

Third Grade Earthschooling *Written Curriculum* Summary of the Year & Supply List

SUMMARY OF THE THIRD GRADE YEAR

This is a comprehensive guide for educators and parents involved in the Waldorf education system. It outlines the developmental changes that children undergo at the age of nine, emphasizing the theme of "Difference Between Self and Others" and the quest for belonging, confidence, and security in their environment.

Developmental Changes at Age Nine

By the third grade, children begin to experience significant psychological changes. They develop a stronger sense of individuality, which leads them to question adult authority and feel isolated from peers and family. This age marks a transition from the dreamlike state of early childhood to a more self-aware consciousness, where children start to grapple with complex emotions and existential questions. Parents and educators are encouraged to provide support and understanding during this critical phase, recognizing that children may exhibit mood swings, nightmares, and a heightened sense of self-awareness.

Curriculum Themes and Content

The curriculum is designed to align with the inner psychological changes of the nine-year-old child. It includes the study of origin and creation stories from various cultures, such as Aboriginal, Native American, and Old Testament narratives, which help children explore their identity and the world around them. The curriculum also incorporates practical life skills through projects in farming, house-building, and traditional crafts, which ground the children in real-world experiences.

Weekly Planners and Themes

The curriculum is structured into weekly planners, each focusing on specific themes that correspond to the developmental needs of the children. For instance, the first month emphasizes foundational skills through "cornerstone/review" lessons that introduce essential methods and concepts that will be built upon throughout the year. The planners also suggest incorporating rhythm and natural flow into the classroom, allowing for flexibility in lesson timing and structure.

Handwork and Practical Skills

Handwork is a significant component of the third-grade curriculum, where children engage in knitting, crocheting, and sewing. These activities not only enhance fine motor skills but also provide a tangible connection to their learning, as they create items that reflect their studies. The curriculum encourages children to create protective items, such as hats, symbolizing their growing independence and self-awareness.

Nature Studies and Real-World Connections

Nature studies are integrated into the curriculum, with a focus on understanding the natural world through hands-on experiences. Children will explore topics such as farming, gardening, and the study of plants and animals, which are presented in a way that connects them to human life and responsibilities. This approach fosters a sense of stewardship and respect for the environment, preparing children for more complex scientific studies in later grades.

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Storytelling and Cultural Narratives

Storytelling plays a crucial role in the Waldorf curriculum, with an emphasis on using fables and myths to convey moral lessons and cultural values. The curriculum suggests that stories should be told in a way that captivates the imagination of the children, allowing them to connect emotionally with the narratives. The importance of storytelling is highlighted as a means to engage children's hearts and minds, fostering a deeper understanding of the lessons being taught.

Parental Involvement and Support

Parents are encouraged to actively participate in their child's education by understanding the developmental changes occurring at this age. They are advised to provide emotional support, encourage artistic expression, and facilitate real-world experiences that connect children to their learning. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of a united front between parents and teachers to help children navigate their evolving relationships with authority figures.

Conclusion

The "Third Grade Curriculum for the Year" is a thoughtfully designed framework that addresses the unique developmental needs of nine-year-old children within the Waldorf education system. By focusing on themes of identity, practical skills, and emotional support, the curriculum aims to cultivate a sense of belonging and confidence in students as they transition from early childhood into a more self-aware phase of their lives. The integration of storytelling, nature studies, and handwork further enriches the educational experience, providing children with a holistic approach to learning that prepares them for future academic challenges.

DETAILED SUMMARY OF THE THIRD GRADE YEAR

Third Grade Planner One

Main Lesson: Form Drawing (Crossing the Midline, With Balance, Advanced, Midline & Octagram, Crossing Over Symmetry, Metamorphosis)
Complimentary Lesson: Farming: Part I
Creative Lesson: Knitting Review, Crochet Doily, Rag Rug, Watercolor Exercise (One and multiple color landscapes)
Music: Introduction to Soprano Recorder, Creating the Soprano Recorder Cards, All the Notes,

Third Grade Planner Two

Main Lesson: Language (Writing, Grammar, & Spelling)
Complimentary Lesson: Farming: Part II
Creative Lesson: Beeswax Modeling, Herbal Crafts
Music: Soprano Recorder (Golden September)

Third Grade Planner Three

Main Lesson: Native American Creation Stories
Complimentary Lesson: House Building (Early Homes, Shelters, Desert Homes, Stone Homes, Snow Homes, Tents & Teepees, Adobe, Ancient Egyptian, Ancient Greek Homes, Ancient Roman Homes)
Creative Lesson: Advanced Knitting (Review of How to Knit, Knitting a Wrap), Knit Slippers, Mini Homes, Embroidery, Drawstring Bag, Wet-on-Wet Watercolor (Red Clover), Creating a Lantern
Music: Soprano Recorder (Castles)

Third Grade Planner Four

Main Lesson: Old Testament Creation Stories: Part I (This is done as a folktale story focus and not religious)
Complimentary Lesson: House Building (Review of Ancient Egyptian Homes, Upper Class Egyptian Homes, Ancient Roman Aqueducts, Stables, Altars, Tower of Babel, Old Testament Villages, Wells)
Creative Lesson: House Building Craft (Making Fairy Houses, Building a Stable, Building an Altar, Building an Ark, Wax Tower of Babel, Building a Village, Building a Well)
Music: Soprano Recorder (November)

Third Grade Planner Five

Main Lesson: Math (Volume and Space)
Complimentary Lesson: Housebuilding & Math (Making a birdhouse, making a bat house, (optional) making a cold frame)
Creative Lesson: Housebuilding Crafts (see above)
Music: Soprano Recorder (Peace in the World, Pine Needles)

Third Grade Planner Six

Main Lesson: Old Testament Creation Stories: Part II (This is done as a folktale story focus and not religious)
Complimentary Lesson: Language (Grammar)
Creative Lesson: Felting People, Block Crayon Landscapes, Color Wheel Landscapes with Block Crayon
Music: Soprano Recorder (King of the Year)

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Third Grade Planner Seven

Main Lesson: Textiles and Clothing

Complimentary Lesson: Math (Long Multiplication)

Creative Lesson: Spinning Wool, Weaving, Dyeing Wool

Music: Soprano Recorder (The Changing Moon)

Third Grade Planner Eight

Main Lesson: Math (Long Division)

Complimentary Lesson: Form Drawing (Four-fold symmetry, metamorphosis III, freeform shapes, form drawing, and social studies)

Creative Lesson: Wet-on-Wet Watercolor with Primary Colors, Knit a ball, sewn felt ball, crochet a handbag)

Music: Soprano Recorder (Woods in Norway)

Third Grade Planner Nine

Main Lesson: Science Stories: Part I: The Natural World: The Year, Mushrooms, Day and Night, Cat Experiment, Experiment with Paper, Butterflies, Bugs & Plants, The Bumble Bee, The Queen Bee, Honey, Old Pear Tree, The Age of Trees, In the Woods, The Atmosphere, Pollen, Making Paper, The Length of Animal Life

Complimentary Lesson: Form Drawing and Science, Spiral Forms,

Creative Lesson: Crochet Hat, Flower Pressing & Drying, Making a Flower Press, Paper Cutting, Paper Folding, Vanilla Soap

Music: Soprano Recorder (Song of a Garden)

Third Grade Planner Ten

Main Lesson: Science Stories: Part II: Naturalist Heroes (Rachel Carson, Natural World Fairytales & Folktales, John Burroughs, John Muir, Henry David Thoreau)

Complimentary Lesson: Math (Money)

Creative Lesson: Herbal Creations, Knitting Socks

Music: Soprano Recorder (Festival)

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SUPPLY LISTS FOR THIRD GRADE 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

2 Main Lesson Books - 32 Pages, Landscape, 32x24 cm, Blank, With or Without Onion Skin.
2 Main Lesson Books - Composition Book 21 x 29.7 cm Portrait Format - Blank
2 Composition Books - 21x29.7 cm Portrait Format - Lined - 35 Lines Each Page
1 Main Lesson Book - Composition Book - 21 x 29.7 cm, Portrait, Graph Paper 10 x10mm Modeling Beeswax (Stockmar or can be made at home)
Modeling Clay (Stockmar or can be purchased at a local art supply store)
Watercolors (Set of 8)
Watercolor Brushes (Different Sizes)
Watercolor Paper (At Least 11" x 14")
Watercolor Board (Can purchase, make, or use the back of a frame)
Kinder Harp
Wool Roving - At Least 8 Colors
Felt Board (At Least 11" x 14" - Can Make or Purchase)
Yarn (4-8 Balls) - 100% Cotton or Wool
Wood Knitting Needles (Size 6 and 8 - also still need the 10 from last year)
Colored Pencils - At Least 16 Colors
Drawing Paper (Minimum 8" x 10")
Pencils for Writing
Pencil Sharpener
Eraser
Blackboard and Chalk for Teachers to Present Lessons (Recommended but Optional)

Optional Supplies for the Year

Small Blackboard & Chalk for Child
Weaving Loom (Small 12" x 12" is Fine)
Paper Making Frames (You Can Also Make Your Own)
Circle paper
Kite Paper
Natural Dyeing Supplies

Specific Supplies for the Year

1. Materials for House Building Project:

- 4 x 4-foot sheet of braces.
- 18-gauge perforated steel angle (about three feet in height).
- 16 washers to fit the hex bolts.
- 45 3/4-inch No. 8 wood screws.
- One long shower curtain or curtain pressure rod that can fit into the range of 48 inches.
- Poly sheeting (clear) to cover the top of the cold frame.
- 2-inch exterior plywood plus scraps of 1/4 inch plywood for corners.
- 2-inch diameter by 1-inch-long hex bolts and nuts.

2. Handwork Supplies:

- Six pieces of felt in assorted colors.
- Sewing thread and sewing needle.
- Wool batting or other type of stuffing material.
- Pins and scissors.
- Glue.

3. Dye Ingredients for Textiles:

- For yellow dye: Coreopsis (simmer bushels of flower heads for 1 hour), Goldenrod (simmer 2 lbs. of flower heads and stems for 1/2 hour), Onion skins (simmer 2 pounds of dry skins for 20 minutes).
- For green dye: Lily of the Valley (simmer 2 lbs. of fresh leaves for 1 hour), Queen Anne's Lace (simmer 1 bushel of heads and stems for 1 hour), Rhododendron (gather 3 lbs. green leaves, let them soak overnight, and then boil for 1 hour).

4. Special Snack Ingredients:

- For Adas with Taro: 1 cup lentils, 1/2 lb. chard, 2 lb. taro, 2 teaspoons dried sumac, 3/4 teaspoon salt, 1/2 lb. onion, 2 tablespoons parsley (chopped), 1 tablespoon vinegar, and 1 tablespoon oil.
- For Lentil Soup: Various vegetables, chickpeas, white beans, red lentils, and spices like cardamom, garam masala, cumin, and fresh ginger.

5. Flower Press Materials:

- 2 one-foot squares of 1/2 inch thick plywood.
- Clamps.
- Hand drill with 5/16-inch bit.
- Sandpaper.
- Four 1/4 inch bolts, 3 to 6 inches long.
- Fast-drying glue.
- Blotting paper, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, scissors, and an assortment of flowers and leaves.

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About Main Lesson Books: 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.

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THIRD GRADE WRITTEN CURRICULUM CHECKLIST

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

REQUIRED ITEMS	REQUIRED
I have downloaded my curriculum from the third-grade 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 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 have downloaded the Ultimate Third Grade 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 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 third-grade 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 third-grade for help with organizing and record keeping.	
I understand that I also have the option to use the archived third-grade blocks . However, the material in these blocks is not as complete as the planners.	
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 Third Grade 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 third-grade if I need them on the Extra Lessons page	
I have looked at the optional book list for third-grade on the Book List page .	
I am aware that students will need to practice the math they learn in the planners and that Earthschooling provides practice problems on the Math Problems page. However, I am also aware I can find math problems for all grades linked from the EarthschoolingHelp.com page.	
I know where to find the Third Grade 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.	