



TIMBERDOODLE

PRE-K



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 tiny tots — kindergarten students:

www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyTimberdoodle

Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits:

www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle

SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Pre-K 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 up that process 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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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 pre-K student 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 this year, as well as all of your Geoboard templates.

6. Book Suggestions

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

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 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 PLANNER

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 can not only easily adjust the weeks, but you can 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

Activate Your Account

Before you can get started, you'll need to activate your

account 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 up that process, 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 plus 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 weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, a baby is coming, or...

Typically you'll be adding full-week breaks only, like traveling to Disneyland® for little



Crew's birthday. Otherwise 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.

Choose 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 kindergarten 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 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 Prereading | 78 lessons | 20 minutes a day |
| | Channie's My First Letters | 80 pages | up to 3 pages |
| | What Your Preschooler Needs to Know | 128 selections | 3-4 selections |
| | Alphabet Bingo | unlimited | 1-2 x a week |
| | Wikki Stix Alphabet + Neon Pack | 26 cards | 2 a week |
| Math | Math Reasoning Beginning Book 2 | 288 pages | 8 pages |
| | My First Sticker by Numbers Book | 21 scenes | 1 scene |
| | Geoboards | unlimited | 1 card or week's work |
| | Junior GeoStix | unlimited | 1 card + 1 idea |
| | Tiny Polka Dot | unlimited | 1 x a week or more |
| Thinking Skills | <h1>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</h1> | | |
| Geography & Social Studies | | | |
| Science | | | |
| STEM | | | |
| Social-Emotional | | | |
| Art | | | |
| Tools | | | |

| Language Arts | Math | Thinking Skills | Geography & Social Studies | Science | STEM | Social-Emotional | Art | Etc. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------|------|------------------|-----|------|
| All About Reading Prereading | 20 minutes a day | | | | | | | |
| Channie's My First Letters | up to 3 pages | | | | | | | |
| What Your Preschooler Needs to Know | 3-4 selections | | | | | | | |
| Alphabet Bingo | 1-2 x a week | | | | | | | |
| Wikki Stix Alphabet + Neon Pack | 2 a week | | | | | | | |
| Math Reasoning Beginning Book 2 | 8 pages | | | | | | | |
| My First Sticker by Numbers Book | 1 scene | | | | | | | |
| Geoboards | 1 card or week's work | | | | | | | |
| Junior GeoStix | 1 card + 1 idea | | | | | | | |
| Tiny Polka Dot | 1 x a week or more | | | | | | | |

SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART



THE READING CHALLENGE

BASED ON THE READING CHALLENGE FOR KIDS FROM REDEEMEDREADER.COM

The Reading Challenge for Kids will get you and your tiny one reading a broader variety of books this year and perhaps discovering new favorites. This reading challenge is heavily adapted and used with permission from the fine folks at RedeemedReader.com.

Reading to Prereaders

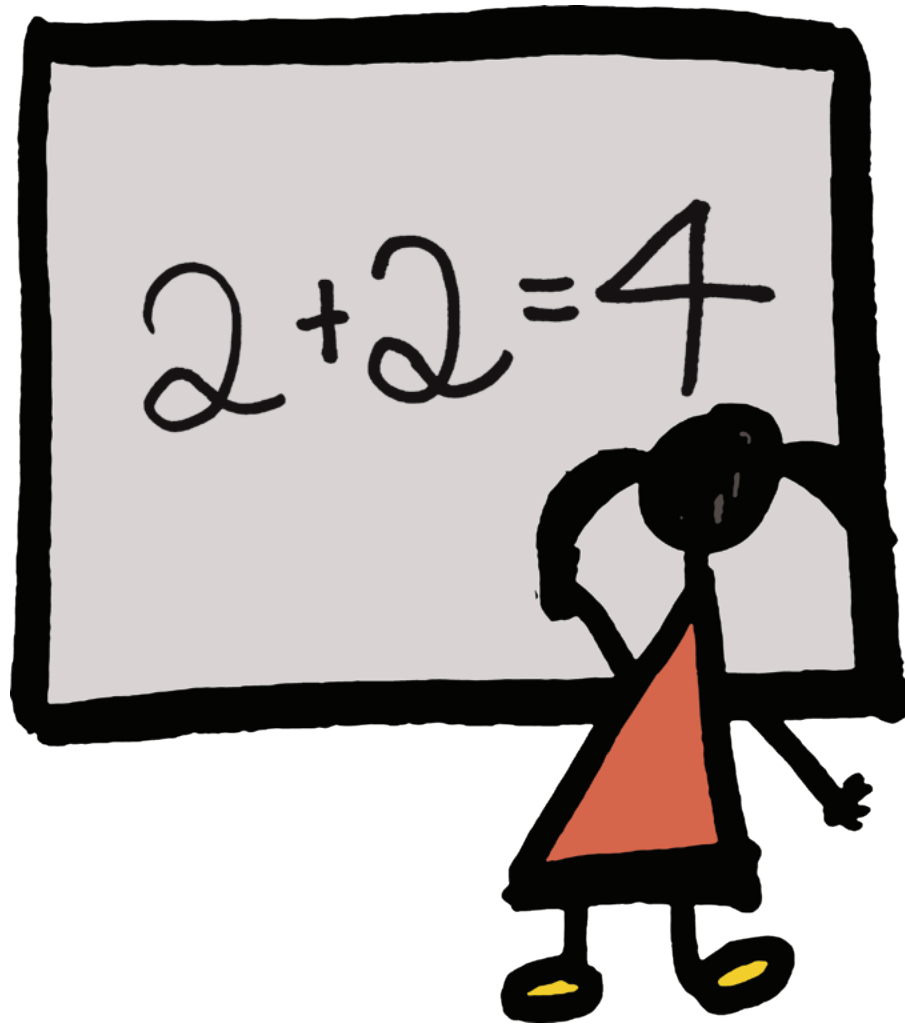
Most of us probably have a deep sense that reading to kids is a good choice. But do you know why?

There are dozens of appealing reasons, but let me just remind you of the three highlighted by the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Strengthen language skills
- Build literacy development/interest in reading
- Create nurturing parent-child relationships "important for a child's cognitive, language, and social-emotional development"

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 picture book | | |
| 5. A book your grandparent (or other relative) says was his/her favorite at your age | | |
| 6. A book featuring a bird or birds | | |
| 7. A book about something that makes you happy | | |
| 8. A book based on a true story | | |
| 9. A book that someone at least twice your age recommends | | |
| 10. A book about time | | |
| 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 *Mathematical Reasoning* combine with the numeral practice of *My First Sticker by Numbers Book*, the number skills play of the Tiny Polka Dot game, and the geometry challenge of Geoboards and GeoStix for a fabulous year.

MATHEMATICAL REASONING

COMPLETE ~ ELITE



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!

This course has won 17 awards at last count, including:

- Dr. Toy Best Picks
- Mensa Recommended Materials for the Gifted
- Cathy Duffy 101 Top Picks for Homeschool Curriculum
- Plus 14 more!

Scheduling

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

MY FIRST STICKER BY NUMBERS BOOK

COMPLETE ~ ELITE



Each *My First Sticker by Numbers* picture or design has blank shapes with a numeral that relates to the removable colored sticker pages at the back of the book. Just place the stickers and complete the pictures. The stickers are the perfect level of stickiness—repositionable when necessary, but still stay where they are put. Now your pre-K student will have lots of opportunities to ace number recognition while also increasing his manual dexterity.

Scheduling

We suggest doing one page a week. If recognizing numerals is new to your child, add this book to your schedule in the last 21 weeks of your school year.

GEOBOARDS

COMPLETE ~ ELITE



Geoboards teach recognition of geometric shapes, which is a prereading and prewriting skill. They also improve hand-eye coordination, develop pincer grip, and enhance muscle control necessary for any pencil work.

The 20 pattern cards that slide easily onto the pegs introduce your pre-K student to color and pattern recognition. His dexterity will improve as he attaches the colorful rubber bands, while both following patterns and creating his own designs. The hands-on nature of this math manipulative and the coordinated effort to place the rubber bands will increase your child's ability to concentrate.

Initially, we encourage you to let your child have adequate time to explore the geoboard by practicing adding and removing the rubber bands. Remember, Geoboards can also

be used imaginatively; encourage your child to make a house, a spoon, or a rocket with his rubber bands.

A geoboard can also be used by older children to practice analog clock skills. Make it easy by using two different colored bands for the big and small hands.

Finally, we would be remiss if we didn't encourage you to have a few ground rules for using rubber bands, including not putting them in your mouth and not shooting them at each other.

Scheduling

Do one pattern card a week for the first 20 weeks. Afterwards have your child replicate the alphabet patterns beginning on pages 130–165.

TINY POLKA DOT

COMPLETE → ELITE

Develop number fluency in children as young as three with Tiny Polka Dot. What a playful way to develop number sense and basic arithmetic skills in very young children!

Mathematically rich and relevant, Tiny Polka Dot is a collection of games for three- to eight-year-olds packed into one colorful card deck. The cards are an ideal size for tiny hands, and they are thick enough that they don't accidentally crease. The variety of mathematical games that you can play with the Tiny Polka Dot deck allows you to customize the game for each child.

Whether he is just learning how to count or working on memorizing addition and subtraction facts, Tiny Polka Dot will help your child to develop competence and a love of numbers. Some of the game ideas will be ones for him to grow into in future years. We suggest starting with Match the Dots, Hungry Numbers, Dot Memory, PowerDot, and Go Fish (not listed in your game, but perfect for this age). When he's ready, add in Dot Fives, Dot Five Memory, and perhaps even Dot Tens and Dot Ten Memory. The other games will likely be best reserved for older siblings or future years.

Made in the USA, Tiny Polka Dot is the winner of the "Brain Child" award from Tillywig Toy.



Scheduling

This game is unlimited in its use, but we suggest breaking it out at least once a week to build your student's number skills.

JUNIOR GEOSTIX

COMPLETE → ELITE

Before a product wins a Tillywig award, it must be easy to use, have a high replay value, be built to last, promote playful interaction, inspire creativity, and encourage new ways of thinking. The unique and versatile construction set Junior GeoStix does all that with its colorful, super-bendable, snap-together sticks.

What an intriguing way to introduce younger children to early geometry concepts! Junior GeoStix has both straight and curved sticks, all of which are flexible, and they snap together easily. The 30 included two-sided activity cards will encourage lots of convergent thinking.

But the fun doesn't stop there! The 200 flexible plastic sticks connect at lots of different points, so your child is bound to think up dozens of creations on his own.



Scheduling

With 30 double-sided cards included, we suggest doing 1 card a week and repeating a week if it seemed particularly challenging. Each week you will also be doing one divergent activity from the next two pages. Those will get his brain working in a whole new way!

52 WAYS TO PLAY WITH MAD MATTR!

1. Spoons & Forks

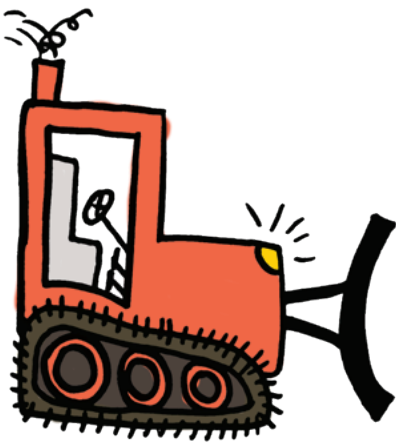
Use an assortment of silverware when playing with Mad Matttr this week. Can you make smooth paths with a spoon and curious holes with the forks? Which would you use to draw grass next to your road?

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 Matttr 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 Matttr? 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 Matttr 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 Matttr on top as cheese. Slice and serve!

6. Archaeologist

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

7. Let It Snow!

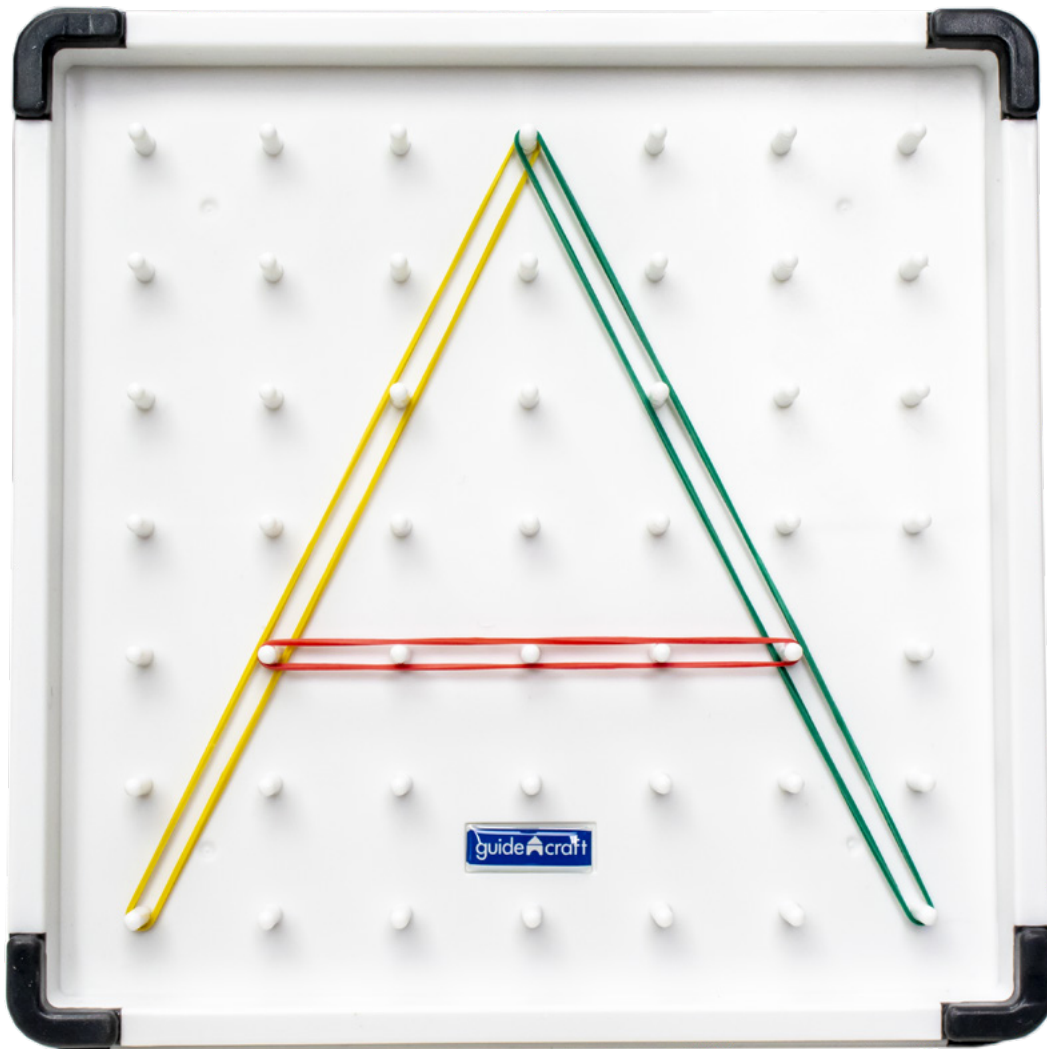
This is a snow week. Can you make a snowman? A sled run? Reserve a little Mad Matttr to sprinkle over the finished scene—it's still snowing!

8. Eggs

With Mad Matttr's unique texture, this is one activity that really works well only for it. Squish all of your Mad Matttr 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

GEOBOARD TEMPLATES

INCLUDES A-Z AND 1-10 - FOR USE AS DESCRIBED ON PAGE 47





871 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 pre-K student and a kindergartner, 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 put each in only one place on your list for your

871 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.

22. A BOOK THAT HAS A FRUIT IN ITS TITLE

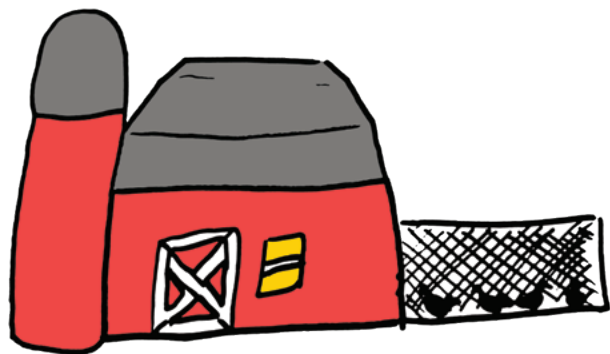
The Berenstain Bears' Lemonade Stand by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Apples, Apples, Apples by Nancy Elizabeth Wallace

Ten Apples Up On Top by Dr. Seuss

Fancy Nancy: Apples Galore by Jan O'Connor

Mr. Putter and Tabby Pick the Pears by Cynthia Rylant



23. A BOOK ABOUT A FARM

Market Day by Carol Fosskett Cordsen

Tiny on the Farm by Carl Meister

The Day Jimmy Boa's Ate the Wash by Trinka Hakes Noble

Cock-a-Doodle-Moo! by Bernard Most

Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell

Old MacDonald Had a Truck by Steve Goetz

My Big Wimmelbook: On the Farm by Max Walther

The Berenstain Bears Down on the Farm by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Duck to the Rescue by John Himmelman

Little Golden Book Collection: Farm Tales

Hogwash by Karma Wilson

Otis series by Loren Long

Moo, Baa, La La La! by Sandra Boynton

Usborne Farm Picture Puzzle Book

Our Animal Friends at Maple Hill Farm by Alice Provensen

Hattie and the Fox by Mem Fox

24. A BOOK ABOUT ILLNESS OR MEDICINE

Vicky Goes to the Doctor by Ifeoma Onyefulu

Arthur's Chicken Pox by Marc Brown

Bear Feels Sick by Karma Wilson

I Broke My Trunk by Mo Willems

A Sick Day for Amos McGee by Philip C. Stead

Llama Llama Home with Mama by Anna Dewdney

Get Well Soon, Spot by Eric Hill

There's a Doctor for You by Scarlett Wing

Corduroy Goes to the Doctor by Don Freeman

Itchy, Itchy Chicken Pox by Grace Maccarone

Franklin Goes to the Hospital by Paulette Bourgeois

25. A BOOK ABOUT SCHOOL, A TEACHER, OR LEARNING

The Oldest Student by Rita Lorraine Hubbard

Biscuit Goes to School by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

The Pigeon Has to Go to School by Mo Willems

Tinyville Town: Time for School by Brian Biggs

The Berenstain Bears Go to School by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Franklin Goes to School by Paulette Bourgeois

Spot Goes to School by Eric Hill

The Pout-Pout Fish Goes to School by Deborah Diesen

Clifford's First School Day by Norman Bridwell

26. A GRAPHIC NOVEL OR COMIC BOOK

Toon Into Reading series

First Graphics: My Community series by Lori Mortensen

Pet Shop Private Eye series by Colleen Venable

Mr. Badger and Mrs. Fox series by Brigitte Luciani

Owly and Wormy series by Andy Runton