

 A
CALENDAR
OF
FIRSTS 

This nature journal belongs to

Started in

An important part of a Charlotte Mason education is that children are encouraged to spend time outdoors every day and keep note of their nature observations. They were trained to sketch, paint and describe these observations in their own nature journals. She also encouraged that each child kept "A Calendar of Firsts". She says,

"It is a capital plan for the children to keep a calendar—the first oak-leaf, the first tadpole, the first cowslip, the first catkin, the first ripe blackberries, where seen, and when. The next year they will know when and where to look out for their favourites, and will, every year, be in a condition to add new observations. Think of the zest and interest, the object, which such a practice will give to daily walks and little excursions." Mason, Vol. 1 p. 54

Children look forward to finding familiar events, which, like a friend that returns each season, they know when to expect them, or they note changes in seasonal and natural cycles.

This Calendar of Firsts download is essentially a perpetual, blank calendar, where one comes back and adds to it year after year. It does not include dates or the days of the week, but one could number the blocks, or use a traditional calendar if preferred.

Included in this download ~

1. Calendar page - each month with dotted blocks for days (if needed)
2. Season pages – Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter
3. List pages – Bird, Flower, Tree, and blank list

How to print out and set up and use your calendar pages:

- ⇒ Print out the calendar pages on separate cardstock pages for durability.
- ⇒ Punch them and place them into a ring-binder or in a notebook.
- ⇒ You can change your printer settings so that it prints in black & white to save ink, or 2-pages-on-a-page to create a smaller A5-size calendar.
- ⇒ Here are some layout options ~
 - Place the calendar pages so that these pages will appear on the inside left-hand side and face on to the back of the next month's page, which will appear as a blank right-hand side page. This is perfect as a journal page on the other side, allowing more room for your child to add more information.
 - You can print the calendar pages double sided, allowing for one side to face the next and have less paper in the notebook binder.
- ⇒ When your child finds new firsts, they add either a small sketch or write 'First _____' on the date they found it.
- ⇒ To help learn the seasons, have your child locate the first day of the four seasons and sketch a picture that symbolizes that season. As they enter their new firsts, have them realize what season this first occurred. They can use the season pages, to add the firsts to them, as well.
- ⇒ I have included some list pages to keep track of birds, animals, insects, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and so on.

I wish you every blessing as you use your Calendar of Firsts year after year.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

 MARCH 

✿ APRIL ✿

🌸 MAY *🌸*

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

 SEPTEMBER 

✿ OCTOBER ✿

ll NOVEMBER *ll*

DECEMBER

 SPRING 

 SUMMER 



AUTUMN



WINTER

TREE LIST

