



# Fourth 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 schoolwork only takes about one to three hours a day at this age. (One hour is typical, three is quite rare.) This may seem like too little time at first, but keep in mind that not only are you able to tailor your teaching to your child, but you also don't need to take roll, allow for recess, or deal with many other classroom issues.

This year's curriculum is simple and easy to use; we are sure it will be a blessing to you. Enjoy this year with your child, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

# Hints for Planning

## READING

While we believe this is the single most important skill your fourth grader needs, you'll notice that we did not include any traditional readers. Don't let this puzzle you. Our experience is that the best way to help your child become an eager reader is to constantly supply him with reading materials that interest him. Future doctors may want to read up on anatomy, young explorers are drawn to the escapades of adventurers young and old, and the baby-lover in your family will be captivated by adoption stories. Assign reading if you must, but encourage it at all costs; a child who enjoys reading will find it easier to excel in every area.



## LANGUAGE ARTS

**Language Lessons** still forms the backbone of your fourth grader's English program. Simply complete each day's short lesson with your child for a complete and easy language arts program. **Daily Traits** consists of short daily writing assignments, designed to build his writing skills without overwhelming him. You'll notice that he does not have a specific handwriting book this year. By now he is likely well acquainted with the mechanics of writing and so we suggest that the writing he does with Language Lessons and Sequential Spelling is sufficient for most children if done neatly. If your child still needs the additional practice, and especially if he has not yet tackled cursive, by all means get him a handwriting book. **Sequential Spelling** is not only the most logical spelling program we've seen, but it is also one of the easiest to use. Simply do one list of words a day, correcting any mistakes as you go. If your

student has not yet completed Sequential Spelling books 1 and 2, you will want to do those levels first. Your child will be continuing with **Word Roots** this year. Plan on having him do one to two lessons a week in order to complete the book this year.

## THINKING SKILLS

**Building Thinking Skills Book Two** is both complete and easy to implement. Simply have him finish about two pages a day.

## SCIENCE

**Exploring Creation with Zoology 2** is part of our most popular science series. One simple approach is to read a chapter one week, then do the activities during the following week. 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!

*Note: The author recommends that Zoology 1 be completed prior to beginning Zoology 2. If you have not yet completed Zoology 1, you can either do it first or simply find the most critical chapter from book 1 free on our website.*

## MATH

This year your child gets to use our very favorite math program. **Teaching**

**Textbooks** is computer based and self-teaching; you should find yourself doing little more than giving assignments and watching his progress!

We've added **Daily**

**Word Problems** as

a wonderfully bite-

sized approach to helping your child become a logical mathematician, ready to apply what he's learned in math to the real world scenarios he encounters daily.



## HISTORY

This is your last year with **Story of the World**. As always, just read your student one section from the smaller story book, then ask him to tell you what it was all about. Afterwards, pick an activity page or worksheet that is appropriate for his interest and your schedule. There are more activities included than an average family can use, so feel free to pick and choose! Don't forget to work in the **graphic novels** at some point, whether as reading assignments or just for fun.

## 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 **Globe Puzzle** is a great way to review basic geography; have him 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

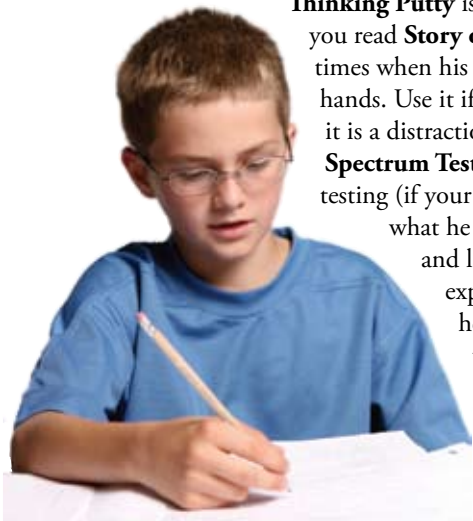
you read **Story of the World** to him, or at other times when his mind is more engaged than his hands. Use it if it helps him, or set it aside if it is a distraction. At the end of the year use

**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 a fun

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?



**Engino** is a terrific construction kit for this age, and lots of productive fun!



If you have a reluctant reader, try **Graphic Novels** and see if they capture his interest.



**Thinking Skills Games** can be a blast—and keep busy hands occupied!



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



Free customizable schedules are available online at [www.timberdoodle.com/schedule](http://www.timberdoodle.com/schedule)



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