PAPER SLOYD

FOR PRIMARY GRADES
CHILDREN IN THE PRIMARY GRADES AT WORK ON PAPER SLOYD MODELS
PAPER SLOYD
A HANDBOOK
FOR PRIMARY GRADES

by
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PREFACE

This little book is written with the thought that it may help teachers and parents who desire to teach children such constructive work in paper as is comprehensible in the first primary grades. Its publication is designed to give right training and happiness to many little children, thereby extending the good work of Miss Anna S. C. Blake, to whose generosity the author is indebted for much valuable experience as sloyd teacher and supervisor of manual training.

Miss Anna S. C. Blake established in Santa Barbara, California, in 1891-1892, the first manual training on the Pacific coast for public-school classes (sewing and cooking for girls, wood sloyd for boys), and maintained the same until her death in 1899, — the work having been previously adopted into the regular curriculum of the city schools.

Miss Blake’s idea that there should be no break in the hand and eye training from the kindergarten to the fourth grade, where wood sloyd and sewing properly begin, encouraged the working out of the series of simple models herein pictured and described. Seven years of experience with classes, varying in size from ten to forty, girls and boys, taught in the class room by grade teachers, have brought satisfactory results.

The name “paper sloyd” was first applied to this course of constructive work by the primary teachers and pupils who recognized the training as a preparation for the wood sloyd and the sewing. Experience in teaching paper sloyd brought a broader conception of the value of the work in its relation to other subjects and in itself, and the name has been retained because it clearly expresses the significance of the training to be given through this suggestive series of models.

The Century Dictionary, describing the origin of the word “sloyd” or “sloid” and its application to a special system of wood-work, adds: “It is not confined to wood-working, as is frequently supposed (though this is the branch most commonly taught), but is work with the hands and with simple tools.”

Paper sloyd is only one form of manual training, but it means more than the mere mechanical construction of models; therefore the definition of sloyd given by the Sloyd Training School, Boston, has been adopted, with the omission of the word “vigorous,” which is included when
we substitute “wood” for “paper”: “Sloyd is tool work so arranged and employed as to stimulate and promote vigorous, intelligent self-activity for a purpose, which the worker recognizes as good.”

The models are interesting, useful, plain, and simple in construction. Some of them were suggested by articles of wood and others by familiar forms, but in every case the proportion and measurements are the product of careful study on the author’s part, as is the whole plan of work which, unpublished, has been in everyday use in city and country schools for six or more years.

Grateful acknowledgment is here made to those primary teachers who, during the experimental stages of the work, aided in the practical demonstration of the problems which confront the introduction of any course of study, and who have by their interest and cooperation helped to make the paper sloyd a real part of each child’s development along right lines.

The simplicity of equipment and the use of inexpensive material in the construction of paper-sloyd models eliminate the question of expense, — one of the greatest obstacles to the introduction of manual training into the crowded first primary classes. This handbook comes with suggestions to those familiar with constructive work, and through its explicit directions makes possible the teaching of this series of models by any earnest instructor who is ready to put forth an effort to “learn by doing.”

The book aims to give practical assistance to those who are seeking advancement for their pupils, but it carries also an earnest plea for thoughtful individual effort on the part of the teacher in behalf of each child who is “going forward and upward step by step.”

EDNAH ANNE RICH

The Anna S. C. Blake Manual Training School
Santa Barbara, California
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INTRODUCTION

In most school systems of importance throughout the country to-day promising experiments in manual training are under way, and in them all manual training is rapidly winning a respectable place. As our experiments proceed we are learning that this form of training has not only a specific educational value, that it develops not only manual dexterity, an important and obvious result, but that it has also a valuable tonic effect on the pupil throughout the whole process of his general education, — on the development of his powers of observation, assimilation, and expression.

This general as well as specific educational value of manual training has long been claimed for it by its advocates; but the experimental demonstration of the validity of this claim, even with our far from satisfactory contemporary schemes of manual training, is daily becoming more convincing.

We are coming to see that the pursuit and attainment by the pupil of a concrete end — some object constructed by him in accordance with a clearly conceived plan — involves a general training as useful in itself and as serviceable in its permanent effect on the pupil as the attainment of a purely intellectual end, — the successful pursuit of a language, the effective grappling with some social problem, or with a problem in natural science or in mathematics, each in its own sphere. This is the meaning of the widespread recognition of manual training in our contemporary programmes of study and the rapidly growing expenditures for the adequate and appropriate instruction of this “subject,” particularly in the upper grammar and high school grades. In those grades, also, the important value of manual training as a means of discovering and developing special aptitude for constructive work, of teaching the pupil the importance of hand work as well as head work, and the supreme importance of the combination of the two, are winning increasing and appropriate recognition.

Moreover, in every grade, its stimulative effect (formerly commonly unsuspected) in awakening peculiar or sluggish minds and its wholesome curative influence on abnormal or defective pupils are not less apparent than the specific and general influences on all minds, referred to above.

In short, we are coming to see that manual training is an exceedingly valuable educational instrument in dealing with minds of all types and in every stage of development. To use this instrument of education most effectively, we still need a well-planned scheme of “construction work” covering every grade from the kindergarten through the high school. Two conspicuous difficulties are met by all who have such a scheme to plan, namely, (1) to make such a choice of materials and processes as will satisfy the child’s natural demand for progressive continuity in the
interest and difficulty of the work he has to do; and (2) at the same time to enable him to appreciate with increasing adequacy the social significance of constructive activities in modern life.

Meanwhile very few of the originators of schemes proposed or now in operation are satisfied with them. These schemes are acknowledged to be provisional or temporary only, serving, however, the useful purpose of intelligent experimentation. In particular it has been found very difficult to devise a series of exercises with appropriate materials for the earliest school years. The materials to be employed, the nature of the exercises themselves, and the best way to articulate the work throughout with the kindergarten work on the one hand and the grammar-school work on the other, and, above all, how to make the work contribute in a simple yet serious way to the final realization of the full educational value of manual training, are problems whose complete solution is yet to be sought. Nevertheless, every thoughtful worker brings us a little nearer the end we are seeking. The amount of thought and individual experimenting now devoted to every phase of manual training is full of promise, and I welcome Miss Rich’s book as a valuable contribution to the solution of the problem with which it deals.

This book seems to offer to teachers, by the special field which it covers, by the variety and practicability of the exercises which it provides, and by the suggestions it contains for the extension and improvement of manual training for primary-school children, a good manual of instruction and an excellent basis for the intelligent experimentation which it is desirable everywhere to promote.

PAUL H. HANUS
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This manual is designed for use in the first three grades of public or private schools in city, town, or country. Older children studying at home may use the book with profit, while parents will find the construction work interesting and beneficial training for the younger children.

Paper sloyd, regarded as a subject in itself, not as “busy work,” should have a place in the course of study with clay modeling, free-hand drawing, and brush work.

The value of this branch of manual training is greater than one who knows nothing of hand work might believe; but the importance of its place in the curriculum is relative, depending in a measure on the needs of the pupils in the special district or locality in which the paper sloyd is being taught. All children, foreigners as well, enjoy the hand work intensely, because in it they find expression and can see the result of their efforts.

The book presupposes little or no knowledge of construction work and no experience in teaching the same; hence the information as to materials, equipment, etc., the explanation of the several operations in construction, suggestions as to methods of presentation, and the careful working directions or dictations are most explicit.

The manual training teacher may find suggestive models, and the supervisor can put the book into the hands of his grade teachers, who must give instruction to their large classes, knowing that the principles are right.

The series of models is carefully arranged with regard to form, proportion, measurements, and construction, and is designed as a preparation for the wood sloyd, or bench work in wood, for boys and the sewing for girls, which should begin in the fourth grade.

Through this construction work the teacher should establish a close relation with language and with number. Simple combinations and fractions, learned with the paper sloyd models for the object, are easily mastered and readily applied in the formal number work later.

Prompt obedience to requests for attention and immediate response to dictation, be the lesson in whatever subject, are essential in the school life of to-day, and these important qualities paper sloyd helps to develop. Order, neatness about the work, carefulness, accuracy, honesty, — important factors in any school, — follow in the lead of all work which trains to concentration of attention.

Observation is quickened; eyes are trained to see right lines and distances, thus aiding in free-hand drawing and writing; while the hand and wrist muscles, being used for a definite purpose, unconsciously
become obedient assistants. Paper sloyd rightly presented justifies itself.

All beginners in paper sloyd need a certain amount of drill in measuring; but that does not mean that the pupils should be kept the whole lesson period drawing lines of varying lengths nor repeating over and over the names of the several divisions. The teacher must be patient during the first part of the year and realize that manual work is brain work as well, and that the hand and eye must become used to giving quick response to the directions of the mind. The subject should be developed as carefully as language, writing, and free-hand drawing.

First-grade pupils should think of their measure as a ruler and accept the fact that it is one foot — twelve inches — long. Allow them to balance the ruler on the forefinger, and they will quickly show you the middle. Direct them to put the thumb nail or finger nail on the 6” line, showing them the line on your own ruler, and tell them that 6” is the middle. They do not know figures and will not realize that the figure 6 has any meaning, but they will remember the line and its name. Further proof that 6” is half of 12” may be demonstrated by holding the ruler vertically with the thumb nail on the 6” mark and quickly passing the forefinger of the right hand from the top down to the 6” and from the bottom up to the 6”. Narrow strips of paper may be measured with the ruler, creased and torn, then folded in the middle. Allow the pupil to feel the length of the space on the ruler by passing his finger several times down the edge; then, quickly putting the ruler into his desk, let him see the space by placing the forefinger of each hand six inches apart on the front edge of the desk. The teacher, passing quickly from desk to desk, measures these spaces and allows the pupil to make any necessary correction by moving the right-hand finger. Lines 12” and 6” may be drawn with chalk on the blackboard, lines the same lengths laid with sticks on the desk, etc. There are many ways to develop the measure to be used, and these suggestions are merely given because they have been found useful. The ruler drill, or play, can be made a helpful part of school work and may occupy four or five moments of any period.

Though there should be no preliminary lessons as abstract exercises, the steps in making the first model should go very slowly; and it may be well to make several models from ordinary manila scratch paper before using the manila drawing paper, which is a little harder to fold and to crease.

The lesson periods—twenty, thirty, and forty minutes—seem short, and both teacher and pupil are loath to put away the work at the close, since it is not easy to wait a week before seeing the finished model nor agreeable for the teacher to interrupt when the interest is so keenly aroused. There is a lesson in promptness, and in not allowing one subject to crowd upon another, but more important is the consideration of the question of fatigue which manifests itself in restlessness on the children’s part and unconscious impatience in the teacher. The
interest will be all the more intense if held in abeyance from week to week, lesson to lesson.

The repetition of the square in the first-year models is not monotonous, since the interest is held not by the form, but by the name of the model and its significance. The short lines make folding and cutting easy, and without any special drill the pupils find each of the 1” marks, so by the time they are ready to use the same, they know that there are twelve spaces on a foot ruler. The half inch is taught as half of the inch space and may be remembered at first by the difference in the length of the division lines of $\frac{1}{2}”$ and $1”$. The quarter, or fourth, inch is developed from the half, and the eighth inch from the fourth objectively, by the use of the ruler. Children slow to see divisions are oftentimes helped by likening the inch and its parts to the dollar, half dollar, and quarter.

Curved outlines are omitted until the third year, because the pupil has not sufficient muscular control to use the compass readily; his training in measuring would be more hampered if the outlines were broken; and at this period his free-hand drawing is giving him the best of training in the matter of curves and circles.

Innumerable articles may be made of paper, and those included in this series should suggest others. Pasteboard doll houses with furniture give great pleasure to their owners and occupy many happy hours at home. Such a line of work is acceptable in the schoolroom if it is correlated with other subjects and promotes the spirit of coöperation.

Gifts for special occasions may be made at school. Familiar forms constructed of different paper sometimes satisfy the worker.

Encourage the making of “inventions” or “original models” and in countless ways help the children to feel that this hand work has a real part in their school life and in their homes.

Type forms as abstract lessons are left out of this series of models, as are the fancy, scalloped, ribbon-tied trays, boxes, and baskets which seemingly have no place in the first primary grades, — the years in which constructive work in paper should be taught to every boy and girl.

The fact that there are few toys and articles for the child’s own use among the models has, after six years’ trial, proven no mistake. Children gain truest happiness in making those things which give pleasure to the people in the home and establish for them the appreciated position of contributors to the household.

**EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL**

**Equipment.** — Pencil, ruler, scissors, pencil compass, punch.

**Material.** — Manila drawing or drafting paper, 60 lbs.; Bristol board, 3 ply; Royal Melton or other cover paper, sandpaper (No. 1), blotting paper; yarn, cord, twine, ribbon, for ties; library, art, or photo paste in bottles or tubes; gummed parquetry circles and squares, and gummed stars.
EQUIPMENT

Pencils. — The pencils, medium, with erasers in the ends, should be kept sharpened and used solely for paper sloyd drawings. Pieces of pasteboard, with elastic sewed on in as many loops as there are desks in a row, make convenient holders and facilitate distribution.

Ruler. — Ruler twelve inches long, hard wood, light weight, back edge square, front edge beveled, divisions not less than eighths. A primary ruler, marked with 1"; ½", ¼", is satisfactory for the first two years.

Scissors. — Scissors, nickel plated, five inches long, one point sharp, one blunt, should be kept in cases. Allow one pair of scissors to each child or one for every two children. A scissors case, twelve inches wide, may be made of single width gray Canton flannel. Hem the edges, fold lengthwise (lap piece, four and one-half inches wide), and stitch pockets for scissors and one for punch and chamois. The cloth at the top folds over when the scissors are in place, and the whole may be made into a compact roll. Scissors should be wiped with chamois after using.

Pencil Compass. — A compass attachment slipped onto the pencil when necessary to draw curves or circles. Supply compass point for each child.

Punch. — Nickel-plated conductor's punch making a round hole three sixteenths of an inch or less in diameter. Only one punch is necessary with each equipment.

MATERIAL

Manila drawing or drafting paper, rated at sixty pounds, may be purchased by the ream. Choose paper with rough surface, tough and strong, that can be folded and creased easily by small children. Laid Antique Cover is also satisfactory paper.

Bristol board, three ply, is easily cut with scissors, folds with light scoring, and does not break when creased. There is a wide choice in colors. The geranium (red), lavender, blue-gray, and gray are satisfactory. It is purchased by the hundred sheets; sheets, 22 × 28 inches.

Royal Melton, seventy pounds, or other cover papers in colors — olive green, gray, brown, and red — are purchased by the sheet, 20 × 25 inches.

Sandpaper (Number 1), for match scratchers, 8 × 12 inches.

Blotting paper, color buff, may be bought by the sheet.

This list enumerates some of the inexpensive material for construction work, and is intended to be suggestive merely. Paper of many grades and textures may be procured in beautiful and delicate shades and tints.

Gummed Parquetry. — Circles and squares (color dark red), one inch in diameter, bought in packages (one hundred in a package) from kindergarten supply department at any stationers.

Gummed Stars. — Small gold or colored stars may be purchased in any quantity.
**Pictures.** — The picture frames are designed for small photographs or the small pictures known as “half-penny pictures,” which are easily procured and may be chosen with reference to the year’s picture study.

**Ties.** — Yarn, silk or linen floss, silk or cotton cord, ribbon, and colored twine are all available, preference being given to the first and last because of their suitableness for use with the inexpensive paper.

**Paste.** — Library, art, or photograph paste is satisfactory and, when purchased in large quantities, inexpensive. Small tubes or bottles may be provided for each pupil, or he may be served from a large bottle, sufficient paste being placed on a scrap of paper on his desk. The paste may be spread with a small brush, toothpick, or piece of stiff paper.

**Preparation of Material.** — All paper should be machine cut, one quarter or one half inch larger than the finished dimensions. This insures square corners and makes constructive work possible with the children in the first primary grades.

Should these designs be used in higher grades — third, fourth, and fifth — with heavier boards, the children may square the corners by use of a straight edge and triangle. These implements could, of course, be used in the lower grades, but it is not considered wise to exact so much attention to detail from young pupils. The paper will be cut at any printing office at small cost.

**GENERAL DIRECTIONS**

**Working Plans.** — Set apart a certain time — twenty minutes in the first grade, thirty minutes in the second, and forty minutes in the third — on a certain day each week for the paper sloyd lesson. Choose the period immediately following the opening hour in the morning. The children respond quickly to directions at this time. Have everything in readiness that no time will be wasted in distribution.

**Suggestions.** — Place on the front desk of each row the card of pencils, rulers (held in a bundle by elastic band), compasses, and as many pieces of paper as there are pupils in the row. Direct that each in turn shall be passed backward down the row, and from the back seat forward at the close of the lesson, thus avoiding noise and delay. Scissors may be passed by monitors. The injunction “Do not handle” must be enforced when tools are not in use. Require prompt attention. Give in the first months only one direction, as brief as possible, at a time, accompanying the words by an illustration — showing the required line on a drawing, either on the blackboard or on paper.

Experience shows that, in conveying to young children a definite conception of what is to be done, a simple expression oft repeated eliminates confusion of thought and brings certain muscular actions readily under control. Thus: “Place a ruler,” etc., “Place a dot,” etc., gains response more readily than “Measure from the left-hand side at the top of the paper and make a dot,” etc.; “Draw line through the dots”
brings better results from beginners than "Connect the points."

A set of models made by the teacher should be in evidence. Three or four extra models should be made by as many children each lesson, the same to be kept at the school for exhibition, each pupil being allowed to carry his model home when finished.

**Position of Paper.** — Unless specially mentioned, the directions for all of the models presuppose that the paper is placed on the desk with the *long* edge horizontal or parallel to the front edge of the desk. The edges of the paper are then designated as top, bottom, left, right. The position of the paper *should not be changed* until the drawing is completed. Adherence to this rule will save time, careless mistakes by the pupils, and annoyance on the part of the teacher.

Measurements read from the left and top edges of the paper, except on the inside lines, when the end of the ruler is placed on the dot, as noted in directions.

The directions for making the envelope are to be followed in the construction of all succeeding plain models except where otherwise specified. "Construct a square" means that the directions for placing the ruler, placing dots, and drawing lines, given under the first drawing, are to be repeated.

**WORKING DIRECTIONS**

**Ruler.** — The ruler must at all times be held firmly. Teach the children to place the thumb and first two or three fingers of the left hand on the ruler, stretching them wide apart, and holding the hand nearly at right angles to the arm, which does not touch the desk. Small children whose desk tops are too high should be allowed to stand.

**Position of Pencil.** — Direct the pupil when drawing lines with the ruler to draw against the beveled edge, — to hold his pencil firmly and draw the line lightly and quickly, as if with one stroke. Overcome the tendency of little children to make large dots by directing them to hold the pencil as straight as possible and turn it a little one way, then the other, pressing lightly. Direct lines to be drawn through the dots, using any comparison that will impress the pupils with the clearness and trueness of the line, — a railroad track, a fence, etc.

**Pencil Compass.** — Adjust the metal point onto the pencil, the points of each being even, and open to the required dimensions; place the point on the dot; keep the paper in position with the left hand; hold the pencil near the end with the right hand and draw the curve quickly and lightly.

**Folding.** — Place the ruler on the line, the pencil mark showing above the edge; hold firmly as directed. With the right hand lift the side of the paper to be folded; slip the thumb under; bring the same to a vertical position; pass the thumb nail along the paper, pressing it square against
the ruler; remove the ruler; fold the paper flat and crease sharply with the finger nail of the second finger held flat on the desk and kept in position by the thumb; release and the side will form a right angle. The importance of folding and creasing cannot be overestimated. Often a good model is spoiled in the finishing because the fold is soiled or not sharp, owing to the ends of the fingers being used instead of the finger nail. Score (draw the line lightly with the blunt point of scissors) before folding stiff or heavy paper.

Cutting. — Place the paper in first position; take it in the left hand; hold it firmly at the bottom with the thumb in front and the fingers at the back; cut the line at the right from bottom to top; change the position of the left hand if the line is long or the paper not stiff; turn the paper until all the outlines are cut, then put it again in the first position; cut from the bottom to the inside lines, turning the paper as each side is finished. Never turn the scissors at a corner; cut to the point from both sides; cut half circles from the middle downward on each side. Pupils who need practice may be encouraged to cut, at home, lines on newspapers.

Punching. — A teacher having large classes, with limited time for the lessons, may punch the holes in the models. The holes should be near the edge and as even as possible.

Names.—The pupil’s name should be written or printed in small letters inside, on the bottom, or in some inconspicuous place. Space of one eighth inch or three sixteenths is allowed for printing.

A simple letter is made by combination of straight lines and curves: thus B should be printed F, then B; D, I, then D; S, Σ, then S. Call the children’s attention to the similarity in construction of the letters B, E, F, P, R; of J, U, and G, C, O. Require the letters to fill the space between the lines. The printing of names should not begin until the third year, primarily because all the writing movements should be large and free the first years; the vertical writing and the printing may be confused one with the other, and the pupils do not know the smaller divisions of the ruler.

Tying.—Give each child a tie of sufficient length to knot into all the corners; allow him to cut it into the required number of pieces. A flat knot with short ends is quite as satisfactory as a bow knot. Loops for hanging should not be too long. The simpler the tie the better, for then there is a suggestion to the child that everyday material at home has a value.

Pasting. — First fold the model, with few exceptions laps inside; find the sides to be pasted; spread the paste over the whole surface of the lap, paying special attention to edges and corners; fit carefully; smooth with the finger nails; pass the ruler over the surface if desired; trim uneven edges. Pasted models which are flat should be placed under a book for a short time, and boxes fitted closely together into a large pasteboard box to keep the sides from warping.
I. ENVELOPE. 6” × 6”

Place the ruler on the paper just below the top, even at the left; place a dot at 6”. Slip the ruler to the bottom of the paper, even at the left; place a dot at 6”. Draw a light line through the dots from top to bottom.

Place the ruler on the left side of the paper, even at the top; place a dot at 6”. Place the ruler on the right, even at the top; place a dot at 6”. Draw a light line through the dots from left to right.

Holding the paper at the bottom, cut the line at the right from bottom to top; turn paper to the right, and cut on the line.

Place the paper on the desk in the first position; place the ruler across the paper touching the upper left and lower right corners; draw a light line. Place ruler on lower left and upper right corners; draw a line. Fold upper left corner to the center; fold opposite corner; fold the other corners.

Inclose a letter in the envelope and seal the corners with 1” circle of gummed parquetry. Write address on the front and, if desired, paste a canceled stamp in the upper right corner.
II. WALL POCKET. 6” × 6”

Construct a square 6” × 6”.

Draw lines from corner to corner.

Fold three corners to the center.

Punch holes on the lines near the corners for the cord.

Place a dot on the line 1” from the upper left corner.

Punch holes close together on each side of the dot.

Tie a cord through the holes to form a loop for the hanger.

Tie the corners together for the pocket.