



First Grade

We believe that you have just purchased the best complete curriculum package available, and we want to make getting started as easy as possible for you. Inside you will find the information you need to get started today.

Our experience is that formal schoolwork takes less than ninety minutes a day at this age, leaving you plenty of time for the critical learning that comes from daily life.

If this is your first year of homeschooling, we would like to encourage you to relax. You can do this! You have already taught your child the complex skills of walking, talking, and feeding himself. Reading, writing and math will be just as easy. Settle into a routine, enjoy your school year, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Hints for Planning

READING

One of the biggest priorities when teaching a first grader is helping him become a competent and comfortable reader. **Phonics Pathways** will help you get there. Proceed at your child's pace, but plan to work on it a little each day. When he is ready (probably about page 50), introduce him to the **Now I'm Reading** books—they are sure to be a highlight!

Note for students who have already completed The Reading Lesson:

Yes, we still suggest starting at the beginning of Phonics Pathways.

Expect to race through the first portion of the book—building confidence and ensuring that your child has no gaps in his knowledge.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Lessons forms the backbone of your first grader's English program. Simply complete each day's short lesson with your child for a thorough and easy introduction to language arts. **Daily Traits** includes short daily assignments designed to build skills without overwhelming him. Many first graders are not ready to start this book at the beginning of the school year. Begin when he is ready—if you start mid-year you'll find that the 'extra' pages make great review in the summer to keep his brain sharp. If your child needs additional handwriting practice, start him in the 'practice' section of **A Reason for...** Otherwise, just begin with lesson one.



THINKING SKILLS

This year your child will be using one of our favorite hands-on thinking skill programs, the **MiniLuk**. The colorful pages and sturdy tiles make for a great break from workbook pages! We suggest spending ten to fifteen minutes a day on thinking skills—be sure to stop while it is still fun.

SCIENCE

Young Explorer's Astronomy is going to be a highlight for you this year. One simple approach is to read a chapter one week, then do the activities during the following week. At this age, don't worry if some portions go over his head, but do prepare to be amazed by how much he grasps! Technically, you have two-and-a-half weeks to complete each chapter, so if you hit a portion that particularly intrigues your young scientist, by all means, stop and explore it in greater detail!

MATH

Horizons math is easier to use than it may first appear. Our suggestion is to simply work through the colorful workbooks with your child, using the manuals as a reference only as needed. (They are more in depth than many parents require!) Use the **Wrap-ups** as drill when needed or for a break in the routine.



The **Cuisenaire Rods** provide a hands-on way to illustrate the problems - some families even assign their students certain days to do all their math with rods, rather than writing out the answers!

HISTORY

Story of the World is especially easy to implement. Just read him one section from the smaller story book, then ask him to tell you what it was about. Afterwards, pick an activity page or worksheet that is appropriate for your child's interest and your schedule. There are more activities here than an average family can use, so feel free to pick and choose!

GEOGRAPHY

Daily Geography uses a school-friendly layout that may or may not be ideal for you. Feel free to do it only once a week, combining all five days into a single lesson, if that is a better fit for your child. The **Geopuzzle** is a great way to review basic geography. Have your child complete it at least once a month, or until it is too easy for him.

OTHER

Thinking Putty is perfect for your student to play with while you read **Story of the World** to him, or at other times when his mind is more engaged than his hands. At the end of the year use **Spectrum Test Prep** to prepare him for annual testing (if your state requires it) and to review what he has learned. Keep it low key, and let the change of pace be an enjoyable experience for him. If you run into a concept he doesn't know, stop and explain it to him; that is why you are doing the prep now rather than just waiting to get results back!



Want More?

MiniLUK- If your child raced through the books in this set, don't worry—you can always add more!



Thinking Skills games keep young brains and hands occupied—what a relief for Mom!



Mighty Acts of God is a perfect devotional for a first grader, focusing on who God is.



Done already? Some children are very fast-paced learners. Move on to **Second Grade** as soon as they are ready!



Free customizable schedules are available online at www.timberdoodle.com/schedule



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