

PRE-K

Timberdoodle's Curriculum Handbook

TIMBERDOODLE SAMPLE PAGES





Welcome to Pre-K

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!



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Meet Your Guide

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 pre-K student 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 Daddy can play? Again, perfect! You even have a little wiggle 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 65% of them estimated that they spent 30 minutes to 2 hours a day on their kit (12% spent less, 22% spent more). That is a lot of variation from family to family, so 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. Most states don't require any documentation at this level, but often families choose to hang on to their completed and dated weekly checklists along with a sampling of their child's best work this year. It may not be required, but how neat to look back on later!

WEEKLY CHECKLIST (COMPLETE)

Language Arts	Alphabet Books	1-2 spreads																		
	Grow to Know Mazes	1-2 mazes																		
	What Your Preschooler Needs to Know	3-4 selections																		
	Purplinker	1x a day																		
	Magnatab - Upper & Lower Case	1x a day																		
Math	Beginning Math Reasoning Book 2	8 pages																		
Thinking Skills	BambinoLUK	2+ new activities																		
	Three Little Piggies Smart Game	1-2 challenges																		
S.T.E.A.M	Smart Fellow Pegging	1 new challenge																		
	ThinkPlay Junior Rainbow	3-4 models																		
Geography & History	Lift-the-Flap Picture Atlas	as desired																		
	Build-A-Town Sticker Book	1 a month																		
	First Sticker Book Castles	1 a month																		
Science	Science with Tots Deluxe Kit (with Timberdoodle Scheduling Supplement)	1 week's work																		
Art	Draw & Learn Places	1-2 spreads																		
	My First Scissors	2-3x a week																		
	Skwooshi	as desired																		
	Finger Tracks	1 a month																		



Mathematics

Real World Concepts

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! The real-world math problems posed in Mathematical Reasoning combine with the hands-on learning in Tiggly Counts and the Connects Pail for practical, applicable math skills.



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! Included in every standard curriculum kit.

Scheduling

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

TIGGLY COUNTS

Our children grew up with Cuisenaire Rods, and they have been a catalog staple for thirty years now. So when we learned that Tiggly Counts was not only based on Cuisenaire Rods but that it was designed for the pre-k crowd and could be used on an iPad, we knew it belonged in our curriculum line-up.

Using just five smartly-designed magnetic counting rods, Tiggly Counts helps develop early numeracy, counting, and math operations through the use of three free developmentally-appropriate creative apps. In a 2014 study, children using Tiggly Counts improved their number skills by as much as 71% in just two weeks! Perfect for on the road or at home, Tiggly Counts makes math tangible and attractive.

Scheduling

This kit is unlimited. We suggest pulling it out at least a few times a week. Your child will find it quite the treat, and you'll be thrilled with his math progress!

CONNECTS LINKS PAIL

Links were one of the most versatile educational items we had during the early years of homeschooling our five children. We used them for sorting, patterning, and counting. But when class was done, the links were strung between chairs to mark out corrals, stores, or pathways; used to restrain a wild stuffed animal; or employed as currency, with each color representing its own denomination.

Connects links will do all that and more. Their small size demands the manual dexterity your little one needs, while their rich 'grown-up' colors add delight as your children master their hand-eye coordination.

One note: not every new 3-year-old is ready for these links. Give it a try and if you find it is frustrating for your child, put the pail aside for a few months, then offer them again. Also, this is a very nose-friendly size, so keep an eye on your little one if he's apt to put items in there.

Scheduling

Plan to pull out the links at least a couple times a week for math and thinking skills reinforcement. Once he's mastered linking them together, here are six more ideas to help you maximize this set:

BASIC

COMPLETE

ELITE