

Scheduling Your Year

Before you get started into your school year, it is always good to do some planning ahead of time. Here are some hints:

- Get a calendar:
 - Mark off any days you know now that you will not be doing school work. For example:
 - Dentist and doctors appointments
 - Family weddings/reunions
 - A two week family vacation to Disney Land in October to take advantage of the cheap rates.
 - Finish early in June or take a longer Christmas vacation/spring break
 - Decide how many days a week you want to do school. Some people like to do formal school work 4 days a week. One day a week is set aside for field trips, housework, errands, music, and activity classes.

- Plan your weekly schedule
 - Decide what subjects you will be doing on what days and in what time frames. Consider the natural “rhythm” to your family life and the optimal learning times. Consider also other children – toddlers and preschoolers who may be underfoot or needing naps, and older children who may go to a school or have other commitments. There is a blank weekly form for you to plan this out on, as well as a sample schedule as a template. (If you wish to have further resources on scheduling many children as well as household chores and activities, the book Managers of their Homes is highly recommended.)
 - *Please complete this schedule and submit with your September submissions.*
 - You will need to account for the hours spent in each subject. To complete a year in elementary school requires 855 hours spent in instruction during the year. Based on a 36 week school year, this translates to 23 hours, 45 minutes per week. As you’re planning your subjects for the week, consider the following time recommendations:

- Language Arts (1hr, 15min/day): This is a very important area of academic development for your child. You will need to plan to do language activities every day for consistency and practise. This time allotment can include formal curriculum activities, as well as natural times of language development such as reading books aloud to your child. Your child is old enough now to begin reading longer books independently, so remember to allow time for silent reading throughout the day.
- Math (1 hr/day) This again, is a very important area of development, and mathematical experiences should occur on a daily basis to encourage your child to gain the skills and concepts necessary. This time allotment will include mostly curriculum work, but within that will also include work with manipulatives and solving daily math problems. Encourage your child to find and experience math in regular daily occurrences.
- Socials (2hr, 30 min./wk) Your child will be moving into more paper based work in their social studies, so plan for more table time in your studies. Yet, social experiences for your child are still very important. Ensure you leave enough time for curriculum work, reading books, looking at maps, as well as going on field trips, and lots of discussion about what they are learning.
- Science (3hr./wk) Science is all around us, and your child will enjoy discovering many scientific phenomena. Plan for direct instruction as well as lots of focused investigations and experiments. Include in their daily life discussion of their observations about the world around them.
- (Please note – many families find it very useful to rotate science and socials throughout the week)
- Bible (1/2hr/day) We encourage you to conduct daily devotions with your child to help them develop their understanding of who God is, and His work in our world. Of course, discipleship will happen in many ways throughout the day and on Sundays during church, but a daily time with your child either doing devotions or working through suggested curriculum is a subject which we at CHEK value highly. Plan for it accordingly and it will happen more easily.
- Fine Arts (2 hr/wk) Being a Distance Learning school, we require our students to study 2 of four fine arts. Students and families may choose between drama, dance, music, and visual art. Many CHEK groups may do drama activities as a group, and then you only need to study one at home. Or, you can do 2 at home. You can pick whichever one(s) suit your child and lifestyle the best. Plan for at least 2hr of fine arts instruction, though, in your week. This curriculum guide includes suggestions for fine arts.
- Physical Education (2 hr, 30min./wk) It is not difficult for a child in grade three to get this amount of PE in a week! They are still typically very active. It is also very important as they are completing more academic work and need good play breaks. Plan for some time in each day to be regular play times outside, at the park, riding bikes, etc... Also, a weekly scheduled activity (such as swimming

lessons or soccer) is also very helpful to the strategic development of certain skills and abilities. Plan for these in your week accordingly.

- Weekly Dayplans:
 - There is an included schedule in this curriculum package for what needs to be accomplished each month. Each subject has had the chapters and assignments broken up between the weeks of the school year. The yearly plan has considered two weeks for Christmas holiday, and two weeks of spring break. Any other deviations you will need to account for in your weekly plans.
 - You will need to translate the information on the yearly plan onto a weekly schedule to ensure that you will get the required amount done by the end of the month. In your weekly plan, consider non-instructional days, doctors' appointments, other deviations for holidays, catch up work etc... There is a blank dayplan attached for you to plan your assignments on a weekly basis. Or, instead of using a separate day plan, simply use your weekly schedule and pencil in the week's assignments in the subject blocks during the week.
 - Don't forget to write into your dayplan your regular weekly activities such as swimming lessons, music lessons, play groups, etc..