

# TINY TOTS

Timberdoodle's Curriculum Handbook  
for 0-24 months



2015-2016 edition



2 **Welcome to Tiny Tots**



### **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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YOU AND YOUR  
CHILD WILL  
LEARN MORE  
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# CONTENTS

**07** Introduction

**26** Thinking Skills

**08** You're Going to  
Love This!

**28** Science

**10** Planning

**30** Imaginative Play

**16** Language Arts

**34** S.T.E.A.M.

**24** Mathematics

**37** 24 Mini-EduAnimals  
Play Ideas

**42**

Motor Skills

**46**

Baby Learning  
Styles

**48**

The Ideal  
Environment

**50**

Convergent &  
Divergent Thinking

**52**

Toddler  
Containment 101





# 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 little one will be learning. 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 take advantage of all learning opportunities and enough freedom that your adventures won't make for stressful catch-up days. Relax; you're going to have so much fun!

# You're Going to Love This!

Newborn to 24 months is a huge developmental range to cover in a single curriculum set, especially when you consider how much your child changes and grows during this time. For this kit we have included our most invaluable, unusual, and versatile materials, designed to grow with your baby. Once he has mastered these tools, he is ready for the preschool set, even if he isn't really over 24 months. (By the same token, some two-year-olds will be best served by spending more time with these tools, so don't rush your toddler into preschool, either!)

## Planning

Your goal is to pace your baby so that he is constantly learning, but not overwhelmed. Our family likes to use a weekly check-off sheet so that nothing gets lost in the shuffle. Print it from the e-copy you received or photocopy the page in the back of this guide.

## What Is the Goal Here?

We aren't interested in producing the smartest baby in the world for the sake of bragging, or "trick-training" a little one just to

prove we can. Instead, our goal is to give you tools and ideas of things you can do with your baby to not only stimulate him mentally and physically, but also develop more and more of a relationship (bonding) and to maximize the strengths God has given him. Since your baby is wired to learn, the question is not whether you will teach him, but what you will teach, and how deliberately you will go about it.

## Character First

Another thing to keep in mind is that, more than educating your baby, you are teaching this little one how to learn. Build his attention span little by little.





Encourage perseverance when he wants to fling the pieces across the floor. Feed his curiosity for all things moving. Reward hard work, encourage language development, and expect obedience as he matures. These are more than just life-skills, they are part of character development and as such are much more important than any academic skill.

## Reading Second

Make it your goal to spend some time reading with your baby every day. We have included several books in your kit to get you started, but please don't think that they are truly enough. Supplement them with books from your library or your

family's own collection. Regardless of what you choose to read, make it part of your daily routine to sit down and read together. Not only does this develop his own appetite for reading, but it is an incredible tool for building vocabulary and budding language skills.

## Siblings

If your baby is blessed with older siblings, keep them involved in his education. Not only will he have more opportunities to learn, but the siblings will learn the invaluable skill of teaching.

We suggest going over the weekly chart and highlighting the things you'd like them to do. (For instance, everything highlighted yellow is for big brother to do, and the ones in green are reserved for big sister.) Then let them check the work off as they go.

Baby will love it, they will be delighted with their accomplishments, and you just might get a moment to plan tonight's menu!



# Planning Your Year

## HOW TO USE TIMBERDOODLE'S PLANNERS

### Take Your Time

Don't try to do it all every day, as both you and your baby will be overwhelmed! Instead, try to make sure you get to the age-appropriate activities at least once a week so that nothing is overlooked.

### Why Plan

If possible, you will want to pick something from as many topics as possible every day instead of only working on one skill. Having a checklist lets you see at a glance that you really haven't read together yet, for instance, so you don't inadvertently skip that.

### Freedom in the Plan

At the same time, don't stress out if your baby's nap precluded doing any imaginative play today. At this age, you are much more concerned with keeping learning interesting and emphasizing those things that your baby is most interested in right now than with checking off boxes!

### 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 be able to add or subtract items so you print only the ones that are helpful for you.

### Normal

We asked parents who used this kit last year how long their little one spent on "school." Over 80% of them estimated that they spent 30 minutes to 3 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!

# WEEKLY CHECKLIST (COMPLETE)

Language Arts	Baby Bright	daily					
	Very First Book of Things to Spot	twice					
	Indestructible Books	as desired					
	Let's Sign, Baby!	twice					
	Teach Your Baby to Sign Cards	daily					
Math	Poke-a-Dot Math	twice					
Thinking Skills	Active Baby, Healthy Brain	daily					
S.T.E.A.M.	Mini-Eduanimals	3 times					
Imaginative Play	Playsilk	as desired					
Science	Experimenting with Babies	2-4 a month					
Motor Skills	Oball Rattle	twice					
	Peanut Ball	twice					



TIMBERDODDLE SAMPLE PAGES

# Language Arts

Yes, we admit it seems ambitious to call those first precious babblings “language arts,” but that’s exactly what they are. Stop for a moment and marvel at the comprehension needed for your little one to follow simple directions, ask for a favorite snack, or even express her delight in seeing her mother.

The number one thing you can do for language development is to simply talk with your child. You’ll be astonished at how much of your vocabulary she can quote by age two!

The second is just as achievable – read together. Reading develops vocabulary in great part because it provides a structured way to talk with your child about things you may not otherwise discuss.

Third, sign language is a truly remarkable tool—use it! Your child will be able to talk to you long before she figures out how to make her mouth work as she wants.

What’s the bottom line? It’s the same tool with three different techniques. Talk, it’s going to make all the difference!



# BABY BRIGHT

Your bookshelves are probably crammed to bursting already with myriad artistically brilliant and charmingly whimsical books available today. So why include this one? To get you started, of course!

Baby Bright features crisp, black-and-white illustrations to strengthen your tiny baby's developing eyes. Splashes of inviting foil colors and sweet illustrations give you much to talk about as your tiny reader gets used to the rhythm of reading.

## Scheduling

Use Baby Bright during tummy time to give your baby a reason to lift his head and study the page. Or just read it to him everyday, until he is ready for more complex books.



BASIC

COMPLETE

ELITE



# VERY FIRST BOOK OF THINGS TO SPOT

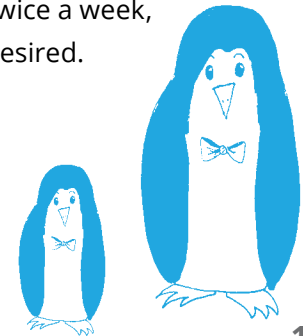


Watch your baby's language comprehension explode with Very First Book of Things to Spot. Searching the simple, beautifully illustrated pages, your baby will learn the names of items and their actions as he finds the dog that is rolling on its back or the penguin that is sliding on his belly. You will also discuss sizes, clothing, colors, and more.

Linger on a page or read through the entire book, whatever holds the interest of both you and your baby. Just doing a page or two a day will enrich your baby's vocabulary in a way that you both will find enjoyable. Each page has several suggested questions, and you undoubtedly will come up with dozens more.

## Scheduling

Read from Very First Book of Things to Spot to your baby twice a week, or more if desired.



# INDESTRUCTIBLE BOOKS

Parents of infants have enough to worry about without trying to safeguard their baby's reading material. Chew-proof, rip-proof, and non-toxic, Indestructibles are built for the way babies read!

Made of incredible paper-like material for your baby to hold, grab, chew, pull, and bend, Indestructibles can handle it all. Bright and swirling with color, these wordless books allow parents' stories to be as rich as the artwork.

And for those inevitable encounters with food or its by-products, parents will be relieved to know they can just toss an Indestructible book into the wash.

## Scheduling

Give your little one free access to these books while teething. As he gets older, use the illustrations of these wordless books to inspire your creative, impromptu stories.



BASIC

COMPLETE

ELITE





# LET'S SIGN, BABY!

Let's Sign, Baby! is a gentle, natural way to reinforce the benefits of ASL with your baby. Using simple stories, your baby will follow three children through a well-chosen daily activity they can relate to—making it fascinating to read, rewarding to sign, and easy to remember.

One page of each two-page spread in Let's Sign, Baby! is devoted to demonstrating a word or two that is pertinent to the storyline. It's the ideal interactive activity book for this age!

## Scheduling

Because it is both interactive and a story, this book can be read many times a week, or until the signs are learned by both of you.

# TEACH YOUR BABY TO SIGN CARDS

Communication doesn't have to wait until your baby can speak. Why not start much earlier? We have been ASL advocates ever since we saw firsthand the benefits of teaching sign language to a baby. Babies that can communicate their needs tend to be less frustrated, speak earlier, have a wider vocabulary, and often go on to have a higher-than-average literacy level.

But ASL books can be overwhelming when you're trying to pry your eyes open after another sleepless night. What you need is a tool that doesn't require much work on your part to get started, and that reminds you regularly to keep up the good work. Teach Your Baby to Sign Cards do just that! With a simple sign and the most essential information on each card, you can easily pull out just the ones that are most important for you this month. Signing's never been this easy!

## Scheduling

0-12 months:

Once baby is ready to get started, begin by simply grabbing a couple of new cards every week to learn. Model the signs for baby, then leave them on the fridge, at the changing table, or wherever you'll naturally come across them and remember to put

them in use. By six months you can help your baby make simple signs by assisting him hand-over-hand. The really fun part is that this is the age where signing really starts to click for you and your baby. Yes, even this early! Mealtime is ideal to begin working on signs in earnest. We like to start with something like: "Drink!" The emerging communication is always such a highlight—enjoy!

12 months and up:

Keep building his repertoire of signs. He can control his hands better than his words, so the more signs you both know, the more he'll be able to communicate to you without stress. Plus, signing helps rather than hinders speech, as it actually helps him learn more words!

