



These academic suggestions have a wide range of possibilities for each grade. All things may be possible, but not all things are beneficial. Accomplish as much as your child is able, but be flexible. You are your child's best teacher and what is beyond reach one year will be learned easily the next. Grade levels can push or bore. Set the pace that is right for your child.

Continue adding knowledge and skills without dropping practice of previous skills and topics. Think of it as building experiences and relationships you refer to from time to time.

Although we've listed skills, please remember they are best learned contextually. For example, young children learn math daily as you go about life. They can measure, count, sort, compare, share half of something and tell time as you do laundry, make meals, shop, drive, garden, etc. Reading in kindergarten is ok if your child is ready. These years are better spent doing, however. Science activities, projects, music, art,

working/helping and daily read alouds will make them active learners and build skills and vocabulary effortlessly.

Remember, formal schools try to mimic home in many ways. Enter: the reading corner with pillows and rugs. Educators also have a term, real-life-connections, to describe what they work toward to make learning meaningful and fun. They claim students will engage more if the learning relates to real life. Of course their answer many times is using Youtube, podcasts or games on a computer– gamification, is another scholarly term. Fieldtrips are another tool.

Homeschoolers are not in a forced, sterile environment. They are in the perfect setting for real life connections.

Also, reading can be done in steps rather than grades: the beginning stage when your child learns to recognize letters and their sounds; the blending stage when they put the sounds together; the decoding stage when phonics begins in earnest and sight words are learned; and fluency the last stage which takes repetition and practice.

These suggestions focus on learning the meaning of numbers, measures and other math concepts. Other programs may be more accelerated in learning abstract math skills, but be careful not to proceed without the child's understanding.

**Kindergarten:** Recognizing letters and their sounds. Simple blending. Recognize a few sight words. Understanding opposites and synonyms. Rhyming and word play. (Dr. Seuss/poetry.) Being able to understand stories read and see clues in accompanying pictures. Retelling a story accurately. Predict. Organize. Create their own stories through dictation. Draw stories. Write name and spell simple words. Become familiar with a library. Enjoy books. Build listening and focusing skills. Bible stories as history and character/spiritual development. Memorize Bible verses and simple poems. Build

awareness of their uniqueness and appreciation of others. Understanding holidays and customs involved. This is also the age to learn about helpers like police, firemen, etc. It is also the age to introduce transportation. Practice motor skills (lots of exercise and free play) and develop coordination. Coloring, painting, sculpting, cutting, pasting and drawing. Observing and identifying, weather, plants, sky, animals, etc. Understanding cause and effect (dressing for the weather, explaining mud puddles, behavior, etc.). Record facts. Understanding and developing good hygiene, nutrition, need for rest, personal safety, simple first aid and basic knowledge of germs (covering a sneeze, washing hands, etc.). Identifying body parts. Recognizing numbers 0-9. Using and pointing to first, second, third. Understanding quantity (numbers and coins). Identify coins. Counting at least to 20. Understand whole and half. Group. Sort. Organize sequentially. Match, estimate and compare. Recognize and create patterns. Understand space and direction concepts (up, down, behind, in front of, beside, under, right, left, etc.) Simple oral math problems using objects (*If you have an apple and Mommy gives you two more apples how many apples will you have?*). Use calendar, clock (hour) and do puzzles. Study pictures of art. Listen to classical music. Sing children's songs and hymns. Read aloud to your child every day. Introduce French, Spanish or the foreign language of your choice. Use correct grammar when speaking to your child. Use lessons from *Oral Language* by Abeka.

**First Grade:** Read Bible and continue to develop moral/spiritual character, respect and courtesy for elders, babies, disadvantaged. Read aloud to your child everyday. Continue phonics instruction (long vowels, two vowels together, -ing -ang -ong, etc.). Understanding blends sh, ch, etc. Creating new words by substituting consonants (top becomes mop, etc.). Learn sight word list. Introduce endings of words. Understand the use of periods, commas, question marks and exclamation points when reading. Understand the meaning of contractions. Spell words. Recognize and predict action or outcome from

pictures. Developing meaning of words and that some have multiple meanings. Reading with fluency familiar books/stories. Practice reading with emotion. Use reading to gather information. Retell accurately. Identify fiction and non-fiction. Recognize that stories entertain or explain. Discuss characters' emotions and actions. Pick out words that are funny, beautiful, etc. Create stories and illustrate them. Understand the beginning, middle and end of a story. Dictate complete sentences. Copy sentences/Bible verses. Understand and use capitalization, question marks and periods. Understand abbreviations Mr. , Mrs. , Dr. , Jan. ,etc. Add s to form plurals. Classify words as descriptive, naming or action. Introduce a sentence as having two parts: naming and action. Point out compound words.

Classify, measure, sort, organize, analyze, compare, estimate, match, predict, complete and create patterns. Count to 100. Skip count by 2's and 5's. Count backward from 20. Ordinal numbers to 10<sup>th</sup>. Start grouping into 10s. Recognize place value: 1 stands for 10 and 2 stands for two things which makes 12. Add and subtract to 12. Understand when to add and when to subtract. Continue oral math. (Learning to write all the numbers is not necessary at this stage. Focus on learning the meaning of numbers.) Recognize whole, half and fourth. Days of the week. Time: hour and half hour. Identify and trace shapes. Introduce stories of American history. Memorize Pledge of Allegiance. Listen to the Star Spangled Banner and introduce its history. Discuss respect and care of American flag. Use a globe to point out America, continents, oceans. Use map. Discuss self-discipline, how to handle disappointment, anger, etc. Introduce the five senses and pursue any science of interest with experiments, reading, observing, gathering, drawing, comparing, measuring, etc. Continue foreign language, art study, listening to classical music and hymns. Attend plays, dance recitals, concerts and visit the library often. Play board games, card games, build with Legos, start a rock or shell collection. Do puzzles.

*Note: Continue learning through the summer to avoid needing to re-teach in the fall. This is crucial in the early years. It gives practice and solidifies new skills.*

**Second Grade:** Reading the Bible and memorizing longer passages. Continue with phonics and spelling. Work towards fluency. Allow easy books they enjoy. Practice correct grammar and usage. Develop listening skills. Daily read alouds on a variety of subjects. Developing moral character. Daily writing of copywork, stories, descriptions, poems, narrations of history, etc. Use capitals and punctuation. Introduce commas and apostrophes. Edit writing and make corrections. Write endings to stories. Simple alphabetizing. Understand real and make believe; fact and exaggeration. Discerning good and bad behavior of characters through actions. Identify naming words, descriptive words and action words.

Complete work on time. Neatness. Thoroughness. Clean up and put away school materials. Build respect for books.

Begin writing numbers but use mostly oral math for adding, subtracting and talking about fractions. You can introduce simple written addition and subtraction problems for them to see. (Delaying abstract math –written problems–helps them to *think* mathematically.) Practice recognizing numbers by reading them in real life (speed limits, calendars, advertisements, etc.). Use activities and games for a hundred chart. Count to at least 200; up to 1,000 if able. Use a calendar to practice ordinal numbers. Count by 10s. Use dimes, pennies and nickels for counting or grouping. Introduce one third. Use words like subtract, take away, add equal. Play lots of games. Measure. Weigh. Compare. Order. Play with shapes. Do puzzles.

Continue American history. Find places on a map and globe. (Continents, state, town, etc.) Continue science projects and

studies. Classify. Observe. Record. Discuss and read about health topics. Continue foreign language, art and music studies.

Continue to investigate, discover and enjoy learning.

**Third Grade:** Bible reading and memorization. Introduce some ancient history pertaining to the Bible.

This is the time to introduce formal lessons using work books or text books for math, penmanship (cursive), copywork and spelling if you are using them. Use an easy grammar book.

Begin memorizing addition and subtraction facts. Learn the commutative and associative properties. Adding two digit numbers. Introduce carrying and borrowing. Introduce multiplication and division. Continue learning the meaning of fractions. Expand reading of numbers to 10,000. Telling time to quarter. Use all coins and bills to \$5. Introduce simple geometry.

Reading should be well on the way by now. If not, now is the time to *focus* on it. Introduce syllables and accents. Understand the main idea. Give short oral and written reports. Indent the first word in a paragraph. Write letters. Follow written directions. Understand nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns and conjunctions. Understand subject and predicate. Form the plurals of words. Understand past and present tense. Alphabetize words to second and third letter. Use a dictionary. Edit and correct writing/spelling. Form a personalized spelling list. Continue daily read alouds on a variety of subjects. Memorize poems. Continue copywork of longer pieces of literature and start dictation.

Intensify foreign language use. Play geography games. Understand north, south, east, west. Read biographies of great Americans, scientists, artists and musicians. Do science experiments using kits, books and dissection projects if

interested. Collect bugs. Join a bird watching/feeding group and record data.

Third grade is the jumping off stage to learning. Focus on getting math and reading concepts learned. You are creating a strong foundation for more advanced learning in the next three grades. But it can't progress if the basics are not mastered now. Focus on what needs to be taught. You are teaching the child not bound to a curriculum's set pace. You use the curriculum; don't let it use you.