

SECTION

A

The First Few Weeks

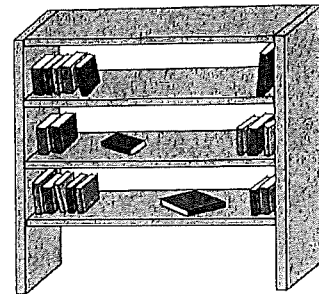


How do I organize all of this stuff?

1. Decide on an area for your school things.
 - a. Closet
 - b. Shelf on a bookshelf
 - c. Corner of a bedroom/dining room/living room
 - d. Garage

2. Helpful tools for organizing

- a. Rolling cart with drawers.
- b. Baskets
- c. Plastic shoe boxes
- d. Plastic milk crates
- e. Try to think of things that your child can get independently.
 - i. Not too heavy
 - ii. Not too awkward for 5 year old hands
 - iii. If you say, "Bring your supply box with you," or "put your supplies away," they can do this by themselves.
 - iv. Look for containers to hold one or more of the following items: crayons, scissors, glue, gluesticks, pencils, markers, etc.
- f. Pizza box
 - i. To save "keepers" and this limits the total number of what you store.
 - ii. File box (with or without wheels, handle, bankers box)



How should I schedule my day?

1. My recommendations to make your life easier...
 - a. 3 "basic skills" days
 - i. Instruction and assignments from your math and reading program.
 - b. 1 "traveling" day
 - i. Attending HCS classes
 - ii. Going to the library
 - iii. Grocery shopping
 - iv. Park day
 - v. Other errands
 - vi. Mini field trips
 - vii. Doctor appointments
 - c. 1 "project" day
 - i. This is the day to add extra science, social studies and their projects.
 - ii. Or this is your messy art day. Bring out paint, glue, crafts, etc.
 - d. Be flexible, go with the flow, listen to your child
 - e. Alternate 15 min of active time with 5-10 min of quiet time.
 - f. Stop while your child is still interested in the learning, instead of "Do I have to do more?" or "Are we done yet?"
2. Save 15 minutes at the end of each day to review/reflect/journal about your day. This will help you prepare for the next day.

How many hours and minutes?

How long is too long?

How short is too short?

Watch and listen to your child. Be flexible! You may start out with their focused attention for 5 minutes and then it will build to 10 minutes and longer each time you sit with your child for school.

Are you hearing things like, "This is fun! Can we do more?"

Are you hearing complaints and whining and seeing behavior that is off task, or showing frustration, or tears? Time for a break!! Most 5 and 6 year olds can only sit for 5 minutes before needing to move. Practice! And remember, in first grade they will be ready to sit longer because you gave them room to wiggle in kindergarten.

Studies show that children need more than 20 minutes to actually begin to be creative with their free time.

Remember to leave time for creative free choice play time with legos, blocks, dolls, art, or their favorite toys/games.

Weekly TK/K Planner

Week of: Example

Activities	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alphabet	Intro Letter A and theme	Letter A Hunt	Letter A match	Library books about A theme	Review
Writing	Salt Tray	Water and paintbrush	Sandpaper Crayon tracing	Rainbow writing with markers	Writing with a pencil
Math game	Large dice	Beach ball math	Domino math # 1-6	Tiny Polka Dot	Number dash on driveway
Science	Parts of an apple		Browning apples		Making apple sauce
Motor skills	Fine Motor: Clothespin clips Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Scissor cutting Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Pony beads and pipe cleaners Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Large Motor:
Sensory Play	Apple slime	Apple Slime	Apple sensory bin	Apple sensory bin	Apple playdough
Process art or craft	Apple Prints	Abstract Apple	Alligator craft		Free art exploration

Weekly TK/K Planner

Week of:

Activities	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Alphabet					
Writing					
Math game					
Science					
Motor skills	Fine Motor: Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Large Motor:	Fine Motor: Large Motor:
Sensory Play					
Process art or craft					

Getting Started with Science and Social Studies

The greatest way to teach science to your kindergartener is to find out what they are interested in, then go for it! Your child's natural curiosity for nature, or interest in a science experiment, can be the best motivator for learning. Look for ways to engage the five senses. Ask your child what they notice or wonder about your science activity.

Take lots of pictures that you can place in a science journal. Under each picture you can write what your child dictates to you about the picture. Another idea is to have your child draw a picture in their science journal of what they have observed from the activity. Have them write one or two science words at the beginning of the year and a sentence in the second half of the school year. Or you can dictate more information that they share with you about their learning under the picture.

Social Studies in kindergarten can be all about your local community. Consider taking monthly field trips with other homeschool families to one of the following agencies:

Fire Department
Grocery Store

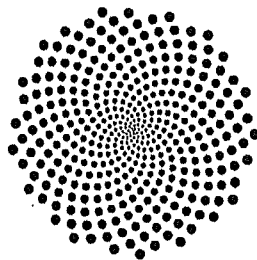
Police Department
Local Restaurant

Post Office
Local Farm

Learning about the symbols of our country is another great social studies topic. Things like the American Flag and the California State Flag, the Statue of Liberty, the American Eagle, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr., are all good symbols to know. Recreating these symbols in painting, coloring, or fabric painting is fun!

Free Exploration Ideas

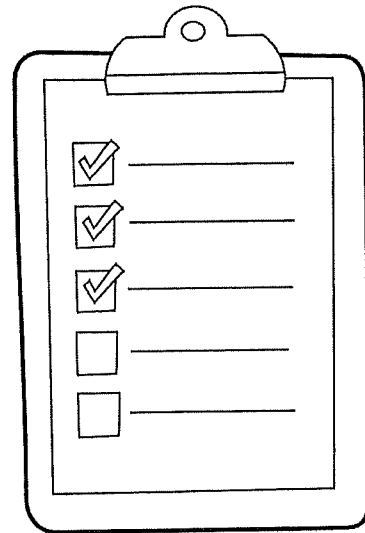
- A. Blocks
- B. Legos
- C. Elements from Nature (rocks, sticks, leaves, sand, dirt, etc)
- D. Large Boxes (like a box a refrigerator would come in, or large shipping boxes from the store)
- E. Rainbow Writing (trace one letter or word several times using a different crayon color each time)
- F. Clay
- G. Canned Biscuits to form letters, words, or shapes then bake
- H. Cookie sheets for finger painting with pudding, dry oatmeal or cornmeal
- I. Goop (directions for making this in the Recipe section)
- J. Large blankets or sheets and chairs for building tents
- K. Creation Table (paper, glitter, glue, stickers, markers, crayons, fabric scraps, etc.)
- L. Playing with the items in the Math Manipulative kit, one item at a time (one day unifix cubes, another day dominoes, etc.)
- M. Read to your child daily
- N. Cooking together
- O. Daily Calendar activity
- P. Jello Jigglers
- Q. Field trips/ "Being there" experiences/Nature Hikes
- R. Counting around the house



Household Chores

Chores build....

Responsibility, organizational skills, belonging, competence, and worthiness



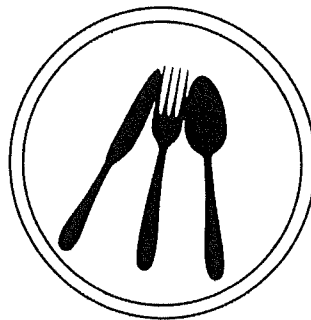
Be willing to accept a 5 year old's job...

do not redo what s/he has done...if it's not

good enough for you, teach her/him how to do

better the next time you assign the task...do

not redo it your way later.



Typical Chores for a 4-5yr old

- Load the dishwasher
- Vacuum couch/ chairs/ cushions
- Take out recycling
- Set table
- Clear table
- Wash dishes (with supervision)
- Clean windows
- Wipe out bathroom sinks
- Match socks
- Fold dish towels
- Weed
- Water indoor plants
- Feed pets
- Meal prep (wash produce, find ingredients, simple cutting)
- Put clothes in the dirty clothes hamper
- Collect dirty clothes
- Help move clothes from washer to dryer

Fun ideas for TK/K the first weeks of school while you are adjusting to homeschooling:

1. Teaching Colors

- a. Choose a color and write that color word with that color crayon at the top of a piece of paper.
- b. Have your child find pictures that are red, cut them out (yes! With scissors!) and glue them to the paper with the matching color word. Look in magazines, or in the weekly grocery store ad.
- c. To extend this activity, ask questions that will prompt sorting and categorizing.
 - i. Which red items are toys? Which ones are something you might like to eat? Which ones would Mommy/Daddy like? Which ones are soft? Which ones are hard? Which ones are fuzzy? So much vocabulary that you can incorporate into this activity!

2. Teaching letters of the alphabet

- a. Write a letter at the top of a paper/journal page. Have your child look for letters in a newspaper, magazine, or weekly ads that match the letter. Have them cut the letter out and glue it to the letter page.
- b. Have your child cut out uppercase letters, and have them paste lowercase letters next to the matching uppercase letter.

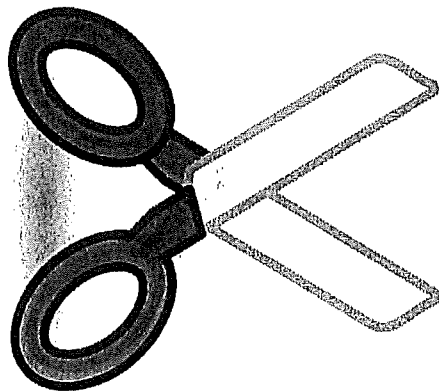
- c. Write letters on the driveway with chalk and have your child run to that letter.
- d. Print the letter on a 3x5 card or post-it notes, and tape to a door inside your house. Call out a letter for your child to run and slap that letter. Great for number practice too!

3. Teaching Phonemic Awareness (phonics)

- a. Write the letter you are teaching your child on a piece of paper. Cut out pictures of items that start (and later end with) that letter. For example, write the letter 'd' at the top of a page and your child might find pictures to cut like: dog, daddy, drum, doll, door...ect.

4. Teaching Numbers

- a. Cut out numbers and paste them in order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...
- b. Write the number at the top of a journal page and paste that number of pictures with the number: 1= 1 dog picture, 2= 2 cat pictures, 3=3 fish pictures.
- c. Write the numbers in chalk on the driveway and call out the number you would like your child to run to. Write the numbers on 3x5 cards or post-it notes, tape them to a door, and call out a number or sum for your child to run to.



Monthly Assessments

Once a month...

A. Date and save a "Draw" paper...

1. Using a 12" x 18" white drawing paper folded into thirds give your child these directions:
 - a. Lay the paper vertically on the table. In the top of the first section draw a circle. In the same section but below the circle draw a square. Under the square draw a triangle. Under the triangle draw a rectangle.
 - b. In the middle section, draw a tree.
 - c. In the last section, draw a person.
 - d. Turn the paper over and on the back have your child write his name.
 - e. Date it and put it in the pizza box or your file box.

B. Date and save a "Name" paper...

1. Fold a plain newsprint paper into about six rows. In the top row write your child's name neatly, the way you would like him to write his name.
2. Have your child write her name in the row under your example. Have her continue to write her name in each of the rows (this will give her 5 practices).
3. Date and save it in your pizza box or file box.

C. Date and save a "Number" paper...

1. Fold a plain newsprint paper into six rows just like you did the "Name" paper. Write the number 1 in the first row, a 2 in the second

row, a 3 in the third row, a 4 in the fourth row, a 5 in the fifth row, and a 6 in the sixth row.

2. Have your child write his numbers following your examples.
3. Date and save it in your pizza box or file box.

