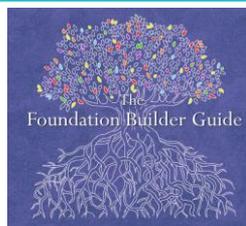


Organic Principles, Environments,
Materials & Skills of Learning



Nurturing Our Skills of Discovery

By Katie Hansen

In acknowledgment, this work would not have come forward without my Creator.

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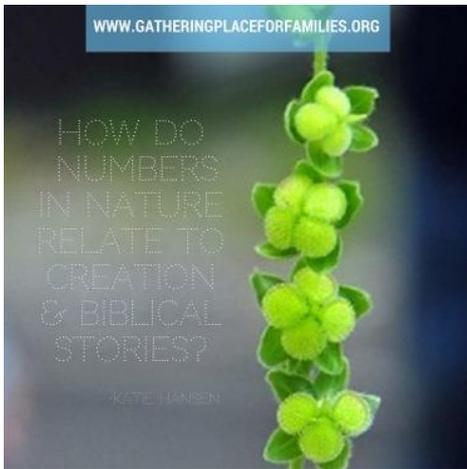
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Nurturing Our Skills of Discovery

Many times when we look at our role to nurture and teach our children, we put the nurturing home and family in one compartment and academic teaching in another, separating them into different categories, when in reality they go hand in hand. To nurture means "to promote growth through education and instruction; to feed, to educate; to bring or train up." Instead of looking at the false, adopted definition of our role to nurture, we must wake up to the fact that God is calling us to really understand our role and step into real life-giving nurturing and teaching that builds character and nurtures the soul. From this point of reference, we can start to seek for answers about how to teach our children in God's agency-protecting ways. When coming from this perspective, our efforts in teaching will then take on far more weight and eternal consequence in their lives.

In my early teaching experiences, I discovered I had a gift of teaching, but also soon realized I was heavily dependent on the controlling methods of classroom management I had learned in practicum and substitute teaching. After receiving my teaching degree in 1995, subsequent marriage and first couple children, I began to notice for me as a mother and teacher, at times I was heavily dependent on controlling the physical environment. I sometimes found myself resorting to manipulation, coercion and compulsion, methods which had been modeled for me my whole life through government institutions and generational patterns. It wasn't really until my physical home environment was uncontrollable after a move to a fixer upper during a pregnancy, that I began to discover the lack of order in my inner foundation. As I began recognizing this dependence on external order, I called out to God for help and direction. As I obeyed this direction, I realized how vital agency was in my own learning process. I was now more aware, seeking for help, asking questions and noticing, therefore, ready for more answers. I saw how having this awareness and order within changed my ability to teach. This awakening process, created in me a yearning and a determined

desire to really learn how to teach in a Christ-like way; a way which would not only defend the agency of my children and others, but also strengthen their internal foundation. So I began a focused search to learn more of His ways. I learned that agency-based teaching and nurturing is about showing, not telling; inviting, not demanding; guiding, not revealing. It opens the space for ourselves and others to grow and learn at their own pace and readiness level. This way ultimately develops and nurtures true self-reliance.



As I searched, I found myself exploring definitions of words in the scriptures and then inviting others to search and find for themselves. A scriptural-based pattern emerged after doing a study of many words. I called it The Skills of Discovery. One morning after being asked to teach at an upcoming retreat, I awoke with this interesting idea. I

saw myself hiking up the mountain while teaching the Hebraic principles with their coinciding mathematical shapes, numbers, and Biblical stories. As I began implementing these classes, I found that the most effective way to teach these principles was through inviting the participants to discover the answers for themselves. Since then, I have been using this formula and have found that each individual, when they believe it is possible and apply themselves to the process, is able to find personal meaning and connection and to increase in their ability to be taught by the Holy Spirit. It is so much simpler and more natural than fear-based ways. As you practice this way, you will find that it will remove the stress and worry and open up a "coming home" experience for yourself and your children.

I share this in hopes to not only help you expand your understanding of what it really means to honor the agency of others, but also to increase your personal discoveries by using your own intuitive abilities as well as to nurture and invite your children to do the same, thereby, enabling us and our children to feast from the spirit in all that we learn.

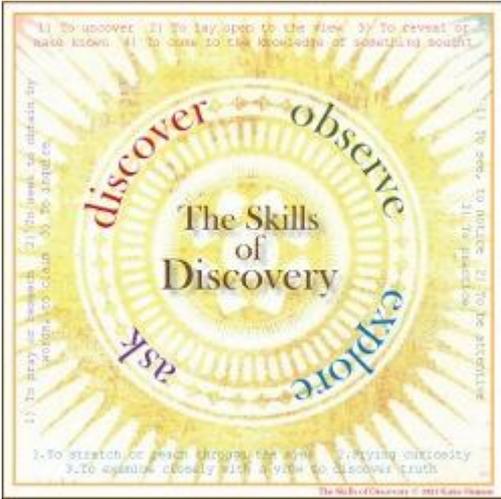
It is simple. First, try it for yourself. In order to model and teach this to our children, we must first experience it for ourselves. Start observing, exploring, asking and you will begin discovering. As you observe - be attentive, see, notice, practice, and explore - stretch and reach through the eyes with prying curiosity to examine closely with a view to discover truth, you will probably ask yourself questions like, "Why is that?" It may start with a simple "wondering" such as this. Then, these small and simple observations, explorations of ideas, thoughts and questions you ask, will bring about small and simple yet powerful answers and discoveries for you. I promise.

Many times, a question will come to my mind. I'm glad for the assistance and I entertain it. I ask myself, "How is that possible?" "Am I finding anything?" "How is that?" "Why?" or "What is going to happen?" Each time I do this, my subconscious brain is set to work searching for the answer. Over time, I find things related

to these questions along the way, tuck them into my open filing cabinet in my brain and I allow more exploration until I find the answer that resonates with me, The Spirit and God's Word. Eventually, the answers come with two, three or many witnesses to verify. I am patient with understanding that I will not usually find the answers at once, but when I do, I am assured I have received truths which empower me. The wonderful thing about these



discoveries is that when we compare them back to sound timeless principles and they still are valid and ring true, they will be discoveries of truth and will add to the building of our inner foundation.



I encourage you to use this simple formula with yourself and then, when you are ready, invite others to do the same.

Ask yourself or others: "What do you see? What do you observe? What do you notice? Could this be connected to another principle? Let's explore it. What seems to be in contradiction?" (When

you observe concepts which contradict, there probably is something you need to be exploring there.) Or say, "Let's explore some more."

Asking questions will set our brains searching. It is how our brains are made! We have a small gland in our limbic brain which loves story. If there is an untold story, it will search for anything to complete that incomplete cycle, even if it is false assumptions. Remember the lady who saw the laundry of her neighbor hanging and it looked really dirty? She concluded her neighbor didn't know how to do laundry until her husband washed her very own windows! Keep that part of our brain open by guarding against those times where our brains want to finish the story of another with our story. Keep the mind open by practicing observing, exploring more and asking. In the case of this story, we could ask, "Is that laundry dirty?" then keep on observing and exploring until we find the truth. Many times such as this, we may settle on what we want to think, which may bring comfort and justification to us.

In circumstances with our fellow brothers or sisters, let's just keep on observing, exploring and asking until we get the correct verification. Challenge those assumptions!

Because these Skills of Discovery are natural intuitive abilities, we will probably be using these skills without acknowledging their validity. Each personal "wondering," pondering and discovery may seem unimportant to many or unrelated to real life. But, if we could see it all as practice and very personal, we will be nurturing those God-given skills which he asks us to use to seek Him further and learn all that He has for us to learn.

Start practicing using your Skills of Discovery in everything you do, as well as encouraging your children to do the same. It is the only way to test this. You may have to catch yourself using them because they really are already a part of you. Have you tried using them in the Word? Probably. Practice more. Check the context of a scripture; the chapters or verses before and after. When you observe repeated phrases, begin counting and ask yourself if there is a reason or connection with that which you are finding. God has probably left a pattern there! Try looking up words in the dictionary or index when necessary, or even when not?, then wait to see if there is more to discover. Practice it with the books you study and the context in which you find yourself? I bet there is a lesson in the situations you find available in your life. God always has hidden messages in the situations surrounding us or the people we meet. Remember, there are no coincidences. If you are not sure about that, you will soon begin to be as you continue to apply these principles in your life.

When we put our Belief into these Skills of Discovery, and choose to trust this process, we truly learn line upon line. It is a faith-filled journey moving forward towards hope to receiving light and truth. When we search, dig, explore and ask, seek, answers come to our minds through the Holy Spirit. Once we are aware of the connections we are making, we will be able to nurture, guide and mentor our children with these skills in mind. As our ability to

guide them is enhanced, we will be more effective because we will be creating an environment which nurtures and protects their agency, by giving them the space to grow and develop at their own pace.

As we take this journey of learning how to use our God-given intuitive abilities to discover truth, and invite our children to do the same, we will be modeling our Savior's way and receiving "all things that we should do."

Now go, Believe and Observe, Explore, Ask and Discover!

*Katie grew up exploring and discovering the woods, ponds, creeks, and fields in the Baltimore, Maryland countryside. After moving west and graduating college in Elementary Education from USU, she found her personal call to teach her own children. Through this call to work, learn and grow as a wife to Michael Hansen and mother to 6, she has come to understand what a true education is and discovered her love of pattern seeking, teaching and building community. Katie is a Footzonologist, Hebraic principles-based Mentor & Teacher, trained Mentor through Leadership Education Mentoring Inst. and author of her upcoming book *The Pilgrim's Course: Celebrating Our Original Culture & Story The Hebrew Way*. She is currently sharing a family program called *The Foundation Builder Guide: A Mother's Guide to Developing Education on the Principles of Creation*, through her online Membership Site and *Unlocking the Chambers Retreats and Family Celebrations*. You can read more about her on her blog: *The Gathering Place- Sharing Aspects of the Hebrew Way**

