



# WHAT'S IN YOUR BOX?



## Timberdoodle's Toddler Complete Curriculum Package Includes:

- Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers
- Active Baby, Healthy Brain
- First Hundred Words
- 1001 Things To Spot Collection
- My First Animal Signs
- Music Box
- Bambino Starter
- Bambino Special books
- Earlyyears Lace A Shape
- Colorback Sea Turtle Maze
- Guidecraft 3D Feel & Find
- Rubbabu Shape Sorter
- A-Z Lauri Puzzle
- a-z Lauri Puzzle
- Buddy Block Cube Puzzle
- Wedgits Starter Tote
- Fantacolor
- McDonald's Farm Counting Book
- Toddler I Can Cut
- Toddler I Can Paste
- Toddler I Can Trace
- Toddler I Can Color
- Primary Science Kit
- Infantino Peek-A-Boo Animal Puzzles
- Big Oball
- Planning Helps folder

### Getting Started

While you won't be doing traditional lessons at this age, it is never too early to get in the habit of learning. Browse this folder and you should be ready to get started!

### We would love to help you!

Please don't hesitate to call us, email us or chat with us about any questions, comments, concerns, or adorable pictures. You will get a real person who is eager to serve you.

### Custom Core?

If you opted to have us personalize your child's curriculum, please know that we have included our standard information in this folder for you. We hope it will be helpful, even though it doesn't reflect your thoughtful changes.



## AN INTRODUCTION

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GET STARTED

### CHARACTER FIRST

Another thing to keep in mind is that, more than educating your child, you are teaching this active toddler how to learn. Build his attention span up little by little. Work on perseverance when he wants to fling the puzzle across the table. Feed his curiosity for all things moving. Reward hard work, encourage language development, and insist on obedience. These are more than just life-skills, they are part of character development and as such are much more important than any academic skill alone.

### READING SECOND

Make it your goal to spend some time reading with your child every day. We have included several books in your kit to get you started, each among the most valuable books we've seen for this age, with hours of conversation and learning potential. Supplement them with books from your library or your family's collection.

Eighteen months to 3 years is a huge developmental range to cover in a single curriculum set, yet we feel that once your child has outgrown these materials, he is ready to begin preschool-level exploration. Whether this happens at age four or earlier it really doesn't matter, as long as he has been prepared to go on to the next level.

### PLANNING

That said, pace your child so that he is constantly learning, but not overwhelmed. Our family likes to use a weekly check-off sheet so that nothing gets lost in the shuffle. We've included one in this packet which you can simply copy as needed.

### READING IS ONLY HALF OF IT

Regardless of what you choose to read, make it part of your daily routine to sit down and read together. Not only does it whet his own appetite for reading, but one of the very best things it will do for him is allow him to mentally experience situations and concepts he wouldn't run into on his own. So reading alone is only half of your assignment —talk about what you are reading!

### AND MORE

Of course, there are many other things to discover with your child, and we'll give you some information on each. But emphasizing reading will serve your child for the rest of his life, so it is worth planning around!

### SIBLINGS

If your toddler is blessed with older siblings, keep them involved in his education. Not only will he have more opportunities to learn, but they will learn the invaluable skill of teaching. We suggest going over the weekly chart and highlighting the things you'd like them to do. (For instance, everything highlighted yellow is for big brother to do, and the ones in green are reserved for big sister.) Then let them check the work off as they go.

### MANUALS

There are tons of ideas in the Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers and Active Baby, Healthy Brain to help your tot's development. Inside this folder you'll find brief notes on how to utilize all the cool things in your kit, along with where to find more information/ideas in those books.

## GUIDES AND IDEAS

THESE TWO TITLES EACH HAVE UNIQUE SPECIALTIES, AND TOGETHER THEY PROVIDE THE BACKBONE OF TIMBERDOODLE'S BABY AND TODDLER CURRICULUM PACKAGES.

### ACTIVE BABY, HEALTHY BRAIN

Active Baby, Healthy Brain is the most practical handbook for all parents enthralled with every aspect of their little one's intellectual and physical

development. It is simple and to the point, with ideas that are quick and easy to implement. Each activity is presented with detailed, step-by-step instructions, and the appealing illustrations help to make everything crystal-clear.

And while the overall tone is one of having fun with your baby -- and you will -- the author makes sure you understand the crucial connections between the activities and the development of your child's body and brain. You'll also learn how to incorporate toys, music, and games in your toddler's day. Busy parents will cheer when they hear that no single activity takes more than two minutes, and all that's required is ten minutes a day. How easy is that?

### ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATING BABIES AND TODDLERS

If you are looking for hundreds of toddler-friendly ideas for exercises and activities that engage your child's love of play while also stimulating his brain development, then you'll want this book. The many illustrations will inspire even sleep-deprived parents with creative activities, many of which require no money to implement.



# PREREADING

HERE ARE OUR TOP PICKS FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT, DISCUSSION AND ALL-AROUND ENJOYMENT.



## FIRST HUNDRED WORDS

The warm, charming, wordless illustrations lend themselves to endless interpretations; each new story layers upon the last, and each storyline reinforces familiar words while introducing unfamiliar ones.

Throughout First Hundred Words, key objects are pulled out of the larger illustration and depicted at the top of the page. Point out the objects, have your child repeat the word and then find the item in the larger illustration.

## COVERS

Lots of familiar things to find and name, characters to talk about, stories to tell, and opportunities for counting groups of objects or discovering matching pairs.

## BIG BOOK OF THINGS TO SPOT

There is no end to what a toddler can learn from this impressive title that is crammed with over 4000 things to spot on a farm, in the town, pertaining to animals or history.

While searching the colorful, beautifully illustrated pages your toddler will learn the names of both animals and objects. You will also discuss numbers, counting, colors, shapes and differences.

Just doing a page or two a day will enrich your toddler's vocabulary in a way that you both will find enjoyable.

## COVERS

1001 Animals to Spot  
1001 Things to Spot on the Farm  
1001 Things to Spot in the Town  
1001 Things to Spot Long Ago

## MY FIRST ANIMAL SIGNS

The adorable illustrations in My First Animal Signs accomplish the first step of language development, that of making a connection between the word and what it means. And because the illustrations are so engaging, babies and toddlers will want to 'read' the book over and over again, accomplishing the second step towards learning a language, that of repetition. Most toddlers will love demonstrating the signs as well, since they thrive on active learning!

## COVERS

This absolutely gorgeous board book depicts ASL signs for forty-eight animals, illustrated clearly with bright, cheerful drawings of babies and toddlers, along with a variety of domestic, wild, and exotic animals.

## READ MORE:

Active Baby, Healthy Brain: pages 63, 66

Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers: pages 50-51



## THE MUSIC BOX

EVERYONE AGREES THAT MUSIC IS IMPORTANT TO A TODDLER'S DEVELOPMENT, AND FINALLY IT DOESN'T NEED TO BE DIFFICULT TO THINK OF A NEW SONG OR RHYME.

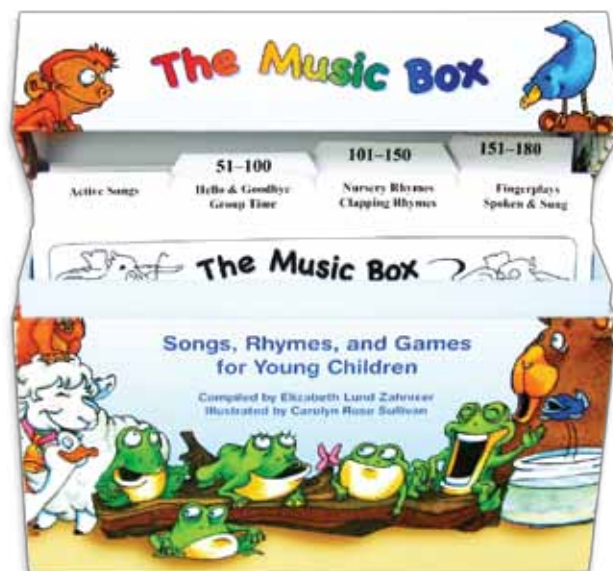
### THE MUSIC BOX: SONGS, RHYMES, AND GAMES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Rhymes are one of the most enjoyable ways to give our children a rich and robust vocabulary. Not only that, rhymes help our brains recall words and facts, a perfect workout for developing brains. And because actions, movement, or dances are associated with children's rhymes and songs, your toddler's gross-motor skills will flourish!

Once you understand the importance of songs, rhymes, and finger plays to your child's education, you'll realize the handful you know are sorely inadequate for the task. The Music Box's wealth of options will make this part of your toddler's education fresh and enjoyable. Do you like the words of a song, but are you unfamiliar with the tune? The Music Box also includes a list of high quality recordings available online, so you can listen to most songs before teaching them. As parents, we want to give our children every opportunity to excel. The Music Box not only makes it easy, but fun as well.

### COVERS

The Music Box uses songs, rhymes, finger plays, and movement to invite young children into music, language, and imaginary play. Includes 180 engaging songs, finger plays, rhymes, songs, and games inside a sturdy hinged box. Each is on a laminated card with the words, instructions, music and chords, and delightful illustrations for each song or rhyme. Organize the Music Box cards the way you want: by subject, alphabetically, or numerically with the included tab cards.



### READ MORE:

**Active Baby, Healthy Brain:** pages 68-71, 79, 96-97, 115-166

**Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers:** page 89



# THINKING SKILLS

STARTING WITH SIMPLE MATCHING, THIS HANDS-ON TILE-BASED PROGRAM IS A FUN WAY TO INTRODUCE AND CULTIVATE THE ESSENTIAL SUBJECT OF THINKING SKILLS.

## BAMBINO

Young children are almost always hands-on learners. That is why your child picks up and touches everything. It may look destructive, but it is how God has programmed her to learn, which means that at this age your child will learn more easily using this preferred learning style.

Your child solves each page's puzzle using six large and sturdy tiles with a familiar picture symbol on one side and a colorful dotted pattern on the back. Start by setting the clear frame over the page, then help your child match the picture on the tile to the small picture in each of the top frames. Next, your child picks up one of the tiles and studies the problem underneath that tile. Looking over the six possible answers on the bottom page, she places the tile over the best answer. She then picks up the next tile and repeats the process, until all the tiles have been placed, solving that page. (It sounds much more confusing than it is, complete picture directions are included, but many people find it easier just to watch the short video online at [www.Timberdoodle.com/Bambino](http://www.Timberdoodle.com/Bambino))

Because this program requires the repeated handling of tiles, your child's fine-motor skills are strengthened and her

eye-hand and brain coordination are greatly enhanced. Plan to repeat the pages as many times as necessary for your child to get it, but not to the point of boredom!

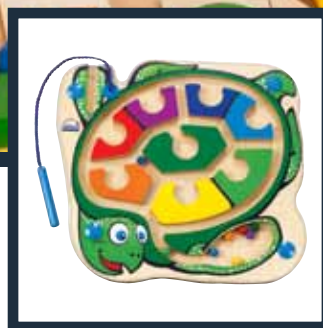
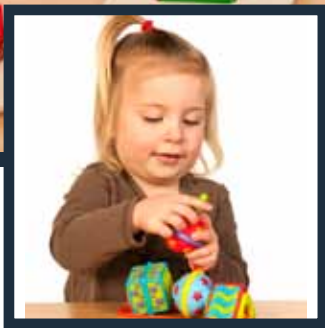
## NOTE:

We do sell many more advanced book sets if she races through the ones we've included here; or you can make your own using a free online template.



# FINE-MOTOR SKILLS

FROM HOLDING A SPOON TO SIGNING YOUR NAME FINE-MOTOR SKILLS ARE ESSENTIAL TO EVERYDAY LIFE; SO IT IS NO SURPRISE THAT FINE-MOTOR SKILLS ACTIVITIES NEED TO BE PART OF YOUR TODDLER'S DAILY ROUTINE.



## EARLY YEARS LACE-A-SHAPE

Bright colors and tactile features make the Lace-A-Shape's twelve soft oversized beads not just gorgeous but also easy to hold and grasp. The Lace-A-Shape beads are hollow so the needle will be a challenge for toddlers to line up just right to the second hole. (If the needle goes in at an angle the tip catches. The solution is to teach your child to back up the needle, look through the bead, line up the head of the needle with the second hole and then push it through.) This additional effort will not only enhance your child's grasp of cause and effect but give her even greater fine motor and hand-eye coordination skills than associated with the typical toddler beads sets.

### COVERS

Pincer grasp, persistence, and even shapes.

## COLORBACK SEA TURTLE MAZE

Yet another way to work your child's pincer grasp, concentration and color matching. At first, just dragging the colorful beads will be enough of a challenge for your child, but once he's ready for more, guide him in placing each one into its matching "home" in the turtle's shell.

When he is ready for even more, ask him to place specific colors in other locations. How well does he remember your instructions?

### COVERS

Colors, pincer grasp, persistence, verbal directions, memory, and more.

## 3D FEEL & FIND

It's a puzzle; it's a game; it's an impressive visual and tactile exercise! The 3D Feel & Find includes twenty sturdy wooden shapes that fit comfortably into twenty matching tiles. Dump the shapes on the table and encourage your toddler to match the shapes to the tiles. Allow lots of time for this as most toddlers will find the chunky shapes and playful colors so enchanting that they will get sidetracked with make-believe fun! Once matching the shapes to the tiles becomes routine take 3D Feel & Find to the next level. Hand out the tiles and take turns reaching into the bag to feel and find the corresponding wooden shape. Not only will this provide sensory and tactile challenges but 3D Feel & Find will encourage your child's speech as she guesses what she is feeling in the bag.

### COVERS

Shapes, colors, matching, language...

# PUZZLES

OFTEN SADLY OVERLOOKED, PUZZLES ARE AMAZINGLY HELPFUL FOR A TODDLER'S DEVELOPMENT AS THEY WORK ON THEIR VISUAL PERCEPTION, FINE-MOTOR SKILLS, VISUAL MEMORY, COLORS, SPACIAL PERCEPTION, AND SO MUCH MORE.



## RUBBABU ANIMAL SHAPE SORTER

The irresistibly soft, squishy, and downy-to-touch Rubbabu 3-D Animal Shape Sorter is a perfect first puzzle for younger children.

Even the tiniest of children can pick up, examine, and play with the nine brightly colored shapes, then with a gentle push place them back in their soft base. The soft, velvety surface offers tactile stimulation. Handmade of natural rubber foam, the Rubbabu 3-D Animal Shape Sorter is anti-microbial, dust-mite resistant, mildew resistant, hypo-allergenic, and flame resistant.

### COVERS

The nine shapes are made up of eight animals and one tree. Teach the names of each along with the seven colors, or simply pull them out for use in an animal parade or zoo story!

## LAURI A-Z PUZZLES

Begin by using these as fabulous perception puzzles (just think of how similar E & F, O & Q, R & P, and M & N are). By 2, most toddlers are able to pick out each letter.

Older children can match lower case and capitals, put together words, and use the puzzles for phonics games.

You will not find a better "touch, feel, and fit" alphabet, or a more durable one for those children who delight in pounding the pieces in. And they all do, don't they?

### COVERS

A-Z UPPERCASE and lowercase.

## BUDDY BLOCK PUZZLE

Cube puzzles are classic favorites of children, with six images to solve. Buddy Blocks are all-natural rubberwood blocks with portions of six different animals on each cube. Toddlers will enjoy stacking the blocks and will naturally start color matching the pieces as they go. Soon they will discover that if they arrange the colored pieces correctly, they can make an animal. The perfect transition to more complex puzzles, Buddy Blocks are splinter-proof and painted with non-toxic paints.

### COVERS

The four wooden cubes make six different animals when assembled. Start by having your toddler assemble the same-side-up pieces by pushing them together on the table. As she is ready, let her be in charge of finding the right side. Finally, have her assemble them in the tray. Placing the blocks without rolling them will give her an additional challenge!

# WEDGITS

WHETHER YOUR TODDLER HAS LONG BEEN EAGER TO HAVE HIS VERY OWN WORKBOOKS OR IT TAKES HIM AWHILE TO WARM UP TO THE IDEA, YOU WANT TO START WITH SHORT, COLORFUL, REWARDING ACTIVITIES. THE I CAN BOOKS ARE PERFECT!



## WEDGITS STARTER TOTE

Wedgits is one of those rare finds. A multi-dimensional building set, Wedgits pieces fit perfectly together without interlocking help. Most children are immediately drawn to the sturdy plastic pieces and eagerly explore the various stacking, nesting, and balancing patterns. There is an amazing amount of spatial and geometric learning to be discovered with the use of Wedgits.

## INCLUDES

- 20 primary-colored Wedgits building blocks
- Set of 48 design cards

## GETTING STARTED

There is so much you can do with this kit! Start really simple, by coaching your child to copy you as you build the simplest designs, either from the cards or from your imagination. Once that is easy, help him build directly from the card. His 2-D to 3-D skills will improve quickly, so be ready to let him try it on his own, giving him more challenging cards as he is ready.

On alternate days have him copy a model you've made. When that becomes too easy, let your child study your model, then cover it up and have him make his model without looking at yours again. What a challenge!



## READ MORE:

Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers: pages 66, 87



# FANTA COLOR

48 LARGE UNBREAKABLE,  
PVC-FREE PLASTIC  
COLORED PEGS, EIGHT  
PATTERN CARDS (16  
DESIGNS), A TRANSPARENT  
PEGBOARD, AND AN  
ERGONOMIC EASEL MAKE  
FOR A FANTASTIC SET!

## FANTA COLOR JUNIOR

Pegboards are one of those childhood necessities. They promote essential fine-motor skills and eye-hand coordination. But with Quercetti's Fanta Color Jr, your child can accomplish so much more. From color matching and replicating patterns to the development of logical thinking, Fanta Color Jr expands basic pegboard skills into a beginner's mosaic pattern building set.

Toddlers compose their first beautiful mosaics by inserting the 48 oversized, chunky pegs into the transparent board. Or, slide a pattern card with a simple image or abstract pattern under the board and let your child build the likeness or match the pattern with the colored pegs

Start with simple color matching to fill the eight cards included. Begin by repeating just one or two and move on once those are no longer challenging. Once your child has mastered all the cards included, have him make his own pictures for you. Perhaps his favorite animal, food, or person would be a good start!

## COVERS

Fine-motor skills, patterns and color matching,





# MATH

MATH IS A BLAST AT THIS AGE, FROM MEMORIZED COUNTING TO MATH CONCEPTS LIKE MORE OR LESS AND ON TO GEOMETRY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SHAPES. TODDLERS THRIVE ON MEMORIZATION AND REPETITION, AND WITH THESE TOOLS, SO WILL YOU!

## POKE-A-DOT OLD MACDONALD'S FARM

We had been searching for a fun way to teach a visiting three-year-old that counting is not a silly chant but that it has meaning. Poke-A-Dot! Old MacDonald's Farm is what we'd been looking for. This one-of-a-kind popping dots book lets kids track how many animals are on each page--every time they touch an animal, the bubble pops.

We initially thought the book would be a good introduction to the concept but feared it would get little use, or worse, break after a few weeks. To our delight the book quickly became beloved by the three-year-old's little sister and has held up remarkably to all sorts of toddler abuse. Best of all, even little sister has memorized (mostly!) her numbers,

The coolest part of this chunky board book is that each animal has an associated bubble, which, when poked, "pops" to the other side with a friendly, non-electronic snap. This is not only great fun, but also works your toddler's fine motor skills. Sneaky!

## COVERS

Counting skills, fine-motor skills, plus all the benefits of reading and conversation with your little one!

## ABOUT TEACHING MATH

Almost every item in this kit can somehow be used as a math manipulative, but if you're looking for a place to start, try these ideas:

### COUNT THESE

Rubbabu Shapes  
Lauri Letters  
Fanta Color pieces  
Wedgits

### MATCH SHAPES FROM THESE

Lace-A-Shape  
Feel & Find

### OTHER IDEAS

Try collecting things by shape, for instance filling a basket with all the square things you can find in the house. Or use a shortened egg carton and put one blue thing in each hole, counting to ten as you go. As fun (and beneficial) as "Three, two, one..." is for splashes, swinging, etc. be sure to count forwards much more often than backwards, especially at first!

## READ MORE:

Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers: page 115

# WORKBOOKS

WHETHER YOUR TODDLER HAS LONG BEEN EAGER TO HAVE HIS VERY OWN WORKBOOKS OR IT TAKES HIM AWHILE TO WARM UP TO THE IDEA, YOU WANT TO START WITH SHORT, COLORFUL, REWARDING ACTIVITIES. THE I CAN BOOKS ARE PERFECT!



## I CAN... TODDLER

Children will have fun cutting, pasting, tracing, and coloring their way to scholarly success throughout this series! Simple tasks, large colorful illustrations, and toddler-friendly topics; it doesn't get any easier than this, the perfect introduction to worksheets!

The bite-sized portions mean your child won't be overwhelmed, while the practical skills will serve him forever. Try to help your child do at least one page a day; this is a skill best developed with regular practice.

## COVERS

I Can Paste!  
I Can Cut!  
I Can Color!  
I Can Paste!

## NOTE:

These pages will be repeated in the giant preschool I Can... books. We don't think this is at all a negative, since little ones thrive on repetition and practice!

### READ MORE:

Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers: pages 84-85



## SCIENCE

EVERY CHILD SEEMS TO BE BORN A SCIENTIST, WITH THEIR NATURAL INSTINCT TO EXPLORE EVERYTHING. THESE TOOLS WILL HELP YOU NURTURE THAT TENDENCY .



### PRIMARY SCIENCE KIT

You probably already noticed that this set is targeted for ages 4+ which makes seem almost out of place in a toddler curriculum. While this set is also fantastic for preschool-kindergarten students, its very best feature is the rugged tools that actually work, but are sized for little hands. If you never actually move on to the experiments you will find that the set has still served its purpose, and is very cost effective when you price the individual tools.

Better yet? Have a four- to seven-year-old sibling do the experiments with the toddler. Both children will enjoy the process, and don't be surprised when your toddler spend hours "replicating" the experiments using only water!

### COVERS

The rugged Magnifying Glass is equally at home studying moth antennas and dandelion seeds or looking at fingernails and scraped knees. The Easy Grip Tweezers are a superb way to help your child develop the pincer grasp he'll need for writing. Try putting small toys in the test tubes or a favorite treat in the bottom of a glass. Can he get them out using only the tweezers? Can he use the tweezers to pick out (& eat!) only the raisins from his favorite trail mix when it is sprinkled on a plate? How about pouring water from flask to test tube using the included funnel, or sucking water up with the giant eyedropper?

### INCLUDES

Beaker, magnifying glass, funnel, eyedropper, flask, tweezers, goggles, large 6" test tube and stand, two small test tubes with lids and stand, plus activity cards.

### PEEK-A-BOO ANIMAL PUZZLES

A puzzle with a prize! Peek-a-Boo Animal Puzzles are twelve sturdy two-piece puzzles. Match the animal to where she lives, then slide open the door to reveal her sweet baby. What a wonderful opportunity to talk about different animal habitats.

### COVERS

Helps toddlers develop problem-solving skills; improve hand-eye coordination, and identify animals and their babies.

### INCLUDES

Twenty-four durable pieces featuring household pets, safari animals and farmyard favorites.

### READ MORE:

Active Baby, Healthy Brain: page 74

Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers: page 74-75, 92, 98-101



## OBALL

NO TODDLER PROGRAM WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A BALL, AND OBALL IS FAR AND AWAY THE MOST VERSATILE BALL WE'VE EVER FOUND - YOU CAN EVEN MAKE BUBBLES WITH IT!

### THE BIG OBALL

Bigger circles, bigger holes, bigger ball, bigger action. Everything about the Big Oball is bigger. Yet it is just as smooth and shiny and just as indestructible as the Original Oball. Kick it, stomp it, crush it, and the Big Oball bounces right back to a perfectly formed sphere.

Made of silicone, the Oball is lightweight and durable; just pop it in your dishwasher when the need arises. (and it will!)

Beyond catching, throwing, and kicking skills, the Big Oball is also just the right weight to bowl for empty water bottles. Fill them up a bit if you need more stability or your child is ready for an additional challenge. You can also color the bottles or label them by number, shape, or letter, then aim for a particular bottle.

In the summer make up bubble mix and use the Big Oball as a giant bubble net.

### COVERS

Hand-eye coordination, motor planning, reflexes, and depending on what you play, the important lifeskills of sportsmanship and taking turns!



### READ MORE:

**Active Baby, Healthy Brain:** pages 77, 82-83, 99, 102, 118, 121, 134

**Entertaining and Educating Babies & Toddlers:** pages 94-95

CHILD'S NAME (TODDLER)

START DATE

END DATE

## THIS WEEK WE:

Curriculum	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Active Baby, Healthy Brain						
Entertaining and Educating... Toddlers						
First Hundred Words						
Big Book of Things to Spot						
My First Animal Signs						
The Music Box						
Bambino						
Lace-A-Shape						
Colorback Sea Turtle						
3D Feel & Find						
Animal Shape Sorter						
A-Z Capitals Lauri Puzzle						
a-z lowercase Lauri Puzzle						
Buddy Block Puzzle						
Wedgits						
Fanta Color						
Poke-A-Dot Counting						
Toddler I Can Trace						
Toddler I Can Color						
Toddler I Can Cut						
Toddler I Can Paste						
Primary Science						
Peek-A-Boo Animal Puzzles						
Big Oball						

## You May Also Like:



### Wahoo Puppy

"My 3 year old LOVES him and said, "Mommy, this is so much fun! Thank you for buying these for us!" ... I kind of enjoy bouncing on him, too :)” *Jennifer Lamberjack of Fostoria, OH*



### Deep Into The Forest

Not just a striking piece of art, this is the perfect hands-on way to build fine-motor skills, visual perception skills, and logical thinking abilities.



### Hugg-A-Planet

"We got this globe about a year ago and it has received a lot of use. It is very snuggly, and has been a lot of fun to have around for reference..." *Tamsyn Spackman of Logan, UT*



### Multi-Solution Shape Puzzles

What shall it be today? Will we mix or match the antennas? Match the mouth to the legs? Have solid or multicolored eyes?



### Loving the Little Years

"Loving the Little Years is a delightful book. That may seem a strange comment on a book that deals with life with such candor..." *Tedd Tripp*



### Preschool

Your child should be ready for preschool level work as soon as he completes this kit. No need to rush - but no need to wait a year either if he's ready now!

## Doodle Dollars, etc.



### You Earned \$\$!

Every order you place online\* will earn you points. (Each item states online how many points you earn by purchasing it, typically one point per dollar.) Those points are then redeemable as money off your next order. Right now, points are valued at a nickel each, so you could get 5% of your order back to spend again!

\*If you didn't place your order online, just call us right away and we will manually add those points to your online account!

### Reviews Earn More

Want to earn even more points? Simply visit us online and review your new curriculum!

Earn 50 points by being the first to review a product on our website!

Write a review for a product that already has one or more reviews, and receive 20 points.

Other ways to earn points:  
Video Reviews  
Find Website Bugs  
Link From Your Blog  
Buy More :-)

### Facebook

Facebook is our favorite place to:

- run one-day specials
- release new products
- show video demos
- ask your opinion
- do weekly giveaways and much more.

We'd love to have you join us at [Facebook.com/Timberdoodle](https://www.facebook.com/Timberdoodle)



## TODDLER TORNADOES

6 TIPS FOR  
SUCCESSFULLY  
INTEGRATING YOUR  
TODDLER INTO YOUR  
HOMESCHOOL

Don't you just love toddlers? They are so enthusiastic, loving, curious, confident, and innocent. However, to a home-educating mom, they are also exhausting, impatient, loud, and unpredictable. So how can we incorporate these tornadoes in with the older children in our education program without overwhelming them? Here are some ideas that have worked for us.

### 1) KEEP IT FUN!

Your goal is productive learning and that can be accomplished through many fun methods. But if your child is not easily making the transition into being required to accomplish something, don't hesitate to bring out some motivators.

A couple of ideas we've used to motivate are:

A) Make a chore board of all the different tasks you would like to accomplish in a week with your child then let your child choose which one he would like to do next. Flip over the finished task card once it is done and this way you will move through all your goals for your child while still enabling him to have some options.

B) Let your toddler earn a reward for finishing the tasks. For us it worked well to have the toddler pick out 6 tasks to do, and when the tasks were finished she earned the privilege of watching some Signing Time (which is also educational).

C) Use even more immediate rewards. When Deyvn had some difficulty with tracing, we brought out fish crackers and set up a story where the fish needed to get home and as she traced the line, the fish followed. When she reached the end of each line she got to eat the fish.

### 2) KEEP IT SHORT

Keep the structured projects short and varied. Your toddler is much more likely to stay engaged for an hour if they have 6-10 short projects in that time, rather than spending all that time tracing letters. You can set them up for longer periods of time with activities they already enjoy such as water play, coloring etc, but for the structured learning begin small.

### 3) USE ALL THEIR SENSES

Don't get tunnel vision and focus only on "workbook" type tasks, there will be

plenty of years for that later. Work to incorporate all their senses as you do different activities. The weekly checklist will help you be aware of what activities you've already done this week, so you don't accidentally overlook anything.

### 4) KEEP IT FLEXIBLE

Living for a toddler is learning. New things, experiences, and skills to be learned surround them. Structure is good, but don't forget that you can relax and enjoy the moment. If you don't get to puzzles this week, don't sweat it! If your toddler loves to paint, encourage and expand it! All of life is learning, have fun and relax!!

### 5) INCORPORATE THEM WHEN YOU CAN

For instance, most toddlers will be blissful if you let them participate in your art lessons. If you are using expensive supplies that they will destroy, try buying inexpensive sets that are just for them. They won't know the difference between deluxe and cheap paper, and a set of twenty-four markers for \$3.00 will look like more fun to them than the \$3.00 per piece art markers! It helps to buy an art bin or caddy to store all their supplies in (markers, glue sticks, scissors, stickers, and so forth). Not only will this encourage orderliness, but toddlers love to sift and sort through their possessions.

### 6) JUST FOR SCHOOL TIME

Our most obvious suggestion: Keep a box or a shelf of items that can only be used during the "big kids" school time. This can include items from this kit or other art supplies, workbooks, puzzles, blocks, and other hands-on materials that are only brought out during this time. This distinction will add to their attractiveness and make the "learning hour" something your toddlers will anticipate every day!

# Disposable Toys?



Is it just me, or does the term “toys” carry a negative connotation for you? I tend to think of toys as cheap disposable trinkets that keep kids out of their parents’ hair. Educational toys just tend to be higher priced trinkets that parents pull their hair out over, because their children don’t play with them enough to justify their expense!

Tool, on the other hand, is a word we use loosely to describe the things our children use to learn about the world around them. These include dolls, blocks, bikes, balls, cast-off kitchen ware, and so forth. How do you know if you are buying disposable toys or childhood tools? Here are some questions you can ask yourself about the items.

1. Who is this item really for, my child or myself? If you are buying a skill, it is for him; if you are buying peace and quiet, then it is for you. Maybe the ideal object does both!

2. What unique skills does this item teach? A doll is a delightful tool for

teaching parenting skills. While real babies are infinitely more fun to practice on, dolls are more forgiving of endless diaper changes or occasional falls to the ground.

3. Will it be of value to my child’s character? While a baby doll can be invaluable for role-playing, “fashion dolls” project values that are inconsistent with Godly character. We should be extremely cautious about allowing in play what we would not want to see in real life. Why touch their palette with such a lifestyle, then forbid them to live it as adults?

4. Is it of value to my child’s health? Will it fine tune his eye-hand coordination or balance?

5. When my child outgrows this item, will it be sold, saved for the grandchildren, passed on to a treasured friend, or thrown away? Be suspect of anything that will be trashed; it may have been trash to start with!

These are not the only questions you should ask yourself, but they should give you a good starting point. In our family, we sat down with our girls and discussed the problem of disposable toys. Obviously, some things we buy for our children will wear out with use, like balls and bike tires. Nevertheless, our children are excited about the goal of eliminating disposable toys. So now, before we decide on gifts for the children, we ask ourselves, “Is this a gift our grandchildren will enjoy?!”

We are still dedicated to these ideals, though the children are often sorely tempted to buy razzle-dazzle. We compromise and reluctantly agree to let them buy ‘junk’ if they get it at a garage sale. That way they cannot only see how it has stood the test of time, but also what it is worth after a few hours of playing time. If you find it hard to stay on a budget, resolving to keep this type of standard could save you lots of money and grief.



## HOW DO YOU DO IT ALL? HOUSEWORK

PART 1 OF 3 IN A SERIES  
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN A  
1992 TIMBERDOODLE CATALOG,  
WHEN WE WERE JUGGLING  
CHILDREN AGES 11, 10, 8, AND  
5, ALONG WITH A FLEDGLING  
HOME BUSINESS.

If you have been home teaching for any length of time, friends, relatives, and strangers have undoubtedly asked you, “how do you do it all?” Oftentimes, the implication is not only why would you do it “all,” but can you possibly do it “all” properly. What is “all”? When we get this question, it is referring to housework, schoolwork, and our business.

### Everybody Works

If you are new to home education, let me share some ideas that have worked for us. In the area of housework, let me share my basic rule of thumb: If I am working and nobody else is, then I have either mismanaged my time or theirs. With children ages 11, 10, 8, and 5, there seems to be no reason that I should be working while others are playing.

### Joy, 11

This month, for example, Joy is responsible for cleaning both bathrooms, and for setting and clearing the table after each meal. She also deals with the compost, a necessary but very disdained job. This is an exceedingly easy list of chores for an 11-year-old, so we rotate jobs on a monthly basis. Joy looked forward to this month's duties.

### Hope, 10

Hope is in charge of all the linoleum floors. This means that they are swept at least once a day and the kitchen and entry floors are also scrubbed once a day, usually in the afternoon while everyone else is at the warehouse.

Hope is also responsible for maintaining the childrens' bedrooms. This is often the dreaded job because the bedrooms in our mobile are exceedingly small and it does not take too much activity in them for them to look trashed. Abel's bedroom right now is doing triple duty, not only as a bedroom, but also as a toy room and a pantry. Organization in there is critical, and will be more so when his room acquires yet another title this winter: nursery! Hope's final job this month is garbage. In our small mobile, if this is not done on a daily basis, we really know it!

### Grace, 8

Kitchen duty this month falls to Grace. Though a relatively simple assignment, it is probably the most time-consuming. It entails cleaning all the dishes, pots, and pans. It also involves cleaning the counters, sinks, and all appliances. She is also depended on to keep all our carpets vacuumed. We have made Grace's job easier by instigating a “no

shoes in the house” policy. Therefore, for the most part it is just lint that she is vacuuming and can be maintained with a once a week vacuuming.

### Abel, 5

Abel is in charge of laundry. Because of his age and size there are certain limitations, but he can do the bulk of the job. He sorts the laundry, loads the washer, unloads the dryer, and changes the dryer lint trap. Because his head barely reaches over the top of the washer, I empty the clean clothes into the dryer. I also add the soap because I am a little concerned about someone that small lifting something that caustic over his head. Abel also deals with all towels and foldable laundry. He sorts each person's clothes and couriers them to their rooms. For Dan and myself, he puts away all our folded laundry, but for the girls he just deposits it into a bin in their room for them to sort. He sorts all clothes that need to be hung and he places them in the right room. Because he cannot reach the clothes rods and there is not enough room in our tight mobile for him to haul a chair from room to room, each person is responsible to hang his or her own hangables.

### Delegation Is Critical!

As you can see, the bulk of the housework is done by the children. The unassigned jobs, like window washing, car cleaning, gardening, and dusting, are distributed as “extra jobs” earned by bad attitudes to regular tasks, by dawdling, or by jobs sloppily done. I suppose it is to our shame that this happens enough that all extra jobs do get done in a timely way. I am in charge of meals, relying on homemade, pre-made meals stored in the freezer. I also undertake the fussier jobs like waxing the floors and removing stains, but for the most part, with regards to housework, I truly lead a life of leisure. So, how do I get housework done? I delegate!



# HOW DO YOU DO IT ALL? HOME EDUCATION

PART 2 OF 3

## How do you teach your children and maintain the rest of your responsibilities?

It is not as hard as some might think. First of all, we are very content with being homebodies, so we do not spend huge amounts of time on field trips or on other activities that pull us in too many directions. Second of all, as soon as our children can read, they assume a large measure of the responsibility of getting their school work done. So our first priority is to develop adequate reading skills in each of our youngsters. Some of our children were reading as toddlers, others as preschoolers, but none under duress as some “experts” claim. We don’t profess to be authorities on early childhood learning, but we don’t hesitate to claim expertise in knowing our own children and knowing when they are feeling that learning is no longer a blessing, but instead a burden.

## Setting Goals

But reading or not, we sit down individually with each child and map out a program of learning for the year. Besides reading, our basic requirements include math, thinking skills, science, geography, art, history, and two to five electives. For the older children, history and reading are often combined into one requirement, and there are unlimited other combinations that we have made in the past. Currently the hot electives are French, sign language,

and electronics, but there are no limitations on what they choose. Unit studies work well for electives, and we have had loads of fun hatching quail, raising guinea fowl, and planting an orchard.

## When the Baby Comes

After determining our long range goals, we set some short term targets. Right now we are planning around our baby’s birth. After so many years of waiting for this blessing, it would be unreasonable for us to expect that the children will want to do anything but be with the baby. So we have planned that most of the year’s requirements are accomplished before December 1. After the first of the year we will spend a portion of each day on drill work so that they will be prepared for our state’s yearly test. The body of the school time will be spent on frills like sewing, quilting, and testing some new products we want to preview before adding to our catalog. I know that I will be still getting my “sea-legs” after the birth of the baby, so I will be doing what I can to minimize my stress level during this time.

## Weekly Lists

After setting these short term goals, we go a step further and break down each topic to what is required on a weekly basis. All our lists are maintained on our computers and are printed out once

a week for each child’s reference. They are required to finish each item on their list every week.

## Their Responsibility

Aside from activities that we do together, the readers are on their own as to when and where they actually do their schoolwork. With space at a premium in our tiny house, we transformed a loft above our warehouse bathroom into a schoolroom, complete with bookshelves, small file cabinets for each child, and a lovely table Dan and his father spent a lot of time making. So where do the children do their schoolwork? In the car, at doctor offices, on cleared inventory shelves, in the guinea house, in cardboard boxes, and everywhere else imaginable! That’s OK, we are not as fussy about where it is done as we are about how it is done.

## Prereaders

For Abel, whose reading skills are still shaky, we are a little more involved. He likewise gets a checklist every week, but I coach him through a fair number of the activities. He works on them in the afternoons, asking questions between phone calls, and generally paces himself so that he is not working very long without a break. He dearly loves to be first to finish his weekly assignments, and generally drives his sisters to distraction by giving them his daily countdown, “Only ten more pages and I’ll be done for the week!”

## So how do we do it all in school-work?

By insisting on a system of accountability for each child. We have found that children will accomplish far more and learn far better when we stop hovering over them. Children sincerely desire to have as much control as possible over their lives, and this is a wonderful way to introduce them to the adult world of responsibilities and consequences.



# HOW DO YOU DO IT ALL? HOME BUSINESS

PART 3 OF 3

How does a home teaching mom also find time to participate in a home business? More importantly, why?! Let me answer the why first.

## Too Much Free Time Is Bad for Everyone

We do it not only to give our children real life skills and to bolster confidence, but also to develop character. Our experience has shown that if our children are spending two to three hours a day in required schoolwork and one to three hours a day in required household chores, then apart from meals and other family times, our children would have anywhere from five to eight hours of free time. While I won't argue the educational merits of free play, I will say that we have noticed over time that too much liberty leads to a self indulgent attitude. It particularly grieves us to see teens with idle time. What a hazard in these end times! If our children are given an extended dose of free play, we see that when they are asked to do something out of the norm, they balk about giving up what they consider their rightfully earned liberty. They also tend to be more selfish in their play, more given to inappropriate behavior, and certainly more quarrelsome.

## More Work Helps

Does all this iniquity suddenly disappear with a home business? Of course not! However, by minimizing the unlimited time to cater to one's sin nature, we have seen positive results.

## Nitty-Gritty Details

So now that you can see why we do it, here is how we do it. Again, the name of the game is delegation.

## Just Like in the Movies

I can remember watching war movies as a child and chafing whenever I saw a general and his top men going over strategy in a tent, far removed from the danger that the common men were facing. "How wrong!," I thought. But now, as a mom and second-in-command, I can see the wisdom in that system. If the general had been in the trenches with his men, he would be unaware of the overall picture and may have won the battle, but lost the war.

## Can Anyone Else Do This?

Likewise, in the running of our home-based business, if we are sidetracked into jobs that others could be doing, we begin to lose ground fast. We can also be unaware of bad work habits or attitudes that may be developing. So one of our family business axioms is that Dan and I do what only we can do. In other words, anyone can cut stickers for the packages, so for Dan or myself to do that means that projects that only we can do, like reordering inventory, may not be done in a timely way.

## Joy, 11

As mentioned in a previous catalog, our children are expected to work a minimum of twenty hours a week. Joy is in training in the postal section. She not only mails out catalogs to everyone who calls or writes, but also prepares all postal packages. For foreign orders this has been a real learning adventure! She also takes care of collating bills with invoices and getting those out in the mail for us.

## Hope, 10

Hope is primarily responsible for inventory three hours a day. This is not a fun job for her because it involves a lot of decision making concerning what arrives damaged and what does not. But with time, some of the decisions will become easier as she becomes more familiar with the products. Hope was selected for this particular job because she is the family fuss-budget and has a dependable eye for observing the details.

## Grace, 8

Grace fills one of our two "floating" positions. Right now she works on inventory and on mail. Her mail responsibilities include opening the mail, and then delivering the sorted mail to the appropriate people. She sorts through the returns and ascertains which are damaged. She also makes sure stickers are ready for packers.

## Abel, 5

Abel fills the other "floating" position, helping Grace with the returns and couriering messages up and down the stairs to various people. He loves to help when our cornstarch packing peanuts arrive and delights in keeping our employee candy dish restocked. He also labels catalogs to be mailed out, but his main responsibility is making sure catalogs are ready for the packers.

## Other Tasks

Other janitorial jobs such as garbage and bathroom detail are assigned as extra jobs, in much the same manner as household chores are. The only exception here is that being tardy to work is another reason to be given an extra job.

## What's the Goal?

Obviously, mail-order works for us, but it may not suit you or your market. Still, there are unlimited options for business. Making lots of money or being nationally known is not equal to success. "Do you see a man skilled in his work..." (Proverbs 22:29). Our goal should be developing skills in both workmanship and character.

So how do we do it all in a home business? By delegation and observation, with the goals of not only "marketable" skills, but also maturity.