

# Children in Colonial America



Tending the chickens



Washing clothes



Helping with housekeeping



Tending the Garden



Carding wool

# Apprenticeship

In some cases older boys and girls worked for master tradesmen as apprentices. Apprentices worked five to seven years with a tradesman. During those years they helped the master do important work, learned the skills of the trade, and received an education.





## Apothecary

More than druggists, the apothecary diagnoses and prescribes.



## Basketmaker

Practical and beautiful handmade baskets carry all manner of loads.



## Blacksmith

Crafters of hardware for homes and tools for fellow tradesmen.



## Printer & Binder

The colonial press is a powerful tool.



## Shoemaker

A trade practiced in America since 1610.



## Brickmaker

Molding, drying, and firing bricks for construction and repair.



## Cabinetmaker

Fine furniture with exquisite detail represents high status.



## Silversmith

A sculptor of silver, from first pour to final polish.

## Tailor

Cutter and creator of suits for every sort.



## Cooper

Creators of casks for everything from wine to gunpowder.



## Wheelwright

Wooden wheels bound in iron are works of strength and balance.



## Weaver

Weavers grow in prominence when embargoes ban imported cloth.

Because there were no public schools until the 1800s, children often learned everything they needed to know at home.



On the farm, boys with parents who were literate were taught how to read, write, and do simple math problems to prepare them for their future jobs of running the farm, making purchases, and dealing with farm accounts.

Most young girls learned skills such as housekeeping, laundry, cooking, food preservation, gardening, raising poultry, knitting, sewing, carding wool, spinning, and child-rearing from their mothers. They also learned how to use herbs to treat illness.



Learning to cook

Girls might be taught by one of their parents to write their name and read the Bible. Hornbooks, simple tablets of horn or wood, served as textbooks. On them were carved the alphabet, numbers, and sometimes Bible passages or sayings.

