

Preschool

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.

Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions; you will get a real person who is eager to serve you.

Our experience is that schoolwork only takes about an hour a day at this age, leaving you plenty of time for the critical learning that comes from living life.

If we could encourage parents of preschoolers to do one thing, it would be to talk with your kids. You will be amused and amazed by their thoughts on everything from doing the dishes to why red and yellow make orange. The interactions will shape how they think, feel, and experience life forever—even if they don't remember the specific conversation in years to come. This age is an incredible delight to teach; enjoy the school year and again, don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Hints for Planning

READING, READING, READING

Read a lot and read often with your preschooler. As a starting point, we suggest reading through one alphabet book a week. Most libraries are full of them, and since we know what it's like to live on a limited budget, we've included just one to get you started—**G is for Goat**. Whether you read the book in a single sitting or spread it out over multiple days, see how many times you can read through each week's book and how many new things come up in each reading. We've also included **What Your Preschooler Needs To Know—Read Alouds**. With everything from nursery rhymes to art & science, there is a lot here to read and discuss. Reading three to four selections a week will get you comfortably through all of them in a year. **Lift the Flap Picture Atlas** and **A Street Through Time** will introduce your child to geography and history and provide loads of discussion. Go through both of them at your child's pace—there is no rush. *One caveat: all of these titles are secular, so we would encourage you to glance through them ahead of time. Our family would have skipped the Jack-O-Lantern reading in **Read Alouds** and would definitely have spent time discussing the positive and negative scenarios in **Lift the Flap Picture Atlas** and **A Street Through Time**. These are outstanding books, but we wanted you to have a heads-up!*

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Lessons is a great way to cultivate language skills in your youngster, long before he can read. Simply complete each day's short lesson with your child for a thorough and easy introduction to language arts.

THINKING SKILLS

You and your child are sure to enjoy **Building Thinking Skills Beginning**. The colorful pages and lap-friendly activities provide a perfect way to build his emerging thinking skills. Seven pages a week will put you on a path for completing the book this year. **My ABC Brainbox** is that all-too-rare game which actually teaches while you play. Auditory processing skills, visual perception, and even losing graciously can all be addressed here! We suggest spending ten to fifteen minutes a day on thinking skills—be sure to stop while it is still fun.



MATH

Mathematical Reasoning Beginning is a highlight for this age. The activities are simple, engaging, and colorful—a perfect introduction to the basics of math. About seven pages a week will put you on a path for completing the book this year.



SCIENCE

Mindblowing Science is an outstanding first science kit. Creative and colorful, it introduces the basics of color theory and scientific experimentation. Of course, this is only a taste of science; encourage your child to investigate the world around him. At this age science is learned from practical, hands-on encounters, so take the time to work those into your school year.

Looking for starting points? How about

your kitchen, where every recipe is an adventure in science? Move on from there to your backyard, local farm, the zoo; hands-on museum...

FINE—MOTOR SKILLS

I Can... books provide hours of productive entertainment. With over 400 different activities, you could easily do more than twelve a day and have some left over!

In addition to developing fine—motor skills, your child will practice following directions and learn his colors. We've included a set of **Prismacolor pencils** to get you started. **My First Scissors** combines art with fine motor skills. The safe scissors and fun projects will delight you both, and the resulting animals make great decorations or gifts for Grandma. We suggest using the scissors first with the **I Can Cut** book, then moving on to the animal cut outs as your child is ready.

CONSTRUCTION

Construction provides a child with unlimited opportunities to develop spatial skills, problem-solving abilities, and 2-D to 3-D translation skills. The **CitiBlocs set** excels at all of these. You will be surprised by the many creations your child builds on his own. Expand on that by asking him to build something specific two to four times a week. Have him make something “really tall” or a way to “keep the toy dinosaurs away from the dolls” or lay them out as a road or house... It may seem like play to him, but you'll know better! The **PurplLinker** works on many or the same skills in a slightly different (and far more car-friendly) format. Have him complete about two of the included designs a week to start with. Want more? Make up your own for him to solve, or have him design something and then explain it to you.

OTHER

Bubber can be as engaging as clay, without the sticky mess. Pull out your cookie cutters, utensils, and other kitchen tools to shape and mold the Bubber. You can even use it to make molds for Plaster of Paris handprints and more! See our website for vodcasts of ideas.



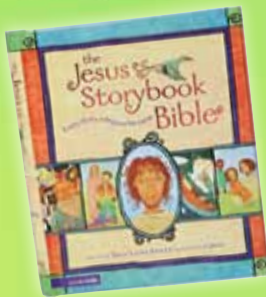
Want More?



Kitchen Learning—from fun kits to kid-safe knives!



Imaginets is the best, most versatile magnetic shaped-block set we have ever seen...



The **Jesus Storybook Bible** is wonderfully illustrated and makes a thought-provoking devotional.



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



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



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