Welcome to First Grade
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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36 Weeks of Plus-Plus

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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 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.

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 first-grader will be covering this year. 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 finish in a timely fashion and enough freedom that your adventures won't make for stressful catch-up days. Relax; this is so doable!
Planning Your Year

How to Use Timberdoodle's Planners

If You Want to Finish It This Year
A standard school year is 36 weeks long, so that's what our samples here will show. But your family does not have to use that schedule! Perhaps you'd like to expedite this year so all school is done before baby arrives? Or perhaps your family prefers to school year-round and keep that brain sharp?

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, you'll not only easily adjust the weeks, but also tweak the checklist to include exactly what you want listed.

Designed for Maximum Flexibility
No two families are identical, so don't expect your pace or daily school time to be identical.

Off to the dentist's this week? You won't fall behind by taking a day off. Or perhaps you'd like to save science for Saturdays so Dad can be involved? Again, perfect! You even have a little slush room in most subjects, so don't hesitate to trim the lessons short on a long week.

Normal
We asked parents who used this kit last year how long their student spent on "school." Over 80% of them estimated that they spent 1-4 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!

Meeting State Requirements
Check https://www.hslda.org/laws to see your specific requirements. For many states it is sufficient to simply hang on to your completed and dated weekly checklists along with a sampling of your child's best work this year.
# WEEKLY CHECKLIST (BASIC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language Arts</strong></td>
<td>Phonics Pathways</td>
<td>6-7 a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Language Lessons</td>
<td>2 sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daily 6-Trait Writing</td>
<td>1 week's work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handwriting A</td>
<td>1 week's work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spelling You See B</td>
<td>1 week's work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Math</strong></td>
<td>Math-U-See</td>
<td>1 week's work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(14 pages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thinking Skills</strong></td>
<td>MiniLuk Set A</td>
<td>4 pages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Geography</strong></td>
<td>Daily Geography</td>
<td>1 week's work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Real World Concepts
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.
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 our other math programs, Math-U-See does require a fair amount of parental involvement. At first glance it can seem overwhelming. But they have bent over backwards to make the lesson planning as painless as possible. Still, 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 lesson themselves and then teach their student personally, while most prefer to watch alongside their student, 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.

**Scheduling**

Plan on one lesson a week, 14 pages, 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 vacations necessitate time off, you will still finish on schedule.
MATH-U-SEE MANIPULATIVES

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 one-unit block plus a nine-unit block equals a ten unit block. And that's before you even cracked open the textbooks!

WRAP-UPS

Even though math should never be just drill, it is a rare child who would not benefit from some drill work. Wrap-ups are convenient, portable, self-contained, and, best of all, self-correcting!

Scheduling

Start using these Wrap-ups after your child has learned the concepts of addition and subtraction. We suggest having him complete this set twice a week until he has mastered both.