

Kindergarten Earthschooling *Written Curriculum* Summary of the Year & Supply List

SUMMARY OF THE KINDERGARTEN YEAR

The Earthschooling Kindergarten Curriculum is designed to provide a holistic and nature-based educational experience for young children, emphasizing outdoor play, creative activities, and family involvement. The curriculum is structured around a flexible daily schedule that prioritizes the natural rhythms of the child and the family, allowing for a blend of structured learning and free play.

Curriculum Structure

The curriculum includes a **Kindergarten Weekly Planner** that outlines themes, activities, and lessons for each week of August. The planner is designed to be adaptable, allowing parents and teachers to modify the schedule based on the needs and preferences of the children and the family dynamics.

Weekly Themes

1. **Week One: Rhythm** - Focuses on understanding rhythm in nature, music, and daily life. Activities include exploring rhythm through movement and songs.
2. **Week Two: Time** - Introduces concepts of time, days of the week, and seasons, encouraging children to observe and discuss their daily routines.
3. **Week Three: Guides** - Discusses manners, community, and the importance of guidelines, using stories and verses to model good behavior.
4. **Week Four: Crops and Harvest** - Celebrates planting and harvesting, tailored to the local environment and seasonal changes.

Daily Schedule

The daily schedule is divided into several segments, each focusing on different aspects of learning and development:

- **Morning A: Circle Time** - Involves singing verses and movement activities to engage children physically and mentally.
- **Morning B: Snack Preparations** - Children participate in preparing healthy snacks, fostering responsibility and cooperation.
- **Morning C: Eating Together** - Emphasizes the importance of communal meals, teaching children about rituals and social skills.
- **Morning D: Free Play** - Allows children to explore and play with natural toys, promoting creativity and independence.
- **Morning E: Nature Walk** - Encourages exploration of the natural world, observing seasonal changes, and connecting lessons to real-life experiences.

Afternoon Activities

The afternoon includes Storytime, crafts, and rest periods, with a focus on storytelling techniques that engage children's imaginations. Teachers are encouraged to use props and personal storytelling to enhance the experience.

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Learning Methods

The curriculum emphasizes experiential learning, where children learn through hands-on activities rather than traditional worksheets. For example, math concepts are introduced through real-life experiences, such as counting items during nature walks or cooking. The curriculum also incorporates **finger knitting** as a craft that develops fine motor skills and prepares children for future handwork.

Support Materials

Parents and teachers are encouraged to utilize various support materials available through the Earthschooling website, including guides on storytelling, cooking, and crafting. The curriculum references the book "Waldorf Basics" as a foundational resource for understanding the principles of Waldorf education.

Reflection Themes

Each week includes reflection themes that guide both teachers and students in their learning journey. These themes encourage mindfulness, community service, and appreciation of beauty, fostering a deeper understanding of personal and social values.

Conclusion

The Earthschooling Kindergarten Curriculum is a comprehensive guide that integrates nature, creativity, and community into early childhood education. By focusing on the holistic development of children, the curriculum aims to create a nurturing environment that respects the individual needs of each child while promoting a love for learning and exploration. The flexible structure allows for adaptation to various family dynamics and seasonal changes, making it a valuable resource for educators and parents alike.

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE KINDERGARTEN YEAR

August Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Knit a Giving Square

Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: A, B, #1

Week One: Rhythm

Student: What is rhythm? Where do we find rhythm in nature? In the home? In music?

Teacher: Cornerstones: Rhythm

Find your natural rhythm this week through stories, verses, crafts, and inner work. What time does your class naturally want to start? What time does your class get hungry for a snack or to get some energy out on a nature walk? What household or classroom chores will you need to add to the schedule? Do you have farming or gardening chores to do? Baby care? Household chores? Anything else? Find the natural flow of your class. Rather than following the schedule strictly this week, allow the natural flow of your day to modify it and see what happens.

Week Two: Time

Students: What is the day of the week, month, or season of the year? How do we know the time of day, month, or year? What signs are there?

Teacher: Cornerstones: Schedules

Talk about the schedule of the classroom with your students, parents, or self (inner work). What does the class need to change or modify, or add? How did things go the first week? Talk about ideas and create a “test schedule” to try for the next week.

Week Three: Guides

Student: Stories about manners, community, and the importance of guidelines. Who is your guide? Who do you follow or learn from?

Teacher: Cornerstones: Guidelines

Talk about the guidelines of the classroom with your students, parents or self (inner work). What guidelines does the class need to function smoothly? You have had two weeks now to observe the temperaments, rhythm, and needs of your class. Use the stories and verses this week to model good manners and community cooperation in your classroom. You can even add some of your own stories or verses in. Does your class this year need some extra work on learning how to listen? Tell a story about listening. Does your class this year need some extra work on how to sit quietly for a story? Be sure to use the “Fairies of the Story-time” verse with them.

Week Four: Crops and Harvest

Depending on what area of the world you live in you will be celebrating planting, cultivation or harvest this week.

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September Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Felt Nature Bag
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: C, D, #2

Week One: Bees & Honey: This is the month to harvest the honey crop if you live in the Northern Hemisphere. If you are in the Southern Hemisphere, as days are getting longer, Queen's egg production increases; the brood nest is growing further, resulting in growing bee numbers. Take some time to observe bees either at your own home or another location.

Week Two: Wisdom & Age (Holidays: Respect for the Aged Day in Japan is the Third Week in September)

Week Three: Leaves & Apples (Holidays: Johnny Appleseed's Birthday – September 26th)

Week Four: Dragons (Holidays: Michaelmas, Equinox, Autumn)

October Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Knit Scarf: Multi-color
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: D, E, F, #3

Week One: Birds. (Holidays: Saint Francis Day, October 4)

Week Two: Explorers & Adventures. (Holidays: Canadian Thanksgiving, October 13). Note that October 13 is also Columbus Day in the USA, and Canadian Thanksgiving honors the explorer Frobisher, so a good theme for this week is exploration and adventures!

Week Three: Multi-cultural World. (Holidays: United Nations Day, October 24)

Week Four: Darkness. This includes the safety of darkness, what animals live in the dark, what we do in the dark, and how to not be scared of the dark. More dark days are coming with less sunlight. (Holidays: Halloween, Samhain, October 31)

November Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Slipper Boots
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: G, H, #4

Week One: Peace

Week Two: Helping the Poor (Holidays: Martinmas, November 11th)

Week Three: Family

Week Four: Giving Thanks (Holidays: Thanksgiving. Date varies with country. If you don't have Thanksgiving, you can still use the theme of this week – Giving Thanks)

December Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Knit Scarf: Felt Mice
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: J, K, L, M, #5

Week One: Balance and Harmony (Holidays: Advent Starts)

Week Two: Angels

Week Three: Diversity in Nature (Holidays: Christmas, Winter Solstice, Yule, Hannukkah, Kwanza)

Week Four: Inner Work (Holidays: St. Nick's Day)

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January Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Spool Knit
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: L, M, N #6

Week One: Birth, New Beginnings (Holidays: Western Calendar New Year)
(Optional Holiday: January 6th is Three Kings Day)

Week Two: The Moon, Lunar and Solar Calendars

Week Three: Ice (and snow if you are in the Northern Hemisphere)

For the Southern Hemisphere, you can emphasize the role ice has in the summer or spring.

February Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Felted Doll
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: O, P, Q, R, #7

Week One: Candles (Holiday: Candlemas Day, February 2)

Week Two: Love (Holiday: Valentine's Day)

Week Three: Animals (Holiday: Chinese New Year)

Week Four: Bountiful Life (Holiday: Mardi Gras)

March Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Butterfly Wings
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: S, T, U, #8

Week One: The Wind (Holiday: Women's Day in China, March 8, Doll's Day in Japan, March 3)

Week Two: The Irish (Holiday: Saint Patrick's Day, March 17, The Ides of March, March 15)

Week Three: Picnics (Holidays: Spring Equinox, Ostara or NoRuz March 20)

Week Four: Rainbows

April Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Knit Butterflies
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: V, W, X, #9

Week One: Jokesters and Pranks (Holiday: April Fools)

Week Two: Herbs (Holiday: Easter, Date Varies)

Week Three: The Earth (Water and Mud) (Holiday: Earth Day)

Week Four: Recycling (Continue Earth Day Celebrations)

May Weekly Themes

Parent Craft Kindergarten: Granny Square Crochet
Kindergarten Letters and Numbers: Y, Z, #10

Week One: May Day – May Week – Song and Dance

Week Two: Mothers & Mentors – Mothers and Children – Can also be “Grandmothers” or “Fathers” depending on the family status of the child.

Week Three: May Baskets – Gathering Nature

Week Four: Mayfair Week – Celebrating May

June & July Curriculum is Available. However, Theme Summaries Are Not Available At This Time

SUPPLY LISTS FOR KINDERGARTEN WRITTEN CURRICULUM

Basic Supplies for All Lessons All Year

These supplies are used in many grades of the Waldorf curriculum, so if you have already been teaching in the Waldorf style, you may have many of these on hand. This is also a general list to get you started. If you get everything on this list, you will not need to supplement with much else all year. *You will also need the supplies from the "specific supply list" below this one.*

Optional Supplies for the Year

These are not required in the curriculum. However, they may be suggested or can be used to supplement lessons and support creative expression.

Specific Supplies for the Year

This list was taken directly from the crafts and projects presented in the curriculum

Basic Supplies for All Lessons All Year

Toys from Nature - *either handmade, purchased, or collected from nature. Some people supply their toy rooms with expensive play stands, wooden kitchens, and silk canopies. However, you can also make many handmade toys and collect items like acorns, pretty rocks, pinecones, and other things. The important thing is to create a space for your child to be creative at this age. They need some simple scarves for dress up, some baskets with items to sort, and at least one doll or small handmade toy (like the simple knitted rabbit in the tutorial section).*

Nature Bag or Basket - *you can knit or sew this for them or purchase it.*

Proper Outdoor Clothing - *modern society tends to keep the kids indoors when it is raining and snowing, but children need to experience nature on a daily basis. Make sure they have proper attire so they can go outside every day.*

Crafting Supplies - *When a child is this young, they do not have a standard crafting curriculum. Rather, they are being slowly introduced to some of the materials you are using and ones they will be using later on. There are a number of parent-child crafts mentioned in the lesson plans. Most of these crafts involve the following materials:*

Flour, Water, and other food items

Items Collected from Nature

Wool Roving in Different Colors - At Least One or Two Colors

Natural Soap (Woolite is fine too)

Red, Yellow, and Blue Watercolors

Watercolor Brush

Watercolor Paper (Minimum 11" x 14")

Watercolor Board (could use the wooden back of a frame)

Beeswax (for candles)

Optional Supplies for the Year

These are optional because you don't have to purchase them, although they are useful & beautiful items for this age. You can substitute & be creative if you don't have the funds to purchase them. If you do have the funds, you will want to consider that most of these will be used from the time a child is 1 until they are 12 or 14. They will still be in good shape for the grandchildren as well!

Ostheimer, Kinderkram or other wooden figures
Silk Scarves for Nature Table
Felted Toys and Scenery for Nature Table
Birthday Circle

Specific Supplies for the Year

1. **Craft Supplies:** Various materials for parent crafts are mentioned, although specific items are not detailed in the provided pages. Refer to the "Planner One Parent Craft" section for ideas on what to include.
2. **Snack Preparation Ingredients:**
 - **Rice & Purple:** Grapes, blackberries, blueberries, etc.
 - **Barley & Red:** Apples, raspberries, cherries, strawberries, watermelon, etc.
 - **Millet & Yellow:** Bananas, apples, sweet squash, zucchini, nuts, etc.
 - **Rye & Orange:** Oranges, mandarins, melon, etc.
 - **Oats & Green:** Wheatgrass, snow peas, apples, etc. These ingredients are listed under the snack preparations in the daily schedule.
3. **Cooking Supplies:** For making basic vegetable stock and chicken stock, you will need:
 - A saucepan (preferably glass or enamel).
 - Ingredients for the stocks.
4. **Blender Method Supplies:** If using the Blender Method for activities, gather the following:
 - An electric blender or a ceramic mortar and pestle.
 - A wooden spoon.
 - A No. 1 or No. 2 knitting needle.
 - Nylon monofilament or plain floss.
 - 3+ quarts of rose petals (can be from old flower arrangements or florist) and optional rose oil.
5. **Fabric for Table Tent:** To create a table tent, you will need fabric that covers the entire table and hangs down to the floor. Measure your table's width, length, and height to determine the amount of fabric needed.
6. **Picnic Supplies:** For the picnic activity, consider packing a variety of foods. The song "A Tisket-A Tasket" can be used to engage children in packing their picnic basket.

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About Main Lesson Books

Main Lesson Books in preschool and kindergarten are mainly used for drawing with block crayons. Preschool and kindergarten students do not have “main lessons.”

Although we provide a supply list, the main lesson books you use can vary according to preference. The only reason we have a list of different main lesson books on the supply list is to provide you with a variety of main lesson book experiences or the option to use different formats. There is no rule as to which book goes with which lesson. Some teachers prefer to use the lined books for writing, and others prefer to use the blank page/lined book combination for writing. Blank page books often work best for math. However, lined books can also be used. Once you become familiar with the main lesson book experience, you can choose your own books according to your preference. To decide on which lesson books you want to use/order, you can use the following list:

1. Main lesson books are used for each different subject. Every time a student does a math lesson or math practice, they write or draw in their math main lesson book. Each time a student does a language lesson, they use their language main lesson book. I usually provide my students with at least one nature journal book and one “free” book (in which they can do whatever they want or practice lessons before they put it into their main book), so base how many books you need on this guideline.
2. There is no rule as to what kind of book you need. I know one Waldorf teacher who has students make their own books with plain paper and yarn. I have seen some teachers use very specific books for each subject. I, personally, prefer the style of book with lines on one side and a blank page on the other side so the student has space to write and draw each day. Although I have seen others use the lined books exclusively (and then just glue or tape in plain paper as needed) and others use just the plain pages only, and either ask students to write without lines or create their own lines before they write.
3. For size, I usually choose the largest size available or at least medium. I find the students have a hard time opening up their creativity with the smaller books. Although a smaller book might work as a nature journal if you are carrying it with you.
4. The only requirement is that the book you create needs to be able to lie flat. Sometimes you can use a piece of the child’s art or wet-on-wet watercolor as the book cover.

Question from Member: *When should we start using lined books for writing?*

Reply from Earthschooling: We recommend second or third grade, depending on the comfort level of the child. When you do start, begin with wider lines before moving to thinner ones. You can “try them out” in second grade and observe how the child responds. If they are comfortable, then you can continue using them. Some signs of discomfort might be complaining about the restrictions of the lines, consistently writing off the line, or refusal to write in the books.

Question from Member: *I am having trouble finding the exact main lesson book that is suggested on the “suggested supply list.”*

Reply from Earthschooling: Although we provide a supply list, the main lesson books you use can vary according to preference. The only reason we have a list of different main lesson books on the supply list is to provide you with a variety of main lesson book experiences or the option to use different formats. There is no rule as to which book goes with which lesson. Some teachers prefer to use the lined books for writing, and others prefer to use the blank page/lined book combination for writing. Blank page books often work best for math. However, lined books can also be used. Once you become familiar with the main lesson book experience, you can choose your own books according to your preference.

KINDERGARTEN WRITTEN CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

All items below have a direct link, but can also be accessed by using your [main kindergarten page](#)

REQUIRED ITEMS	REQUIRED
I have downloaded my curriculum from the kindergarten page by the year , or I will download each month individually . I understand this is all I need to complete the year and that everything else is extra resources. I understand there is also a page that has all the daily planners individually here .	
I understand that if I download the planners by the month that I also need to download the document called "Introduction to all Months" as this will help guide me in using the curriculum. If I download the curriculum by the year, this document is included in that download.	
I have downloaded the Ultimate Kindergarten Written Curriculum Guide PDF. This checklist can be found within this guide so I might be using this file now.	
I understand that EarthschoolingHelp.com is the only place to submit support questions.	
I know I can find mp3s of all the lessons on the individual lesson planner pages . These are provided for any accessibility needs I may have.	
I understand that if I use more lessons beyond the required curriculum, I risk becoming confused or overwhelmed. I will proceed slowly and cautiously through all extra materials. If I start to feel overwhelmed or confused, I will take a step back and consider using only the required lessons or will add extra lessons and teacher education at a much slower pace. Earthschooling provides extra resources, so I have <i>choices</i> , not because they expect me to use them all.	
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED BELOW	PRIORITY
I have visited the Teacher Support Page for kindergarten and have browsed or watched the videos on that page that will help me in my journey (Package Members only – this is not available for Core Bundles)	
I have browsed the START HERE page to become familiar with those resources and have read or listened to the ones that I need at this time.	
ALL EXTRA AND OPTIONAL BELOW	EXTRAS
I have visited the Introduction page for kindergarten for help with organizing and record keeping.	
I have visited the Teacher Essentials Page and have skimmed through some of the important materials there for future reference such as: Waldorf 101, My Waldorf Year, Member FAQs, Planning Essentials, Classroom Essentials, and more	
I have skimmed the Kindergarten Music page to be aware of the extra resources I have there such as charts, sheet music, extra verses, and mp3s	
I am aware of the member galleries here on the Member Gallery page. However, I also know I can access all the member galleries from the EarthschoolingHelp.com page.	
I am aware that Earthschooling provides extra lessons for kindergarten if I need them on the Extra Lessons page	
I have looked at the optional book list for kindergarten on the Book List page .	
I know where to find the Kindergarten FAQs page . However, I am also aware I can link to this page from EarthschoolingHelp.com.	
I am aware there is a Cultural Enrichment page for all members and have skimmed the content to be aware of what is available.	