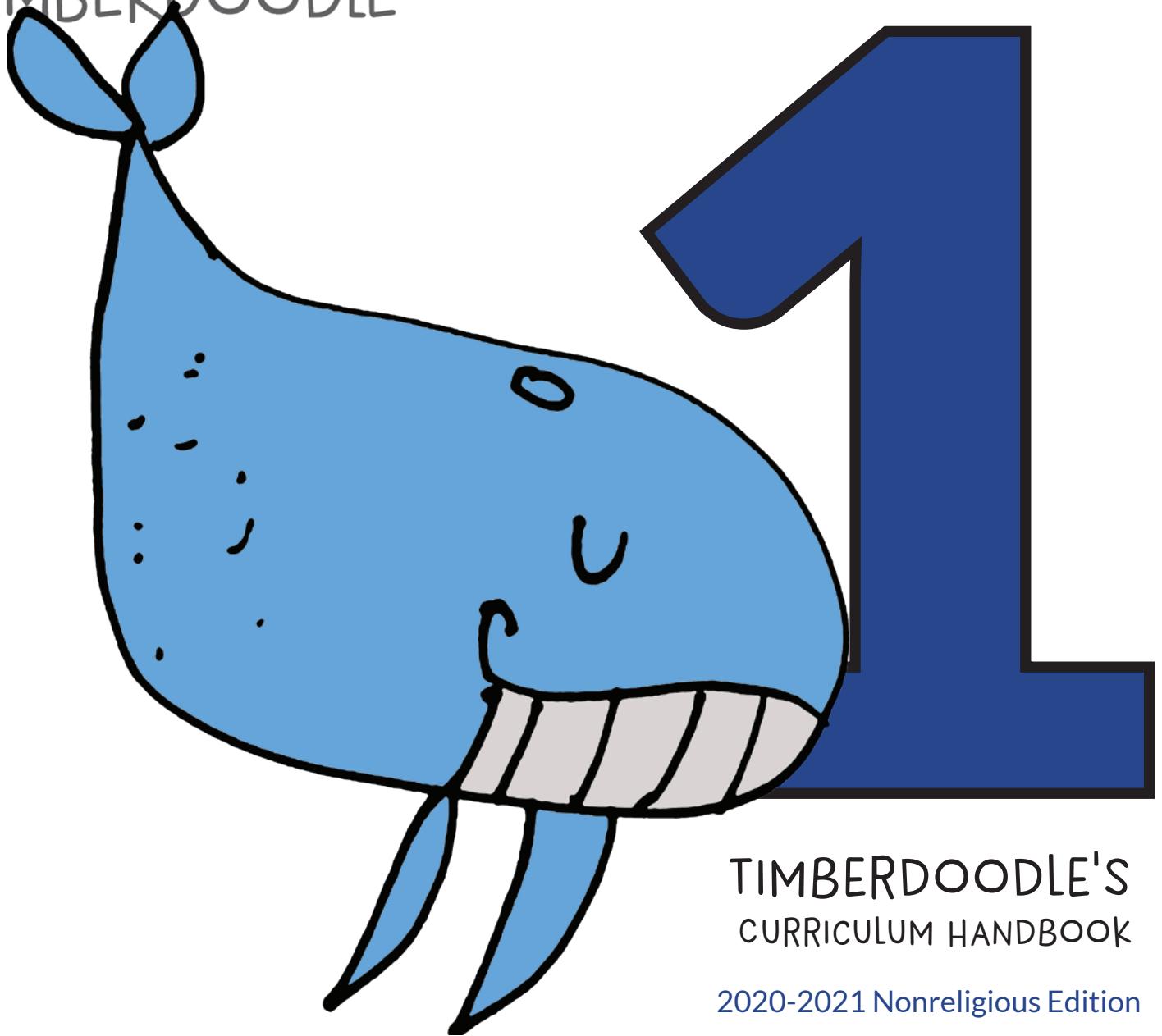




TIMBERDOODLE



TIMBERDOODLE'S
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2020-2021 Nonreligious Edition



WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Congratulations on choosing to homeschool 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.



GET SUPPORT

Are you looking for a place to hang out online with like-minded homeschoolers? Do you wonder how someone else handled a particular science kit? Or do you wish you could encourage someone who is just getting started this year? Join one or more of our Facebook groups.

Timberdoodlers of all ages:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Timberdoodle/>

Timberdoodlers with 1st- to 4th-grade students:

www.facebook.com/groups/ElementaryTimberdoodle

Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle>

SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 First-Grade Nonreligious Curriculum Kit includes access to our Schedule Customizer where you can not only adjust the school weeks but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want on your schedule. To get started, just click the link in your access email and visit the scheduling website!

www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

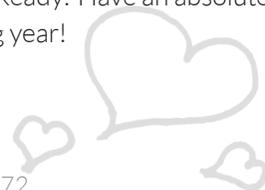
If you ordered through a charter school or don't have that link for some other reason, just email schedules@Timberdoodle.com and we'll get that sorted out ASAP. (Including your order number will really speed that process up for you.)

WE WILL HELP

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.

YOU WILL LOVE THIS!

This year you and your student will learn more than you hoped while having a blast. Ready? Have an absolutely amazing year!



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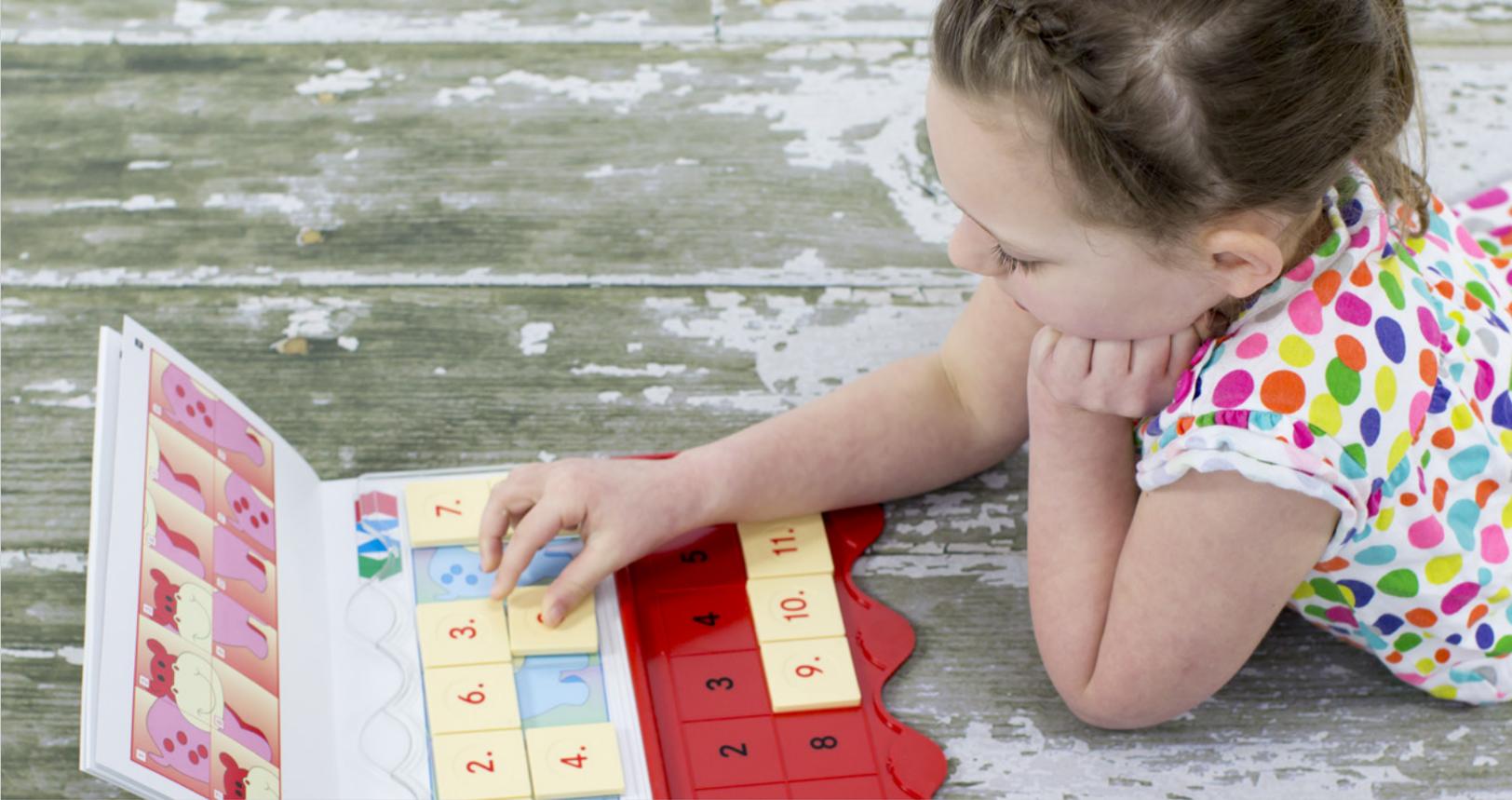
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MEET YOUR HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO YOUR TEACHING TOOLBOX!

Simple Is Better

We really believe that, so your guide is as simple as we could make it.

1. The Planning

First up are all the details on planning your year, including your annual planner and sample weekly checklists, the absolute backbones of Timberdoodle's curriculum kits. More on those in a moment.

2. Reading Challenge

Next up is the reading challenge, complete with book ideas to give you a head start.

3. Item-by-Item Details

We include short bios of each item in your kit, ideal for refreshing your memory on why each is included or to show off exactly what your first-grader will be covering this year. This is where we've tucked in our tips or tricks to make this year more awesome for all of you.

4. Teacher Resources

In this section you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits amassed in our more-than-30 years of homeschool experience.

5. Items with Special Instructions

Here you'll find 52 ideas for using Mad Mattr, suggestions for Imagic Dice Story Dice, and models to build using Plus-Plus.

6. Book Suggestions

Finally, we conclude with specific book ideas for your reading challenge this year.

All the Details Included

This Timberdoodle curriculum kit is available in two different standard levels: 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 Complete kit, 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.

Don't Panic, You Didn't Order Too Much Stuff!

We know you. OK, maybe not you personally, but we have yet to meet a homeschooler who doesn'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. As you unpack your box you may be asking yourself how you'll ever fit it all in.

We'll go in-depth on schedules momentarily, but for now know that most of the items in your kit feature short lessons, not all of them should be done every day, and your checklist is going to make this incredibly manageable. Really!

MEET YOUR ONLINE SCHEDULER

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR PLANNERS

Use the Customizer

On the next pages you'll find sample weekly checklists for Complete and Elite kits. Before you photocopy 36 of them, though, take a moment to check out the custom online schedule builder that came free with your kit. You'll not only easily adjust the weeks, but you'll also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want listed. Plus, you'll be able to print your weekly checklists directly from the schedule builder so you don't have to do that by photocopying! www.TimberdoodleSchedules.com

Activating Your Account

Before you can get started, you'll need your account activated for the online schedule builder. If you didn't get

an activation email (perhaps you ordered through a charter school so we don't have your email address), shoot us a quick email at schedules@Timberdoodle.com and we'll get that straightened out ASAP. Including your order number really speeds that process up, but our team is skilled at finding your activation info with whatever order data you have.

What's Your Dream Schedule?

Now that you're ready you'll want to know two things:

1. How Many Weeks Do You Want to Do School?

A standard school year is 36 weeks + breaks. Some families prefer to expedite and complete the entire year in fewer weeks—a great option for those of you who'd like to get all

this year's school done before baby arrives, for instance. Or perhaps your family, like ours, prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp.

2. What Breaks Do You Want?

Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter break, spring break... you could also add in weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, baby is coming, or...

Typically you'll be adding full-week



breaks only, so unless you're traveling to Disneyland® for little Johnny's birthday, you don't need to add that to the calendar. For single-day breaks, you'll likely prefer to just shuffle the work to earlier/later in the same week and keep on task otherwise. If you're using a daily schedule (next page), though, you may find it worth your time to enter days off as well.

Choosing Your Items

Now just pop that data into the online schedule and scroll down to see the items you might have in your kit. Unchecking the boxes for any items you don't have removes them from your list. You'll also see "Alternative Items" listed under each subject. This usually includes all of our most popular customizations for this grade so that you can simply check a box and switch the scheduler to an upper or lower grade math, for instance.

Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps your friend wrote you a custom curriculum you'd like to include, your family makes up a band and you'd like to have practice on this list, or you need to list ballet since that's P.E. this year. At the very bottom of the page you'll find a place to



add in just as many courses as you'd like. Just walk through the prompts on-screen to get it all set up.

Tweak It to Perfection

Do you have everything set? On the next screen you'll have some fun options.

Continued on the next page.

| | CURRICULUM | LESSONS OR PAGES | = PER WEEK |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|----------------------|
| Language Arts | All About Reading Level 2 | 54 lessons | 20 minutes a day |
| | Daily 6-Trait Writing | 25 weeks | 1 week's work |
| | Spelling You See B | 36 weeks | 1 week's work |
| | Imagidice | unlimited | once a week |
| Math | Math-U-See | 30 lessons | a 7-worksheet lesson |
| | Wrap-ups Addition & Subtraction | 20 boards | once a week |
| | Möbi Kids | unlimited | once a week |
| Thinking Skills | <p style="text-align: center;">SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</p> | | |
| History & Social Studies | | | |
| Science | | | |
| STEM | | | |
| Art | | | |
| Etc. | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Language Arts | All About Reading Level 2 | 20 minutes a day | | | | | | | | |
| | Daily 6-Trait Writing | 1 week's work | | | | | | | | |
| | Spelling You See B | 1 week's work | | | | | | | | |
| | Imagidice | once a week | | | | | | | | |
| Math | Math-U-See | a 7-worksheet lesson | | | | | | | | |
| | Wrap-ups Addition & Subtraction | once a week | | | | | | | | |
| | Möbi Kids | once a week | | | | | | | | |
| Thinking Skills | <h1>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</h1> | | | | | | | | | |
| History & Social Studies | | | | | | | | | | |
| Science | | | | | | | | | | |
| STEM | | | | | | | | | | |
| Art | | | | | | | | | | |
| Etc. | | | | | | | | | | |



THE READING CHALLENGE

BASED ON THE READING CHALLENGE FOR KIDS FROM REDEEMEDREADER.COM

The Reading Challenge for Kids will get you and your child reading a broader variety of books this year and perhaps discovering new favorites. This reading challenge is heavily adapted by us and used with permission from the fine folks at RedeemedReader.com. Check out their website for more information about this reading challenge and for great book reviews and book suggestions for your kids.

Reading Solo and Together

At this grade level a few students will read most of these

books independently while most are still building their independent reading skills. Many parents will plan to be doing the bulk of the reading this year. However, even if your child is ready to take off independently, we highly recommend keeping a read-aloud time, too, as long as it's possible. Many sources recommend that parents continue reading to their children well past the time their children become accomplished readers, and we agree!

THE LIGHT READER

| The Challenge | The Book You Chose | Date Completed |
|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. A book about love | | |
| 2. A book about the world | | |
| 3. A biography | | |
| 4. A classic novel/story | | |
| 5. A book your grandparent (or other relative) says was his/her favorite at your age | | |
| 6. A book with a number in its title | | |
| 7. A book about dinosaurs | | |
| 8. A book based on a true story | | |
| 9. A book that someone at least twice your age recommends | | |
| 10. A book more than 100 years old | | |
| 11. A book about families | | |
| 12. A book about relationships or friendship | | |
| 13. A book featuring someone of a different ethnicity than you | | |



HANDS-ON MATH

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 Math-U-See (combined with the hands-on manipulatives) create an unbeatable first-grade math program.

The Math-U-See manipulatives are a versatile workhorse. Not only are they integral to the curriculum, they also facilitate a depth of mathematical awareness in freeplay and fun, experimental activities.

Begin by having your child sequence the Math-U-See manipulative blocks from the shortest to the longest. Because of their precise etched segments, the manipulatives can also be used to guess and measure common items around the house. Or build a corral for those toy horses and chat about perimeter.

By using the Math-U-See manipulative blocks, your child will more easily grasp that a 1-unit block plus a 9-unit block equals a 10-unit block, and that's before you even crack open the textbooks!

MATH-U-SEE

COMPLETE ~ ELITE

Math-U-See will take your child beyond mere rote memorization by using step-by-step problem solving until your child is able to reason his way through the mathematical problem. Concepts are mastered, not spiraled, to ensure greater comprehension.

Unlike some other math programs, Math-U-See does require a fair amount of parental involvement which at first glance can seem overwhelming. But they have bent over backwards to make the lesson planning as painless as possible. Better yet, at this grade feel free to merely skim the teacher's guide, as it is pretty straightforward.

The Math-U-See supplemental DVD (and teacher's guide, when you wish to use it) will teach you, the parent, more than just how to solve a math problem. It will also show why the problem is solved in this manner and when to apply the concept. DVDs can be played on a DVD player or computer; however, Windows 10 users will need to download a separate video player.

Some parents prefer to watch the lessons themselves and then teach their students personally, while most prefer to watch alongside their students, pausing the video, rewinding, or clarifying as needed.

After watching the video lesson or your recreated lesson, your student can practice the concept for three pages, review the new concept alongside cumulative older concepts, and finally complete a "test" page to show that he has mastered the knowledge and is ready for the next week's lesson.

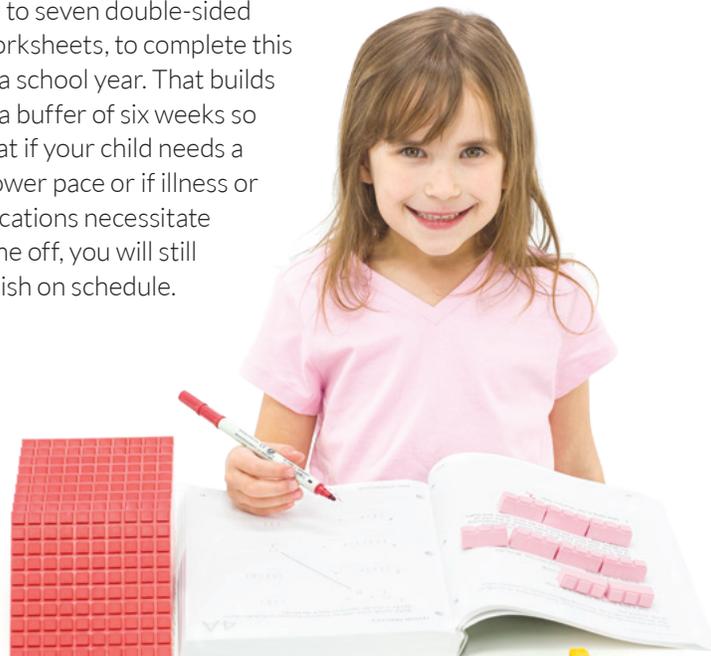
Your child may not need to complete every one of these

pages. At the risk of oversimplifying, the practice worksheets (A, B, C) are to be used with the manipulatives until your child reaches an "aha!" moment and grasps the lesson.

He may then move to the review pages (D, E, F) and should at least complete worksheet D in its entirety. If he's breezing through the pages, you do have a couple great options. You could have him do every other problem, or skip E or F or both. (You do want to be sure he's not rusty on any of those problems before skipping, though—many students will do best completing all or most of the worksheets.) Worksheet G is often a test, application question, or extra-credit work. It's okay to skip but valuable to complete.

Scheduling

Plan on one lesson a week, with up to seven double-sided worksheets, to complete this in a school year. That builds in a buffer of six weeks so that if your child needs a slower pace or if illness or vacations necessitate time off, you will still finish on schedule.



WRAP-UPS

COMPLETE ~ ELITE

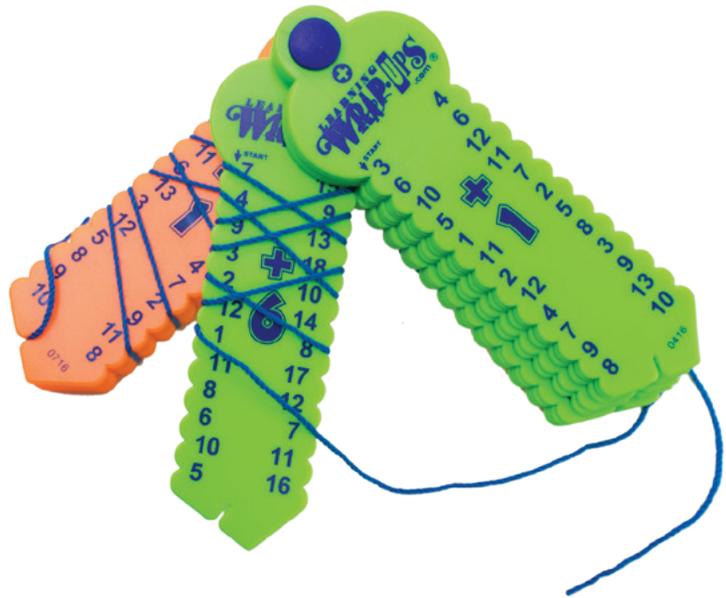
Even though math should never be just drill, it is a rare child who would not benefit from some drill work to increase speed.

Your child can use Wrap-ups in the car, at the beach, at the doctor's office, or even during a home-school meeting; the possibilities are endless! Because of the portability of Wrap-ups, they can be practiced anywhere. Wrap-ups are excellent for drill-work. Challenge your child to complete a board in less than a minute before he starts the next board.

The first few times your child uses Wrap-ups you'll want to plan on some coaching. The string wraps around from the problem on the left to the answer on the right, and the motor planning involved can take a few weeks before your child really becomes fluent at that.

If the answers are correct, the string will cover the lines on the back of the board.

This is a wonderful tool for visual and kinesthetic children, and if you encourage them to say the problems aloud, it is equally marvelous for auditory children. Because it is self-correcting, your child will have immediate feedback for checking accuracy (plus, it takes you out of the picture as the



bearer of “bad news”).

Scheduling

Start using these Wrap-ups after your child has learned the concepts of addition and subtraction. We suggest getting these out at least once a week until he has mastered both sets.

52

WAYS TO PLAY WITH MAD MATTR!

#1. Spoons & Forks

Use an assortment of silverware when playing with Mad Mattr this week. Can you make smooth paths with a spoon and curious holes with the forks? Which would you use to draw grass next to your road?

#2. Cookie Cutters

Roll your "cookie dough" out and use cookie cutters to make all sorts of "yummy cookies." Don't forget to sprinkle a little loose Mad Mattr on top of the finished product!

#3. Construction

Grab your smallest construction toys and use your bulldozers to push the "dirt" into piles or the backhoe to scoop it into dump trucks. Don't have any toys the right size? Spend your time making stacks of logs, piles of rocks, and other construction-themed resources. Our resident toddler loves playing with his trucks and has spent hours these past months digging, loading, and unloading.



#4. Cubes & Bricks

Using the table, can you make cubes with Mad Mattr? This takes a little practice, but it is very rewarding once mastered! Using your new cube skills, make bricks and build them into a wall. Too hard? Make a long "brick" and let your child use a knife to chop it into reasonable proportions.

#5. Pizza!

Squish about half of your Mad Mattr into a circle on the table. Roll much of what's left into a tube and slice it into "pepperoni" slices. Place them on the pizza, then sprinkle the rest of the Mad Mattr on top as cheese. Slice and serve!

#6. Archaeologist

Bury a toy animal or vehicle in Mad Mattr, then have your child use a spoon to "excavate" the archaeological find and reveal his treasure.

#7. Let It Snow!

This is a snow week. Can you make a snowman? A sled run? Reserve a little Mad Mattr to sprinkle over the finished scene—it's still snowing!

#8. Eggs

With Mad Mattr's unique texture, this is one activity that really works well only for it. Squish all of your Mad Mattr into egg shapes, making sure to press them firmly together. You want them to be very hard and compacted. Grab a sturdy bowl and "crack" the eggs on the side of it. Then gently

#25) TIME FOR DINNER!



#26) HELICOPTER





677 BOOK SUGGESTIONS

So you love the idea of the reading challenge, but you'd like a boost to get you started? You've come to the right place!

Customize This!

You'll find a few ideas here for each challenge, but don't forget that you're not bound to our list. There are literally hundreds more options that may be even better for your family. Use these pages as starter ideas and not as your final list.

Will I See the Same Books Over and Over?

No, not on this list! However, you can expect to see some of these books appear on the lists for more than one grade (so if you have a first-grader and a second-grader, some parts of the list will match), since books are often appropriate for more than one grade level.

Many books could easily fit into more than one category, but we only put each in one place on your list for your convenience. (Books that are part of a series are the one

677 READING CHALLENGE IDEAS, CONT.

1. A BOOK ABOUT LOVE

Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli
Because I Love You by Max Lucado
Little Critter: Just a Little Love by Mercer Mayer
Love You Always by Eileen Spinelli
You Were Loved Before You Were Born by Eve Bunting
Love Is by Diane Adams
Good People Everywhere by Lynea Gillen

2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

A Ticket Around the World by Natalia Diaz
Children Just Like Me by Anabel Kindersley
This Is the World by Miroslav Šašek
Little Kids First Big Book of the World by Elizabeth Carney
Usborne My Very First Our World Book
Stories from Around the World by Heather Amery
This Is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe
The Berenstain Bears Around the World by Mike Berenstain
Richard Scarry's Busy, Busy World by Richard Scarry

3. A BIOGRAPHY

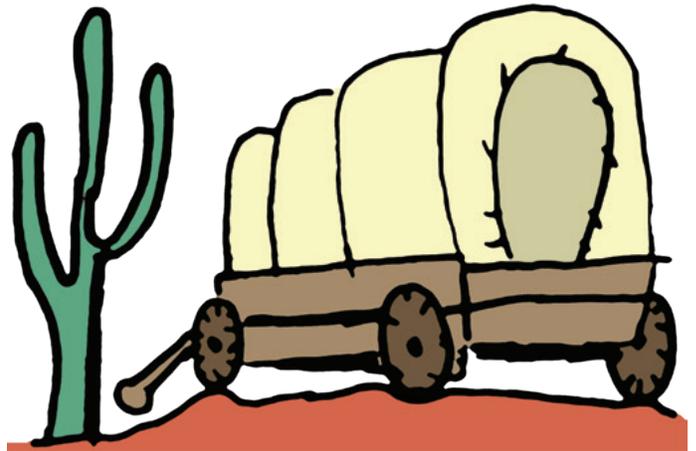
Easy Reader Biographies from Scholastic
National Geographic Readers Bios
Step Into Reading Biographies
The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles
Abraham Lincoln by Ingri and Edgar Parin D'Aulaire

4. A CLASSIC NOVEL/STORY

Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Betsy-Tacy series by Maud Hart Lovelace
Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
The Mitten by Jan Brett
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams



5. A BOOK YOUR GRANDPARENT (OR OTHER RELATIVE) SAYS WAS HIS/HER FAVORITE AT YOUR AGE

Ask your grandparents or relatives. Or, if that's not possible, ask your Facebook friends for a recommendation for your child.

6. A BOOK WITH A NUMBER IN ITS TITLE

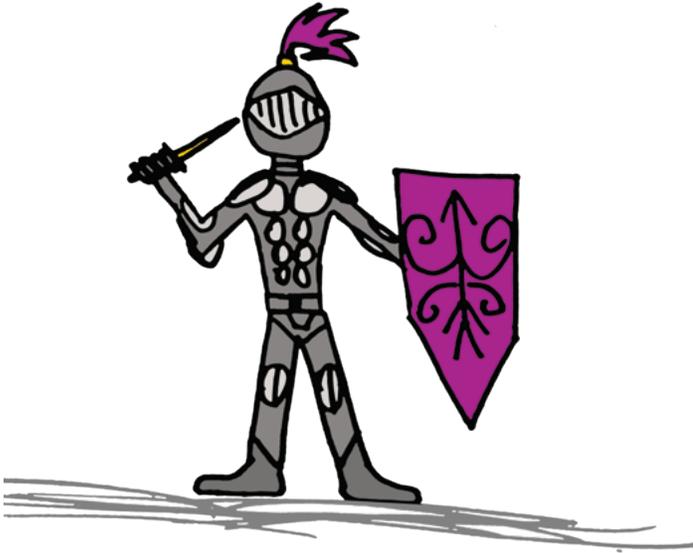
The 18 Penny Goose by Sally M. Walker
Seven Loaves of Bread by Ferida Wolff
The Seven Silly Eaters by Mary Ann Hoberman
One Cent, Two Cents, Old Cent, New Cent by Bonnie Worth

7. A BOOK ABOUT DINOSAURS

When Dinosaurs Came with Everything by Elise Broach
Robert Crowther's Pop-Up Dinosaur ABC
Danny and the Dinosaur by Syd Hoff

37. A BOOK ABOUT ANCIENT HISTORY

Tut's Mummy Lost and Found by Judy Donnelly
Archaeologists Dig for Clues by Kate Duke
The Usborne Time Traveler
Cleopatra by Diane Stanley
The Usborne Book of World History



38. A BOOK ABOUT MEDIEVAL HISTORY

Saint George and the Dragon by Margaret Hodges
Joan of Arc by Diane Stanley
Marguerite Makes a Book by Bruce Robertson
The Knight and the Dragon by Tomie dePaola
The Hawk of the Castle by Danna Smith
The Knight at Dawn by Mary Pope Osborne
Castle Diary by Richard Platt
Knights by Philip Steele

39. A BOOK ABOUT MONEY

Arthur's Funny Money by Lillian Hoban
A Bargain for Frances by Russell Hoban
Little Critter: Just Saving My Money by Mercer Mayer
The Berenstain Bears' Dollars and Sense by Stan and Jan Berenstain
Fox on the Job by James Marshall
Follow the Money by Loreen Leedy
Alexander, Who Used to Be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst

40. A BOOK ABOUT ART OR ARTISTS

A Dance Like Starlight by Kristy Dempsey
Katie series by James Mayhew
Famous Children series by Tony Hart
Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists series by Mike Venezia
Come Look with Me series
Artists Books for Children series by Laurence Anholt
How Artists See series by Colleen Carroll
My Little Artist by Donna Green
The Chalk Box Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla
The Paint Brush Kid by Clyde Robert Bulla

41. A BOOK ABOUT MUSIC OR A MUSICIAN

Swing Sisters by Karen Deans
This Jazz Man by Karen Ehrhardt
Bats in the Band by Brian Lies
A Voice Named Aretha by Katheryn Russell-Brown
Sing to the Stars by Mary Brigid Barrett
A Band of Angels by Deborah Hopkinson
Mr. Putter & Tabby Toot the Horn by Cynthia Rylant
Mole Music by David McPhail
Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
Francis Scott Key's Star-Spangled Banner by Monica Kulling
Charlie Parker Played Be Bop by Chris Raschka
It's My City! by April Pulley Sayre