

**BOOKLESS  
LESSONS FOR THE  
TEACHER-MOTHER**

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Bookless Lessons for the Teacher-Mother by Ella Frances Lynch

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**ELLA FRANCES LYNCH**

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# Bookless Lessons

## for the Teacher-Mother

BY

ELLA FRANCES LYNCH

FOUNDER OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF TEACHER-MOTHERS; FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION; AUTHOR OF "EDUCATING THE CHILD AT HOME."

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ANDERSON

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## PREFACE

"I want to teach my children, but am I really clever enough to be a teacher?"

It is not the cleverest teacher, but the best teacher, that the home needs. A great linguist may be totally unable to make others learn the elements of a language, a great musician may lack every single qualification as a teacher of beginners. It is not merely cleverness or a knack of arousing enthusiasm that marks the good teacher, not high scholarship nor commanding intellect, but patience and perseverance in making children do the same things day after day, exactly so. It is this *making* that is the backbone of education.

The child who is sent to school before learning to obey, to pay attention, to apply himself, is for the time being unteachable. No school can entirely repair the damage wrought by wrong training or neglect during the first seven years of life.

Here is a test of the mother's ability to conduct her own kindergarten:

*Can you teach your children the Lord's Prayer?*

*Can you teach them to sew on buttons? to tie a knot? to set the table? to use a broom? to draw a straight line?*

*Can you teach them the names of the birds that visit your yard? the trees and flowers growing near your home? the common garden vegetables? the six basic colors?*

*Can you teach them Mother Goose rhymes?*

▼

*Can you make them think of the question asked before attempting to answer it? Can you make them see things as they are and describe exactly what they see?*

If you can do these things, or can learn to do them, you can also learn to do the other things that will be required of the Teacher-Mother.

Thanks are due to the editors of the *Country Gentleman*, *American Motherhood*, *America*, *Holland's Magazine*, *Munsey's*, *McCall's*, *Normal Instructor and Primary Plans*, *Journal of Education*, *the Child* (London), *New York Times*, *Philadelphia Ledger*, and numerous other newspapers and periodicals in which parts of this book have appeared. Their help has done much to make productive the effort to reestablish the home as the greatest educational institution in the world. From the "bush" of western Canada to the mining camps of the Andes, from the dry lands of Rhodesia to the inland missions of the Chinese Empire, from New York to San Francisco, these methods are being used by busy mothers who must make teaching link arms with housework.

To these good mothers and to the many more who are daily enrolling in the League of Teacher-Mothers, this book is affectionately dedicated.

ELLA FRANCES LYNCH.



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## BOOKLESS LESSONS FOR THE TEACHER-MOTHER

### CHAPTER I

#### THE TEACHER-MOTHER'S OPPORTUNITY

For every child born into the world his work is waiting, humble, perhaps, but a part of the great plan; with each is born his special gift, to be developed by education into that lifework. This guidebook is written in the belief that within each child's environment lies the means of educating him, and that with the parents, whether rich or poor, learned or simple, rest the privilege and responsibility of so ordering the home that it becomes for their children the greatest educational institution in the world.

To do this it is necessary for the parents to understand something of the laws of human nature, just as it is a lawyer's business to know the civil law and a physician's to know Nature's laws with regard to the proper functioning of the human body. A man of sense does not undertake even the making of a garden, the building of a house, or the running of an engine until he understands at least the elements of the project and has studied the practices of others, in order to ascertain the most common causes of success and failure, for only a wastrel would experiment unnecessarily with materials that could not be duplicated. Especially