as play^[14]. The Clarksons focus on cultivating a **Christ-centered home environment** where education is not just academics, but also character and faith formation. This book is filled with **practical ideas**: how to tailor learning to your child’s unique style, how to teach with “**parent-friendly methods**”, and how to integrate spiritual growth with academics^[15]. It also provides encouragement for maintaining balance in family life while educating^[16]. Even if your child attends school (like ours) rather than homeschooling full-time, the principles in *Educating the WholeHearted Child* can help you reinforce learning at home and understand the **philosophy of parent involvement** that our school cherishes.



7. The Core: Teaching Your Child the Foundations of Classical Education by Leigh A. Bortins – A parent-oriented guide to the **Classical education model**, which is a time-tested approach our school draws from. Leigh Bortins, founder of Classical Conversations, believes there are core areas of knowledge (like facts, logic, and language) that every child should master as building blocks[17]. In *The Core*, she “**gives parents the tools and methodology to implement a rigorous, thorough, and broad curriculum based on the classical model**”[18][18]. This includes practical techniques for things like **memorization, learning history and geography systematically, reading great books**, and pursuing math and science with depth[18][18]. The book is very “handy for busy parents who want their children to enter adulthood fully equipped with knowledge and skills” of responsible and capable individuals[19]. Reading this will help you understand elements of the classical approach (such as the trivium of Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric stages) that influence our school’s curriculum and why we value a return to strong fundamentals and character through education.

Additional Christian Philosophy Resources: If you’re interested in further reading, consider “**The Case for Classical Christian Education**” by Douglas Wilson (vision for classical education in Christian schools) or **Charlotte Mason’s own writings**, such as *Home Education*, for deeper insight into her methods. Also, **C.S. Lewis’s essays** on education and training character (e.g., “The Abolition of Man”) are thought-provoking for understanding the goal of godly education.

Alternative & Holistic Education Approaches

8. The Self-Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives by William Stixrud & Ned Johnson – A research-based book arguing that children today need a greater sense of **autonomy and control** to thrive. The authors examine how well-meaning parents and schools often over-control kids, contributing to anxiety and burnout[20]. They focus on ways to restore healthy control to kids – letting them make meaningful choices, take risks, and even experience failure as growth. Studies show that a “low sense of control is highly associated with anxiety and depression”, whereas **self-motivation** flourishes when kids feel their life is their own[21][22]. For parents, this book provides practical advice on when to step back and coach rather than micromanage. It aligns with our school’s learner-driven philosophy: we aim to raise **confident, self-motivated learners**. *The Self-Driven Child* will help you support that at home by empowering your kids with appropriate freedoms and responsibilities, resulting in more resilient and motivated children.

9. Free to Learn: Why Unleashing the Instinct to Play Will Make Our Children Happier, More Self-Reliant, and Better Students for Life by Peter Gray – A powerful read on the importance of play and self-directed learning. Developmental psychologist Peter Gray makes the case that to prepare children for today’s fast-changing world, we must trust them to “steer their own learning and development”[23]. He presents evidence from psychology and history that **free play** is the primary way children learn crucial life skills: how to solve problems, socialize, be creative, and control their own lives[24]. Gray also critiques the modern schooling system as a “curiosity-killing institution” and suggests that many of the problems we see in education come from a lack of freedom for kids[25]. This book’s message resonates with our school’s approach of incorporating play, curiosity-driven projects, and student choice in learning. By reading *Free to Learn*, you’ll gain insight into why we value **student agency**, and you’ll discover ways to provide enriching play and exploration opportunities for your child outside of school as well.

10. Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling by John Taylor Gatto – A provocative critique of the conventional school system by an award-winning teacher-turned-whistleblower. Gatto argues that standard mass schooling, far from fostering true education, often **stifles children’s independence and creativity**. He reveals a “hidden curriculum” in schools that implicitly teaches children to follow orders, conform, and depend on authority rather than think critically[26]. According to Gatto, the system is “**working exactly as it was designed**” – producing obedient workers instead of independent thinkers[27]. While our school operates very differently from a traditional public school, understanding Gatto’s seven “hidden lessons” (like conformity, intellectual dependence, etc.) can help you appreciate why we do things in an unconventional way. Dumbing Us Down ultimately challenges parents to “reclaim their child’s learning experience”[28] [29]. This book will deepen your understanding of our mission to avoid the pitfalls of the factory-school model and truly **personalize education** to unleash each child’s potential.

Other Notable Reads: “**A Thomas Jefferson Education**” by **Oliver DeMille** (advocates mentoring and classic books to raise leaders), “**Most Likely to Succeed**” by **Tony Wagner & Ted Dintersmith** (discusses project-based learning for the 21st century), and Sir Ken Robinson’s “**Creative Schools**” (on fostering creativity in education) are all excellent if you wish to explore broader educational innovation that parallels our philosophy.

Parenting and Child Development

(In this section, we highlight resources that help with parenting from a character and developmental standpoint, complementing our educational approach.)

11. Shepherding a Child’s Heart by Tedd Tripp – A highly regarded Christian parenting book focusing on reaching the **heart of your child** in discipline and instruction. Tripp reminds parents that shaping outward behavior is not enough; true guidance addresses the child’s thoughts and motivations with **biblical truth and love**. This aligns with our school’s emphasis on character education and a heart-based approach to behavior. Reading Shepherding a Child’s Heart can give you tools to consistently train your child in **wisdom, obedience, and faith**, reinforcing the values they learn at school in your home life.

12. The Whole-Brain Child by Daniel J. Siegel & Tina Payne Bryson – A favorite among parents and educators, this book demystifies child brain development and offers 12 strategies for nurturing **emotionally healthy, well-balanced kids**. It explains in parent-friendly terms how a child’s brain matures (left-right brain integration, “upstairs” rational brain vs. “downstairs” emotional brain) and how parents can respond to big emotions and behaviors in ways that build the brain. Our teachers use many of these strategies (like **connection before correction, naming emotions, and engaging cooperation**) in the classroom. By applying Whole-Brain Child principles at home, you’ll create consistency with our approach, helping your child feel secure and understood while developing self-regulation and emotional intelligence.

13. Habits of the Household by Justin Whitmel Earley – This newer book (by a Christian author) explores how the daily rhythms and routines in your home can be transformed into opportunities for **spiritual formation and character-building**. From wake-up routines to mealtimes to bedtime, Earley shows how intentional habits (like family prayers, one-on-one conversation times, screen time limits, etc.) can shape your children’s hearts and your family culture. It’s very practical and “parent-friendly.” This resource is in tune with our school’s understanding that **education isn’t just what happens at school** – it’s the total formation of a child’s life. Habits of the Household will help you align home life with the values of love, diligence, faith, and curiosity that we aim to impart at school.

Additional Parenting Picks: For understanding your child’s unique personality and needs, “**The 5 Love Languages of Children**” by **Gary Chapman** is insightful. Also, “**Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles**” by **Paul David Tripp** offers a Christ-centered framework for parenting. If you are looking ahead to the teenage years, “**Age of Opportunity**” by **Paul Tripp** or “**Screenwise**” by **Devorah Heitner** (on guiding kids in the digital age) can be very helpful.

Online Resources & Communities

14. Ambleside Online (Website) – AmblesideOnline.org is a free **Charlotte Mason** curriculum resource. Although for homeschoolers, this site is a goldmine of **book lists, articles, and a supportive community** centered on providing a rich, literature-based education. You can find year-by-year reading lists of classic “living books” and practical tips on cultivating good habits and appreciation for nature, art, and Scripture – all aligned with Charlotte Mason’s philosophy. It’s an excellent supplement for parents who want to enrich their child’s life with quality reading and gentle learning at home, in harmony with our school’s focus on **whole-child education**.

15. Read-Aloud Revival (Website & Podcast) – ReadAloudRevival.com is run by Sarah Mackenzie and is dedicated to helping parents build a family culture of reading aloud. This site (and its podcast) provides **book recommendations by age, tips for making read-aloud time work**, and inspiration for connecting with your kids through stories. Reading aloud has immense benefits for children’s literacy and imagination – and it’s a practice we encourage at school as well. The Read-Aloud Revival community will support you in finding delightful books (from faith-based to classic literature) to enjoy together, strengthening both your child’s language skills and your family bonds.

16. Wild + Free (Community) – BeWildandFree.org is a community for parents (largely homeschoolers, but open to all) who want children to have a **nature-rich, curiosity-driven childhood**. They offer a blog, a magazine, conferences, and local meet-ups – all focused on letting kids be “wild and free” in learning. The ethos is Christian-influenced and encourages things like outdoor exploration, creative arts, reading, and low-tech, play-based learning. Following Wild + Free can give you ideas to incorporate more nature and wonder into your child’s life outside school hours. It resonates with our belief that education is not just academics, but also learning through exploration, play, and discovering God’s creation.

17. Focus on the Family – Parenting – [Focus on the Family’s Parenting Channel](#) is a reliable source of **articles, podcasts, and free resources** on Christian parenting and education. You’ll find guidance on everything from helping your child succeed in school, to addressing behavioral issues, to building virtue. Notably, they have pieces on choosing educational options, integrating faith into everyday life, and protecting your family’s values. It’s a broad resource that aligns with our school’s family-centric approach and provides wise, faith-based advice for virtually any parenting question that might arise.

18. Upcoming Sovereign Education Series – (Forthcoming resource) Keep an eye out for the **Sovereign Education**, which is currently in development (and co-authored by our Founder: Angela Anna Maria Sena!). This upcoming book will focus on empowering parents and students in the journey of education – emphasizing principles like personal responsibility, faith, freedom in learning, and preparing young people to be “sovereign” individuals in their calling. While the book is still in its initial stages, the broader Sovereign series has many volumes available. The Sovereign Education will encapsulate many of the values that our school stands for. Once available, this books will be an excellent guide for parents to deeply understand and apply the philosophy behind our model of schooling.

We encourage you to explore these resources at your own pace. Consider starting with one book or website from each category that speaks most to your current questions or needs. Whether it’s gaining confidence in guiding your child’s finances, embracing a new educational philosophy, or finding encouragement in your parenting journey, there’s something here for everyone. By engaging with these materials, you’ll be better equipped and inspired to partner with us in your child’s education – truly a **holistic, life-long adventure** of learning and growth.

Happy reading and learning! Please feel free to reach out to us for further recommendations or to share insights from any of these resources. We are excited to grow together as a community of learners and educators, for the benefit of our children.

Sources: (Each of the books and resources above is cited with a reference to where the description or information came from. For your convenience, here are the reference citations used in this list.)

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