

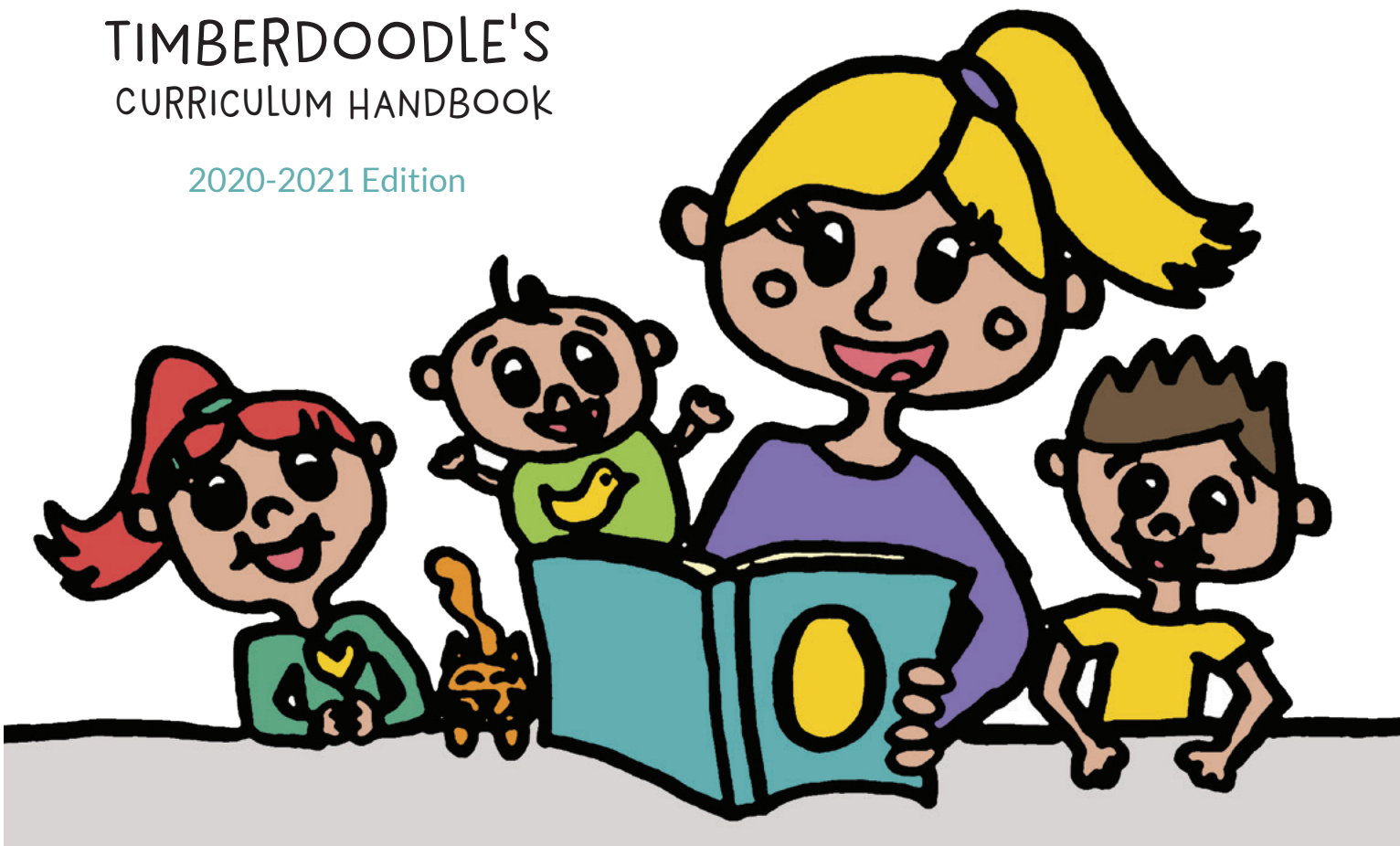


TIMBERDOODLE

TINY TOTS

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

Timberdoodlers using Nonreligious kits:

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

SCHEDULE CUSTOMIZER

Your 2020–2021 Tiny Tots 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. Let's Talk about Your Baby

We will then take a few pages to discuss typical things you'll target at different ages and stages of development. This is where we spend a lot of time on case studies showing you how to customize your plan to meet your child's specific needs rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach.

3. Reading Challenge

Next up is the reading challenge, complete with book ideas to give you a head start. While it may seem a bit silly to do a reading challenge with someone this tiny, just think about the variety of literature you'll be exposed to while soaking up as many snuggles and beautiful moments as possible.

4. 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 you will be focusing on with your little one this year. This is where we've tucked in our tips or tricks to make this year more awesome for all of you.

5. Teacher Resources

In this section, you'll find our favorite articles and tidbits

amassed in our more-than-30 years of homeschool experience.

6. Reading Challenge 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 three different standard levels. The Infant Kit features items most utilized by ages 0–12 months. The Toddler Kit includes the items most used for 12– through 24-month-olds. The Tiny Tots Elite Kit (AKA the Birth to Two Kit) includes all the components for 0–24 months. In this guide, you'll find an overview and any tips for each of the items included in the Tiny Tots Elite Curriculum Kit. If you purchased an Infant or Toddler Kit, or if you customized your kit, you chose not to receive every item, so you'll only need to familiarize yourself with the products 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 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 your 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 Teach?

At this age you are most likely to prefer a year-round schedule that helps you stay engaged with your little one every single day. However, if you are a family that is on the go

all summer and you're only looking for structure when the other kids are in school, a standard 36-week school year may be a better fit.

2. What Breaks Do You Want?

Thanksgiving, Christmas, winter break, spring break...you could also add weeks off that you're traveling, have guests, 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 his birthday 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 in the scheduler to preschool math for your advanced toddler, for instance.

Add Custom Courses

Your course list is limited only by your imagination. Perhaps your babies always do water-safety classes, your little one has daily occupational therapy exercises, or you want to put your library's playgroup officially on the list. 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 on-screen prompts 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.

YOUR ANNUAL PLANNER

	CURRICULUM	LESSONS OR PAGES	= PER WEEK
Guide	Active Baby, Healthy Brain	135 exercises	Daily
Language A	ABC Baby Signs	1 book	reading: daily
	Flower Whistle	unlimited	2 times a week
	Indestructibles (set of 3)	3 books	reading: daily
	Never Touch a Spider	1 book	reading: daily
	Old MacDonald Had a Farm	1 book	reading: daily
	Touch and Feel Cards: Animals/First Words	32 flashcards	daily
	Baby Books, set of 6	6 books	reading: daily
	Wimmer-Ferguson Nursery Novel	1 book/mat	tummy time
	Very First Book of Things to Spot, set of 3	3 books	reading: daily
Math	Find It Books, set of 4	4 books	reading: daily
	Junior Rainbow Pebbles Activity Set	unlimited	2 times a week
	Pixel Baby	16 patterns	2 times a week
STEM	SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART		

	CURRICULUM	LESSONS OR PAGES	= PER WEEK
Emotional Intelligence	<div>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</div>		
Motor Skills			
Sensory Skills			

SAMPLE WEEKLY CHECKLISTS

THESE ARE JUST FOUNDATIONS—FEEL FREE TO IMPROVISE



If You Used Every Tool This Week

If you took every tool out of your kit and put it to use each week, this is what your weekly checklist could look like.

Now, most tiny ones develop in such a way that they outgrow some tools before growing into others. For instance, the Junior Rainbow Pebbles kit isn't likely to be used at the same time that you're working on your newborn's tummy time!

So go ahead and finish reading the pages for your child's developmental age before you work out your own schedule.

We've also consolidated the emotional intelligence and math books under your daily reading category because that is what would make the most sense in our family schedule. If that's not ideal for you, by all means change that!

You'll find two other areas where we've combined tools on your list: sensory play and ball play. Again, if this approach works as well for your family as it does for ours—yay! If not, customize your own schedule online.

Guide	Active Baby, Healthy Brain	Daily						
Language Arts	Reading: ABC Baby Signs, Indestructibles, Never Touch a Spider, Old MacDonald Had a Farm, Baby Books, Very First Book of Things to Spot, Find It Books set of 4	reading: daily						
	Flower Whistle	2 times a week						
	Touch and Feel Cards: Animals/First Words	daily						
	Wimmer-Ferguson Nursery Novel	tummy time						
Math	Junior Rainbow Pebbles Activity Set	2 times a week						
	Pixel Baby	2 times a week						
STEM	<h1>SEE YOUR HANDBOOK FOR THE COMPLETE CHART</h1>							
Emotional Intelligence								
Motor Skills								
Sensory Skills								



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, even the ones who can't talk yet, 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 about growing up		
9. A book that someone at least twice your child's age recommends		
10. A book about time		
11. A book about mothers		
12. A book about fathers		
13. A book featuring someone of a different ethnicity than you		



HANDS-ON MATH

You'll naturally count things with your toddler, from the number of times he can catch his ball to the number of blue rings in his Palette of Pegs. Try making it a point to count something together every day, and your tiny tot will stay curious about numbers and eager to learn more!



FIND IT BOOKS, SET OF 4

~~INFANT~~ TODDLER ~ TINY TOTS ELITE

Introduce your baby to math concepts, vocabulary, and prereading skills with the adorable Find It series from Highlights. These colorful and playful board books were developed by early-childhood experts as a great first puzzle experience for babies. Find It books enhance learning and encourage interactivity between babies and their parents. Each eye-catching spread has three isolated items on the left side and the identical three items embedded in their natural environment on the right. The final spread in each book gives your baby an opportunity to learn about colors, shapes, numbers, or sounds.

Scheduling Infancy

Use in tummy time or daily reading time as desired.

Scheduling 12 months+

Work these into daily reading time and encourage your child to find the matches, even though it's a concept he may not fully grasp yet. Making silly noises and asking things like, "Here's a fish. Can you find the matching fish? Where's the fish?" will have him grasping it in no time.

JUNIOR RAINBOW PEBBLES ACTIVITY SET

~~INFANT~~ TODDLER ~ TINY TOTS ELITE

Odd as it sounds, research indicates that early math skills are a better predictor of academic success than early reading skills. Junior Rainbow Pebbles Activity Set makes math accessible to toddlers as young as 18 months.

Sort, stack, and sequence by size with these tactilely pleasing smooth, rubbery pebbles. Perfect for developing fine motor skills and creative design, Junior Rainbow Pebbles Activity Set includes 36 pebbles in 3 shapes and 6 colors, as well as 8 large activity cards to create toddler-friendly building structures, patterns, and pictures.

New and improved, everything about Junior Rainbow Pebbles Activity Set reflects the sensibilities of 2020. The pebbles are made from eco-friendly rice stems and hulks and come in lovely, muted shades of blue, green, brown, red, and purple. The eight large, double-sided, laminated activity cards expound on this tranquil theme with pictures of

autumn leaves and seashore activities.

Scheduling

This is a tool you likely won't use as designed much before baby is 18 months old. When he's ready, add to your schedule about twice a week.

That said, if you have a younger toddler who is interested, you could start by just letting him manipulate the pieces. Do you have an empty tissue box that he could pop them into?

Next he can sort by color, and eventually shape. To make sorting easier, either limit the pieces you give him or begin by having him hand you pieces to sort until you're down to the last one or two. As his skills increase, he can do more and more.

Then, show him how to stack the Rainbow Pebbles. Because they are uneven, building will be a challenge, but the grippy surfaces will help him as he works to develop his fine motor skills.

Finally, introduce him to the activity cards that will offer him opportunities to match colors and shapes and even present a building challenge or two. Such fun! Again, simplify initially by only giving him the pieces he needs and gradually scale up until he can find them himself.



PIXEL BABY

~~INFANT~~ → TODDLER ~ TINY TOTS ELITE

According to developmental experts, manual dexterity is directly tied to cognitive development. That's why it's essential to be proactive in encouraging your baby's and toddler's fine motor skills. Pixel Baby makes it fun and easy.

Using Pixel Baby's very large buttons and the transparent board with holes, your child will place the buttons in the correct holes. The buttons slide in easily and reinforce your child's ability to release an object voluntarily. The pieces come in three colors and shapes.

When the colorful side of a card is facing up, specific locations are shown for the various colors and shapes to be placed. On the reverse side of each card is a gray and white image that allows more freestyle play. Convergent and divergent play for babies!

Made in Italy, the Pixel Baby case has a built-in handle, making it easy to carry around. It contains eight toddler-friendly, double-sided pattern cards and 30 extra-large buttons, all packaged into a lovely carrying case. Pixel Baby stimulates creativity, visual perception, matching, fine motor skills, and cognitive growth.

Scheduling

Some toddlers will be more excited about finishing (or "fixing") a picture than about inserting random pegs into holes. If your child is intrigued by the concept, allow him to place pegs anywhere on the blank board and admire his art. If fixing a puzzle is more his style, put a card in and model

adding pieces, letting him add the last two or so as you hand them to him. Cheer him on and increase the difficulty slowly until he can finish a whole picture himself and even find his own pieces!

Keep in mind that the time it takes to insert so many buttons is a long time for a toddler's attention span. It would be appropriate to have him put in a few buttons, then call it done for now and move to something else. Circle back to Pixel Baby again and again until he's completed the entire thing. This keeps the work fun and also teaches beginning persistence and how to finish well even when it is a challenge.





550 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 toddler and a 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

49. A BOOK YOU OR YOUR FAMILY OWNS BUT YOU'VE NEVER READ

If you're a responsible person who has read every book in the house, feel free to use a book you've walked past at the library or a book your child has heard people talking about but he's never read.

50. A BOOK ABOUT BABIES

Babies by Gyo Fujikawa

Baby's Very First Black and White Book: Babies from Usborne

Snuggle the Baby by Sara Gillingham

Everywhere Babies by Susan Meyers

Indestructibles: Baby Faces

We Have a Baby by Cathryn Falwell



51. AN ALPHABET BOOK

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

Little Quack's ABC by Lauren Thompson

Poke-a-Dot: An Alphabet Eye Spy

My First ABC (DK)

Touch Think Learn: ABC by Xavier Deneux

52. A BOOK ABOUT A CARTOON OR TELEVISION CHARACTER

Here are a few ideas to get you started. Of course there are many more readily available.

Thomas the Tank Engine

Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood

Dora the Explorer

Sesame Street

Paw Patrol

Mickey or Minnie Mouse or other Disney characters

53. A BOOK BY DR. SEUSS

Hop on Pop

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

The Shape of Me and Other Stuff

Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You?

54. A BOOK RECOMMENDED BY A LIBRARIAN OR TEACHER

Ask your librarian, ballet teacher, karate instructor, Sunday School teacher...

55. A BOOK OF FIRST WORDS

Babies Love First Words by Scarlett Wing

Lift-the-Flap First 100 Words by Roger Priddy

100 First Words by Tiger Tales

My First Words (DK)

My First Words: Baby's Handbook by Amy Johnson

56. A BOOK ABOUT CONSTRUCTION

Goodnight, Goodnight, Construction Site by Sherri Duskey Rinker

Busy Builders by Rebecca Finn

My First Trucks and Diggers (DK)

Good Night Dozers by Adam Gamble