



TIMBERDOODLE

# PRESCHOOL

TIMBERDOODLE'S  
CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2020-2021 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](https://www.facebook.com/groups/EarlyTimberdoodle)

### **Timberdoodlers using nonreligious kits:**

[www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SecularTimberdoodle)

## SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Preschool 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](http://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](mailto: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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# 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 preschooler 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 and the models to build using Plus-Plus.

### 6. Reading Challenge Inspiration

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

### 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 or 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 PLANNERS

### 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, 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 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](http://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](mailto: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 a week on little Chey's birthday, you don't need to add his party 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), 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 Mathematical Reasoning 2, 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          | Big Letter Bananagrams  | unlimited        | twice a week  |
|                        | Crepe Foam Alphabet Puzzles                                   | 2 puzzles        | once a week   |
|                        | Wimmelbooks set of 3  | 3 books          | 2 spreads     |
|                        | Create A Story: Volcano Island                                | unlimited        | once a week   |
|                        | Picture Puzzle Book set of 2                                  | 2 books          | 2 scenes      |
| Math                   | Mathematical Reasoning Beginning 1                            | 236 pages        | 6-7 pages     |
|                        | Farmland Math   | 36 weeks' work   | 1 week's work |
| Thinking Skills        | <h1>SEE YOUR<br/>HANDBOOK FOR<br/>THE COMPLETE<br/>CHART</h1> |                  |               |
| Social Studies         |   |                  |               |
| Science                |   |                  |               |
| STEM                   |   |                  |               |
| Emotional Intelligence |   |                  |               |
| Art                    |   |                  |               |
| Learning Tools         |   |                  |               |







# 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 Pre-readers

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 being a Christian or about what the Bible teaches                    |                    |                |
| 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 story from the Old Testament  |                    |                |
| 7. A story from the New Testament  |                    |                |
| 8. A book based on a true story  |                    |                |
| 9. A book your pastor or Sunday School teacher recommends                            |                    |                |
| 10. A book about time  |                    |                |
| 11. A book about families  |                    |                |
| 12. A book about friends   |                    |                |
| 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! Real-world math skills combine with Timberdoodle-exclusive hands-on tools for an unbeatable math program.

# MATHEMATICAL REASONING

## BASIC ~ 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 seven pages a week to complete this in a school year. However, at this age “work” like this is a treat, so you could also easily do one page every weekday year-round.

$$1 + 2 = 3$$



# FARMLAND MATH

~~BASIC~~ COMPLETE ~ ELITE



We have sold and reviewed math curricula for over 30 years, but we could not 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!

Each week, try your new lesson and see how your student does. If he wants to repeat it or if he struggles to grasp it, try it once or twice more that week. If it's easy for him, there is no need to keep going over the same lesson!

## Pro Tip

Before starting the official math problems with your child, we encourage you to set some time aside for him to simply play with all of the pieces of the set. That will allow the novelty to wear off just enough for him to be able to listen to your instructions as fun new ideas for play.

## Scheduling

Your guide includes 36 weeks of straightforward problems to build your preschooler's skills to think math. Concepts build incrementally on each other throughout the year, including grouping by color, counting, and patterns, plus rudimentary addition and subtraction skills.



# 52 WAYS TO PLAY WITH MAD MATTR!

## #1. Spoons & Forks

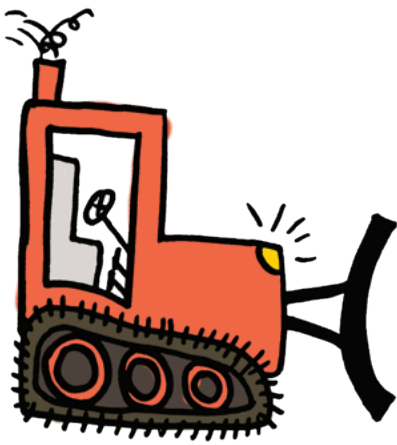
Use an assortment of silverware when playing with Mad Mattr this week. Can you make smooth paths with a spoon and curious holes with the forks? Which would you use to draw grass next to your road?

## #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



# PLUS-PLUS BIG

36 weeks of crazy-smart ideas

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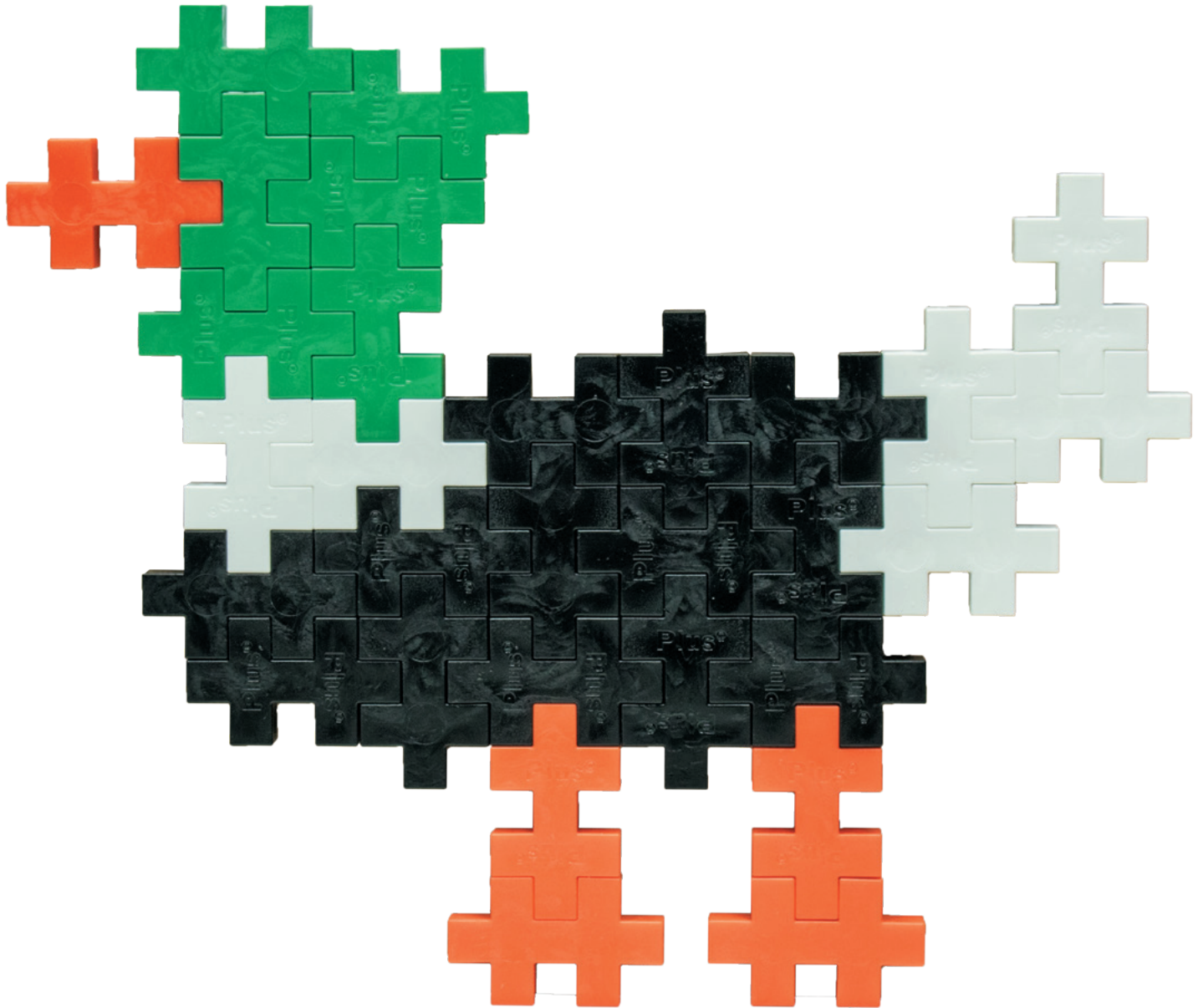
If you've read the previous articles, you're likely sold on the idea of implementing both convergent and divergent learning with your Plus-Plus Big set. To get you started, we've included 36 convergent and divergent ideas to choose from throughout the school year.

The model with a number has a picture for your child to follow. The goal is to make as exact a match as possible before he starts tweaking it. (Of course, colors don't need to match at all - depending on your kit, you may not have the precise ones we used. Swap them as you wish!)

The second idea has no picture or directions at all, so he is free to interpret it any way he likes.

Some models he will complete in minutes, while others will take much longer. If this is hard for your preschooler, consider setting a timer for 15 minutes and asking him to work at it for that long and then move on for the day. With the following ideas as well as the templates included in the Plus-Plus box, you'll have enough projects to last a typical school year, plus a few extra. You should also feel free to jump around and do the models that interest your child most this week. We've included checkboxes for that very purpose, so you can easily keep track of which models have been completed.

# #33: DUCK







# 908 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 preschooler and pre-k student, 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

## 908 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.



### 1. A BOOK ABOUT BEING A CHRISTIAN OR ABOUT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES

*The Beginner's Gospel Story Bible* by Jared Kennedy  
*Read Aloud Bible Stories* series by Ella K. Lindvall  
*The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross* by Carl Laferton  
*God's Great Love for You* by Rick Warren  
*He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* by Kadir Nelson  
*The Moon is Always Round* by Jonathan Gibson  
*The Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones  
*Nothing* by Natalee Creech  
*The Berenstain Bears Storybook Bible* by Mike Berenstain and Jan Berenstain  
*Jesus and the Very Big Surprise* by Randall Goodgame  
*Eric Says...* series by Dai Hankey  
*God's Wisdom for Little Boys* by Elizabeth George  
*God's Wisdom for Little Girls* by Elizabeth George  
*Family-Time Bible* by Kenneth Taylor

### 2. A BOOK ABOUT THE WORLD

*DK Children Just Like Me*  
*Around the World: A Follow-the-Trail Book* by Katie Howarth

*National Geographic: Little Kids First Big Book of the World*  
*Usborne: My Very First Our World Book*  
*Stories from Around the World* by Heather Amery  
*The Berenstain Bears Around the World* by Mike Berenstain  
*Me on the Map* by Joan Sweeney  
*Around the World We Go* by Margaret Wise Brown

### 3. A BIOGRAPHY

*Courageous People Who Changed the World* by Heidi Pohlman  
*A Picture Book of...* series by David A. Adler  
*This Little Explorer* by Joan Holub  
*The Story of Martin Luther King Jr.* by Johnny Ray Moore  
*George Washington's Teeth* by Deborah Chandra  
*Abraham Lincoln* by Marion Dane Bauer  
*The Doctor Who Became a Preacher* by Rebecca VanDoodewaard

### 4. A CLASSIC PICTURE BOOK

*Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey  
*Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel* by Virginia Lee Burton  
*Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak  
*Caps for Sale* by Eschphyr Slobodkina  
*The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper  
*The Important Book* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*The Poky Little Puppy* by Janette Sebring Lowrey  
*The Tale of Peter Rabbit* by Beatrix Potter  
*The Runaway Bunny* by Margaret Wise Brown  
*Good Night, Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown

### 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.

## 908 BOOK SUGGESTIONS, CONT.



### 22. A BOOK THAT HAS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN ITS TITLE

*Love You Forever* by Sheila McGraw  
*Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch* by Eileen Spinelli  
*Franklin Says I Love You* by Paulette Bourgeois  
*Click, Clack, Moo, I Love You!* by Doreen Cronin  
*Little Critter: Just a Little Love* by Mercer Mayer  
*Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney  
*Mama, Do You Love Me?* by Barbara M. Joose  
*Love from the Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle  
*Princess Joy's Birthday Blessings* by Jeanna Young and Jaqueline Johnson  
*Because I Love You* by Max Lucado  
*The Berenstain Bears: Kindness Counts* by Stan and Jan Berenstain  
*The Berenstain Bears and the Joy of Giving* by Stan and Jan Berenstain  
*Bob and Larry in the Case of the Missing Patience* by Karen Poth  
*I Love You Through and Through* by Bernadette Rossetti Shustak

### 23. A BOOK ABOUT A FARM

*Market Day* by Carol Foskett Cordsen  
*The House That Zack Built* by Alison Murray  
*Tiny on the Farm* by Carl Meister  
*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*  
*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  
*First Farm Words* by Roger Priddy  
*Usborne Farm Picture Puzzle Book*  
*Our Animal Friends at Maple Hill Farm* by Alice Provensen

### 24. A BOOK ABOUT SICKNESS/EMERGENCIES

*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  
*Germs Are Not For Sharing* by Elizabeth Verdick  
*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