

KGRD DoAheads

There are plenty of things you can do to get a jump on next year. This checklist follows the organization on the Primary Grades webpage. All underlined titles are buttons. If you want editable versions, go to littleschoolhouseinthesuburbs.com/editable.

Get Your Bearings

- Read the Intro to KGRD.** I'm on my fifth round teaching K and I still refer back to it.
- Print these Do-Aheads.** I have no idea why I didn't make these printable before!

Gather Supplies

- Print the KGRD Supply List.** I keep mine in my grade-level book box. I dump *everything* into that box as I find, order, or print it. I only check off what's *sitting in the box*. I often take all summer and into the fall to gather everything.
- Print the KGRD Xtra Books List.** Don't freak out. You don't need them all. Use it as a checklist for what you have laying around, can get from the library, or borrow from a friend. Since MoDG doesn't specify a reading order, there's no need to own it.
- Read the Blank Books post** and decide. I use the Bare Books 6x8.
- Old Bookless Science Plans:** Write "weekly nature walk" in your mom notebook. It's assumed, but not explicitly assigned.
- New MoDG Book Plans:** Print the *New* 2GRD Science list. Gather what you can now. See the Art & Music section for storage remarks.

Religion

- Check out my generic liturgical calendar** or if you already have the syllabi, email me for the one with all the MoDG books scheduled. Use the calendar to make smart book buying decisions. Notice how MANY books are during Tgiving, Xmas, Spring, and Summer breaks.
- Accept that y'all may really dislike the Golden Bible.** It's more Language Arts than Religion; that perspective will help you persevere. The language patterns are advanced, intentionally. Gird your loins.
- Know that the illustration assignments hop between the Art and Religion plans.** Make yourself a note to keep those weeks in sync or it will be really confusing later.

Math

- Say aloud "Abeka will get HARD in 2nd grade if we don't already know our math facts, but I totally have two years to do that."** Getting the memory work done makes the worksheets go quickly next year, but it isn't *vital*. However, skipping Abeka's memory work in 1st makes the next year MISERABLE. The worksheets take FOREVER.*
- Read my KGRD Math Must-Do list.** Decide how much you want to fool with.
- Pass an eye over the KGD Detail Drills.** They're OVERKILL, but mimic the Abeka manual regardless of what edition of the workbook you use.

*I use Teaching Textbooks 3 *online* now in 2nd grade. NO prior memory work needed.

Literature

- ❑ **Say aloud, “It doesn’t matter how many books we read as long as it’s all *good stuff!*”**
Don’t try to “get through” the book list. Formation is not about comprehensive content, just QUALITY content. If the book is GOOD, read it as many times as you like. Measure success in minutes per day, not # of titles completed.
- ❑ **Check out the KGRD Fiction Schedule**, if you want one. From the school resources, it’s clear that Berquists didn’t rigidly stratify by grade-level for read alouds, just divided into bigs and littles. If you have multiple K-2 kids going, do not make yourself crazy trying to keep them separate. Laura only stratified by grade because parents kept asking for it.

Reading and Spelling

- ❑ **Read the Reading Overview**. Decide what you think of it.
- ❑ **Understand the limits of 100EZ**. It’s genius at teaching blending and sound isolation and other hard-to-teach skills, but not phonograms. At the end of the year you will only have: c,d,f,l,m,n,r,s,t,th,w, short a-i-o-u, and LONG e. No b. No short e.
- ❑ **Memorize these words: TEAM READING**. At a certain point, the lesson plans tell you to have them read an easy reader. He can’t unless he learned things outside the 100EZ lessons. To gather more phonograms and put sight words (advanced phonogram and rule words he can’t possibly navigate) in his visual memory, I highly recommend *repetitive TEAM READING* of Little Angel Readers or Faith and Freedom Readers or whatever.
- ❑ **Somewhere on your Mom notebook, write “Sequencing.”** That’s the language arts focus this year in retellings. Here’s a made-up example for The Very Hungry Caterpillar: “The caterpillar ate lots of bad food. He ate a leaf. He turned into a butterfly.” The Very Hungry Caterpillar can’t eat the leaf and *then* hatch out of an egg, but don’t correct if they leave something out or add (worm has rainbow hair, is 5 years old just like they are, etc.)

Poetry

- ❑ **Print the KGRD Poetry**. Stick it in your mom notebook. You don’t need the *Harp and Laurel Wreath* now.

Art & Music

- ❑ **Decide how to store supplies**. In our house, it’s called the “Nazi Box.” Remember the “Soup Nazi” from Seinfeld? That’s me with art and science supplies. “No tape for you!” I put all the science and art supplies in a box and *no one can touch it*. If you use up the “house” glue sticks, do NOT come thieve the one I need for timelines! “No glue for you!”
- ❑ **Old Bookless Plans: Check out my Art Folders post**. See what you think.
- ❑ **Old Bookless Plans: Go ahead and cut out your art cards**. I think the pdf that now comes to enrolled folks says to toss out Miro and Chagall. I can’t remember if anything else is ugly. If the whole beautiful/ugly thing is as confusing to you as it was me, google up the Prager U Modern Art video. It helps.
- ❑ **Old Book (Jemison) Plans: Check out my K-2 GRD Hymn Links** or upload your CD to itunes and play it from there. Also, my kids don’t love the singer’s voice. The links are more beautiful. If you can carry a tune, you’ll quickly ditch the CD anyway.
- ❑ **Remember that evening music time in the sample schedule is NOT the 1 min hymn**. Berquists listened to Classical music before bed. I don’t know why it’s still in there if they aren’t going to explain it or assign anything.