



TIMBERDOODLE SAMPLE PAGES

Timberdoodle's
Curriculum Handbook

2015-2016 edition

A young boy with short brown hair and blue-rimmed glasses is sitting on a red wooden chair, reading a colorful picture book. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with white cuffs and blue jeans. The book he is holding has a cover with a green and yellow design. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "TIMBERDOODLES SAMPLE PAGES" is diagonally across the image. A grey horizontal band is overlaid on the middle of the image, containing the text "Welcome to First Grade".

Welcome to First Grade



We're So Glad You're Here!

Congratulations on choosing to homeschool your child this year! Whether this is your first year as a teacher or your tenth, we're confident you'll find that there is very little that compares to watching your child's learning take off. In fact, teaching can be quite addictive, so be forewarned!

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

Preparing for your first "school day" is very easy. Peruse this guide, look over the typical schedule, browse the introductions in your books, and you will be ready to go.



We're Here to Help You

We would love to assist you if questions come up, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions, comments, or concerns. Whether you contact us by phone, email, or live online chat, you will get a real person who is eager to serve you and your family. Have an absolutely amazing year with your child!



**THIS YEAR
YOU AND YOUR
CHILD WILL
LEARN MORE
THAN YOU
HOPED
WHILE
HAVING A
BLAST. READY?
YOU ARE GOING
TO LOVE THIS!**

CONTENTS

07 Introduction

08 Schedules & Planning

14 Language Arts

24 Math

28 Thinking Skills

34 Science

38 History & Geography

44 S.T.E.A.M.

48 Art

54 Study Helps, etc.

58 Why Learn Independently?

60 Ten Reasons to
Go Build Now!

62 Convergent &
Divergent Thinking

64 What About
Common Core?

66 Homeschooling
Gifted Children

68 36 Weeks of
Plus Plus



TOON INTO READING!™

LEVEL 1 FIRST COMICS FOR BRAND-NEW READERS
• 200-300 EASY SHORT WORDS • MORE SENTENCES • OPEN ONE CHARACTER
• SINGLE TIME FRAME OR THEMES • 1-2 PAGES PER PAGE

LEVEL 2 EASY-TO-READ COMICS FOR EMERGING READERS
• 300-400 WORDS • SHORT SENTENCES AND REPETITION • STORY ARC WITH FEW
CHARACTERS IN A SMALL WORLD • 2-4 PAGES PER PAGE

LEVEL 3 CHAPTER-BOOK COMICS FOR ADVANCED BEGINNERS
• 600-1000+ WORDS IN LONG SENTENCES • LONG STORY DIVIDED INTO
CHAPTERS • BROAD WORLD AS WELL AS SHIFTS IN TIME AND PLACE • READER NEEDS
TO MAKE CONNECTIONS AND SPECULATE

The silly logic of a very serious bear!

BENJAMIN BEAR DOES EVERYTHING in his own funny way, whether it's drying dishes on a rabbit friend's back or sharing his sweater without taking it off! In this series of gaps starring a very loopy bear, Philippe Coudroy creates a wacky world that makes kids think and solve puzzles.

"Original, deep-down funny... Coudroy creates a wacky world that makes kids think and solve puzzles."

"A really formatted job... as well as being fun to read."

"Thank You So Much!"

BOOK FOR
MY IDEAS!

A TOON BOOK
BY PHILIPPE COUDROY



WWW.TOON-BOOKS.COM
TOON BOOKS IS AN IMAGINATION PRESS

TOON INTO READING!™

LEVEL
2
READER

Benjamin Bear

in Fuzzy Thinking



A TOON BOOK BY
Philippe Coudroy

Meet Your Handbook

THREE QUICK TIPS TO GET YOU STARTED

All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle Curriculum Kit is available in three different standard levels: Basic, Complete, or Elite. This allows you to choose the assortment best suited to your child's interest level, your family's schedule, and your budget. In this guide, you'll find an overview and any tips for each of the items included in the Elite Curriculum Kit. If you purchased a Basic, Complete, or if you customized your kit, you chose not to receive every item, so you'll only need to familiarize yourself with the ones which were included in your kit.

Simple Is Better

We really believe that, so your guide is as simple as we could make it. First up are the annual planner and sample weekly checklists, the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's Curriculum Kits. More on those in a moment. Next up are short bios of each item in your

kit, ideal for refreshing your memory on why each is included or to show Dad exactly what your first-grader will be covering this year. We've also thrown in our tips or tricks to make this year more awesome for all of you. Finally, we'll conclude with favorite articles and tidbits amassed in our 30 years of homeschool experience.

Why Week by Week Works

We know you. OK, maybe not you personally, but we have yet to meet a homeschooler who didn't have other irons in the fire. From homesteading or running a business to swimming lessons or doctor's appointments, your weeks are not dull. A daily schedule could overwhelm you both, but having a weekly checklist is the perfect blend of enough structure to finish in a timely fashion and enough freedom that your adventures won't make for stressful catch-up days. Relax; this is so doable!

Planning Your Year

HOW TO USE TIMBERDOODLE'S PLANNERS

If You Want to Finish It This Year

A standard school year is 36 weeks long, so that's what our samples here will show. But your family does not have to use that schedule! Perhaps you'd like to expedite this year so all school is done before baby arrives? Or perhaps your family prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp?

Use the Customizer

On the next pages you'll find sample weekly checklists for Basic, Complete, and Elite kits. Before you photocopy 36 of them, take a moment to check out the custom schedule builder that came free with your kit. At www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com, you'll not only easily adjust the weeks, but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want listed.

Designed for Maximum Flexibility

No two families are identical, so don't expect your pace or daily school time to be identical.

Off to the dentist's this week? You won't fall behind by taking a day off. Or perhaps you'd like to save science for Saturdays so Dad can be involved? Again, perfect! You even have a little slush room in most subjects, so don't hesitate to trim the lessons short on a long week.

Normal

We asked parents who used this kit last year how long their student spent on "school." Over 80% of them estimated that they spent 1-4 hours a day on their kit. That is not only a wide variation, but it also means nearly 20% were outside that window. Make sure you allow yourself and your child some time to find your own rhythm!

Meeting State Requirements

Check <https://www.hslda.org/laws> to see your specific requirements. For many states it is sufficient to simply hang on to your completed and dated weekly checklists along with a sampling of your child's best work this year.

WEEKLY CHECKLIST (COMPLETE)

Language Arts	Language Smarts B	9-10 pages												
	Daily 6-Trait Writing	1 week's work												
	Spelling You See B	1 week's work												
	Handwriting A	1 week's worth												
	Phonics Pathways	6-7 a week												
	Tick Tock Readers	1/week when ready												
	Pathway Readers First Grade	2 chapters												
Math	Mathematical Reasoning	8-9 pages a week												
	Cuisenaire Rods	1 time												
	Wrap-ups Addition Subtraction	2 times												
Thinking Skills	MiniLuk	2-3 new challenges												
	What's New What's Missing...	2-3 pages												
	Smart Cookies	2 challenges												
S.T.E.A.M.	Plus Plus	1-2 models												
History & Geography	The Story of the World 1	1-2 chapters												
	Daily Geography	1 week's worth												
	ScrunchMap	unlimited												
Science	Exploring...Astronomy	1 module or its experiments												
Art	Aquarellum Owls	as desired												
	Big Sketchy Doodle Book: Jungle	2-3 pages												



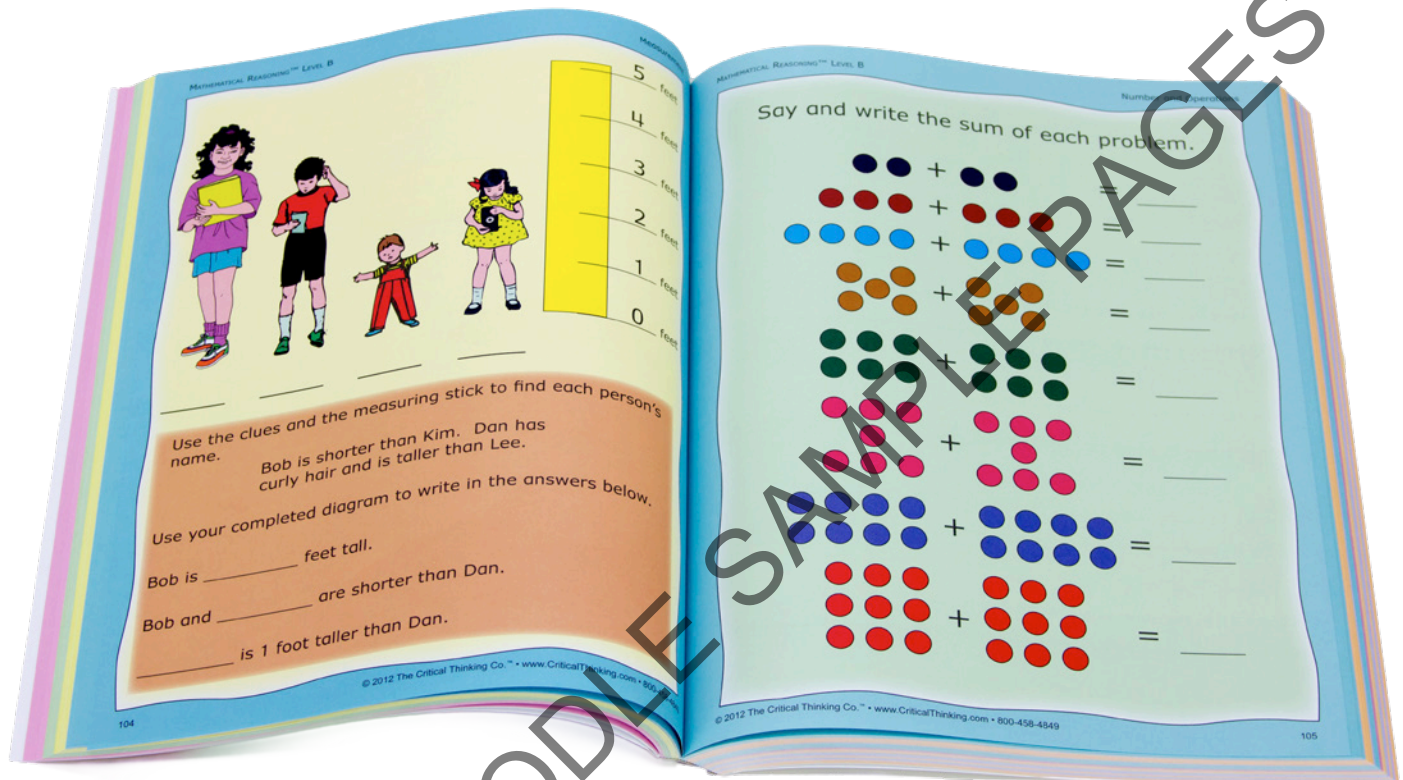
Mathematics

Basic math is a critical skill for your child to master, whether he grows up to be a carpenter, doctor, accountant, or farmer. But all too often math programs rely on memorization instead of comprehension, leaving the student at a disadvantage.

That's not going to happen to your child! Real-world math skills and step-by-step concept introduction combine with hands-on tools for an unbeatable math program.



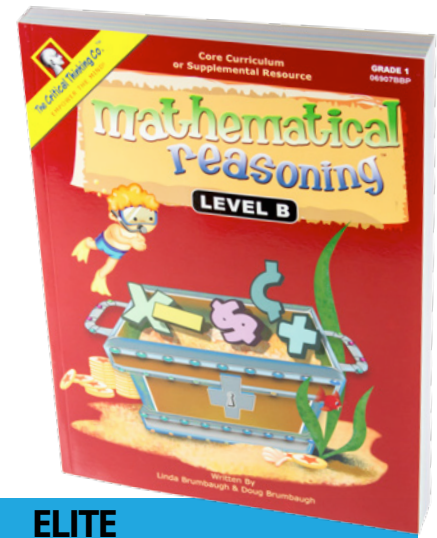
MATHEMATICAL REASONING



What if math was taught like thinking skills with number skills used as tools to solve problems and improve logic skills? Mathematical Reasoning does just that! These highly motivational activities will take your child beyond mere drill work by using step-by-step problem solving until your child is able to reason his way through any mathematical problem. Concepts spiral gradually so that children do not forget as they go!

Scheduling

Plan on 8 to 9 pages a week to complete this in a school year.



CUISENAIRE RODS

For over 50 years, Cuisenaire Rods have been used to teach a wide variety of mathematical topics such as the basic four operations, fractions, area, solving simple equations, and more.

Scheduling

Use it to explain tricky concepts or just for variety. Some families have their students take a day (e.g. every Friday) to do all their math with rods rather than working the answers out on paper. This will help your student truly master the concepts by working them out in an entirely different way. This is especially important for hands-on learners!



COMPLETE ELITE

WRAP-UPS

Even though math should never be just drill, it is a rare child who would not benefit from some drill work. Wrap-Ups are convenient, portable, self-contained, and best of all, self-correcting!

Scheduling

Start using these Wrap-Ups after your child has learned the concepts of addition and subtraction. We suggest having him complete this set twice a week until he has mastered both.

BASIC COMPLETE ELITE

