

# PRESCHOOL

Timberdoodle's Curriculum Handbook



TIMBERDOODLE SAMPLE PAGES

2015-2016 edition

# Welcome to Preschool



### **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 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 preschooler 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

### **Do You Want to Finish It This Year?**

This kit has been designed to be used effectively either in one year or spread over two, depending on your scholar. Many youngsters love this mix of learning and will race through the materials. However, if the pace is stressing you or your child, you can decrease it or set aside the troubling items for a time. (See the article on workbooks in the back of this handbook for specific tips on increasing your child's ability to enjoy worksheets.) We have provided standard school-year, (36-week-long) schedules in this handbook but don't forget that you can use the customizer (below) to calculate a pace better suited to your student.

### **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](http://www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com), you'll not only easily adjust the weeks, but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want

listed. 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?

### **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 they spent using these tools with their child. Over 70% of them estimated that they spent 15 minutes to 2 hours a day on "school time." That is not only a wide variation, but it also means nearly 30% were outside that window. Make sure you allow yourself and your child some time to find your own rhythm!



# WEEKLY CHECKLIST (COMPLETE)

Language Arts	A-Z Puzzles	3 times				
	Montessori Letter Work	once				
	Big Book of Things to Spot	5 scenes				
	G is for Goat	once				
Math	Mathematical Reasoning Beginning 1	6-7 pages				
	Montessori Number Work	once				
	Farmland Math	1 week's work				
Thinking Skills	Building Thinking Skills - Beginning	6 pages				
	Day and Night	1-2 challenges				
	Bunny Peek-a-Boo	2 challenges				
S.T.E.A.M.	Wedgits Starter Tote	2 challenges				
	Bubber	unlimited				
History & Geography	Montessori Map Work	once				
	My Very First Castles Book	2 times a month				
Science	Primary Science + H2O-la-la	2 times a month				
Art	Draw and Learn Faces	2 activities				
	Let's Cut Paper Books	3-4 pages				



TIMBERDOODLE SAMPLE 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 combine with Timberdoodle-exclusive hands-on tools for an unbeatable math program.



# MATHEMATICAL REASONING

These highly motivational activities will take your child beyond mere drill work by using step-by-step problem solving until he is able to reason his way through any mathematical problem. Concepts spiral gradually so that your child does not forget as he goes!

## Scheduling

Plan on 7 pages a week to complete this in a school year. However, at this age “work” like this is a treat, so why not just do one page every week-day year-round?

BASIC

COMPLETE

ELITE



# NUMBER WORK

Using the same innovative, interactive board book approach as Letter Work, the interactive Montessori: Number Work introduces quantities to count before teaching the numerals. Groupings of beautiful, slightly retro illustrations provide objects to count before your toddler turns the page to find the correct fine sandpaper numeral to trace with his fingers. This

approach of focusing on the concrete before the abstract has been highly successful for over a century.

## Scheduling

Plan to read this book at least once a week with your child, or until it becomes stale for him.

**BASIC**

**COMPLETE**

**ELITE**





# FARMLAND MATH

We have sold and reviewed math curriculums for almost 30 years, but we have yet to find the perfect hands-on math program for preschoolers. To solve this, we wrote our own for you. You'll use the bold, bright, farm-themed play mat with 30 vibrant, jumbo farm animals. Farmland Math is a crazy-smart curriculum for introducing toddlers to the wonders of math and thinking skills!

## Scheduling

Your guide includes 36 weeks of straightforward problems to build your preschooler's skills to think math. Concepts spiral gradually so that children do not forget as they go and include grouping by color, counting, and patterns, plus rudimentary addition and subtraction skills. Using Farmland Math a couple of times a week will keep these concepts fresh.

BASIC

COMPLETE

ELITE



