

Global Village School[®]



Whole Child Healthy Planet

Curriculum Guide



Global Village School®



Whole Child, Healthy Planet

Curriculum Guide

Kindergarten

Authors: Sally Carless and Michele Blumberg

Global Village School®
Whole Child, Healthy Planet Curriculum Guide

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Thank you for your interest in the Global Village Whole Child, Healthy Planet curriculum guides. This sample contains the full Table of Contents for the 104-page guide, followed by extensive excerpts from many sections of the Kindergarten curriculum guide. Please note that the guides are printed in black and white.

Global Village Kindergarten Curriculum Guide (11th Edition) - SAMPLE

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Global Village School and the Whole Child, Healthy Planet Method

It's an amazing world we live in. We are delighted to be your guides as your family explores the wonders of life on this planet together. We hope that this curriculum facilitates a powerful and engaging experience that opens your children's hearts, eyes, and minds to all the magical people, places, and experiences this world has to offer.

This is such an incredible time to be alive because so much of the world is open to us—people in other centuries did not have access to the amount of knowledge and information that we do. The thought of homeschooling may be intimidating if you are a first-time homeschooler, but we trust that you will soon feel much more confident as your view of learning expands to include the world around you. In fact, you'll likely have trouble remembering what you were so worried about!

This chapter contains:

- 1. General information about Global Village School, our authors and contributors*
- 2. Introductory information about the curriculum guides and how the GVS method works (included below)*



ABOUT THE CURRICULUM GUIDE

We are delighted to be able to offer curriculum guides that are fully aligned with our educational values. With a learning styles-centered approach and focus on diversity and developmental stages, our elementary program is designed to engage the whole child. The curriculum guide combines a student-centered philosophy (creative, flexible, holistic, and experiential) with an emphasis on peace, justice, diversity, and sustainability.

The curriculum guides are centered on the four core principles of the Earth Charter (a comprehensive and inspiring road map for the future of the planet—see Appendix and www.earthcharter.org):

- 1) Respect and Care for the Community of Life
- 2) Ecological Integrity
- 3) Social and Economic Justice
- 4) Democracy, Nonviolence, Peace and Diversity

Our K-8 curriculum guides cover all of the core academic subjects in a way that connects with students through a sense of enchantment, awe, and wonder through the incorporation of art, music, nature, imagination, and story.

HOW THE METHOD WORKS

People who are "products" of traditional schooling methods are taught to follow directions (and not to get started without them, because you might do something wrong!). So it is natural to be concerned that you "do it right," and to want detailed instructions. That is how most parents start out. What we have observed over the years is that people get more and more comfortable with the process and soon find (often during their first homeschool year) that they do not want or need as much instruction as they thought they did. Kids and their parents get "into the flow" and they are off and running. School life is never the same again.

We want to help parents and children make the learning process their own. We provide a multitude of ideas; by following your child's interests and learning style you are free to branch out in numerous ways. There is no reason for every fourth grader to answer the same questions about the same topic at the same time. Some families will probably structure their year exactly as we have suggested, while others may be so excited by one of the books that they spend several weeks following where it takes them, and, accordingly, spend less time on some of the other topics.

HOMESCHOOLING FROM THE HEART

We have been working with new homeschool parents for many years now and have found that the thing we do more than anything else is aid them as they create the learning environment they know is best for their child. There are so many pressures homeschooling parents face, particularly those doing it for the first time; so many myths about education that rear their ugly heads as soon as someone steps outside the norm. Many people are still under the illusion that "regular" schools do things best even when the actual results—student dissatisfaction, dropouts, etc.—are negative. Some families who homeschool are harassed by people who don't know better; those with no sense of the courage and commitment it takes to step outside the norm in search of something better for their kids.

Learning is all too often politicized and regimented in schools today, with tragic results for many children. It has become something that is "done to" children, rather than the natural, unfolding process that it really is. Look at a young child and what you will usually see is a little magnet for learning, looking, exploring, tasting, touching, asking question upon question.

Our goal is to assist you in homeschooling your child in a humane, inspiring, and socially conscious way. We encourage you to listen to your heart and to listen to your child: observe them—what lights them up? What fascinates them? When do they come alive? That is where to start your "curriculum."

Homeschooling affords you the opportunity to keep the learning process alive; we encourage you to make the most of it!



CONSULTATIONS—IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

If your children are enrolled in Global Village School, then contact your GVS teacher for support. They will be happy to help you. If your kids are not enrolled, then you can arrange for individual consultations. Our consultants can provide creative ideas for when you feel stuck or just want to try something new, suggestions for additional resources, and overall support and encouragement.

Call 805-646-9792 or e-mail info@globalvillageschool.org for more information.



Chapter 2

Curriculum Resources

This chapter contains a curated list of books and other resources aligned with Global Village values for you to use in creating your own personalized curriculum geared exactly to your child's interests, needs, and learning style.

ABOUT THE RESOURCES

Okay, here we go!

We have spent many months researching and combing through our collective resources to come up with a list of materials to inspire and enliven your family. There is a lot here—most likely much more than you will be able to get through in a year. So please remember that we have designed it to be like a big smörgåsbord, which means you probably do not want to put everything on your plate all at once, and some of it might not even make it onto your plate this time round!

Kindergarten has quite a comprehensive book list. We expect that few people will use all of the books. Rather than telling you which ones to use, for Kindergarten we leave that up to you. We recommend that you use a good number of the books from each subject area, but please use your own judgment about what is best for your child.

There are many more resources, in addition to the resources listed in this chapter, in Chapter 6. These are all optional.

GLOBAL VILLAGE HOMESCHOOL TOOLBOX (KITS)

There are some books and resources that you will use for more than one year. We call these the homeschool “kit.” Some are optional and some are a core part of the curriculum. You will find notations about this in your resource list.

Again, please remember: this is just a place to start. We do not believe there are any education standards (even ours) that work for everyone.

HOW TO GET THE MATERIALS

Most of the materials we have chosen are readily available. If we have not told you where to get something, it means it can easily be found at either a local bookstore or library or online. We have provided information on where to get the resources that are not so easy to find.

STEP ONE: ORDERING YOUR BOOKS AND RESOURCES

If you have not already done so, we suggest that you start by reviewing the list of suggested resources below. Check your local library first, and then order anything that you or your library does not already have. We recommend that you get your own copies of all the core resources, since you will be using them throughout the year.

Once you have ordered the materials—or at least a good portion of them—then take your time and read through the rest of this guide.

Note: If you shop at Amazon.com, using this link will help support Global Village School and future editions of this guide:
<http://tinyurl.com/26z5f2a>



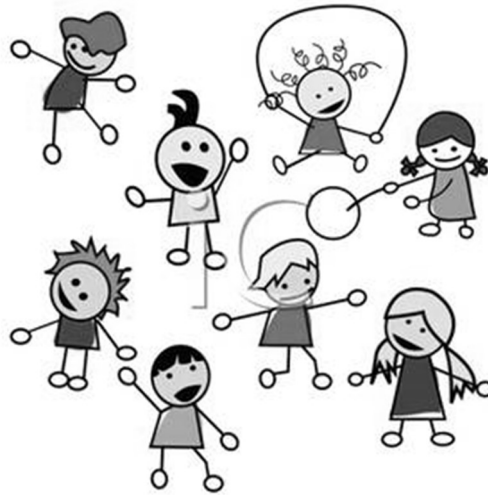
PARENT RESOURCES

This section contains 4 books for parents to learn more about progressive early childhood education and teaching peace studies with young children. Here is one of them:

Learning through Play (ISBN-10: 0060128194) (Optional)

By Jean Marzollo and Janice Lloyd, Harper Colophon books.

Michele says, “The best book on early childhood education ever! Just do everything in it.” While this book from 1972 is out of print, at the time of this writing it was available cheaply at abebooks.com and Amazon. (To find it on both sites you have search for the ISBN as it doesn’t show up by title on the first couple pages of results. Make sure you look at both the paperback and hardcover options.)



KINDERGARTEN LIST OF RESOURCES

A note about the “picture books”: Even though you and your child may finish some of these books very quickly, remember that there is so much learning that can be built around them, and some of them contain quite sophisticated language, art, and ideas. Using the instructions we have provided throughout this guide, you will be able to facilitate wonderful learning with these books. Also, remember that there is an extensive supplemental reading list in Chapter 6.

Whole Child/Literature

This section contains 7 engaging books that teach social skills for young children and help them celebrate diversity, nature, and more. Here are two of them:

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We Can Get Along: A Child's Book of Choices (ISBN-10: 1631980270)

By Lauren Murphy Payne M.S.W. and Claudia Rohling M.S.W.

A brightly illustrated book that teaches the Golden Rule and how children can learn to get along with each other. *(Digital version available)*

All the Places to Love (ISBN-10: 0060210982)

By Patricia MacLachlan (Author) and Mike Wimmer (Illustrator)

A beautifully illustrated story that welcomes a child to his place in nature and the beauty that surrounds him as he grows up.

Social Studies/Diversity/Literature

This section (Social Studies/Diversity/Literature) contains 7 books that explore human diversity and social justice through stories. Here is one of them:

We Are a Rainbow (ISBN-10: 0881064173)

By Nancy Maria Grande Tabor

An introduction to how we are different and yet the same. A colorful celebration of similarities and differences.

Language Arts

This section contains 4 books focused on learning the alphabet and other pre-reading activities through play.

**Workbooks for Early Learning**

This section contains 6 books. They include a focus on alphabet, phonics and basic skills to prepare for first grade.

Science/Eco-Integrity

Secular or religious? All of our science resources are **secular**; no religious perspective is included.

Summary of resources:

This section contains many resources: 13 books including a nature activity book with an extensive collection of hands-on activities. Topics include the beauty of nature, endangered species, recycling, pet care, creatures in tide pools, bugs and more. Here are two of them:

Eliza and the Dragonfly (Sharing Nature with Children Book) (ISBN-10: 1584690593)

By Susie Caldwell Rinehart and Anisa Claire Hovemann

Eliza learns about the life of a dragonfly after one flies in the window and lands on her toothbrush.

National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Animals (National Geographic Little Kids First Big Books) (ISBN-10: 1426307047)

By Catherine D. Hughes

Learn about 32 different animals: where they live, what they eat, how the parents care for them, and more. Includes numerous wonderful National Geographic photographs of the animals.

Math

There are many different math curriculums to choose from. We recommend researching several options to find one that is best aligned with your child's learning style. Math curriculums range from being more classic, with lessons and practice worksheets, to less traditional using online computer games. There are also some comprehensive reviews on YouTube for most of these curriculums where you will get a chance to actually see the materials. This can be especially helpful before purchasing. Some students follow one curriculum while others may piece together several or make modifications to one in order to best meet their needs. It is important that children are empowered to learn math in a way that feels right for them. Here are just some of the math options available to homeschoolers. Take a look to see which curriculum seems like the best fit for your child's learning needs and family context. If, for any reason, you are unsure about which curriculum to choose, your Global Village teacher will be happy to speak with you and help with suggestions.

Conventional Math Curriculums using text and worksheets:

_____ - _____ has been very popular and effective with many GVS families. It provides a comprehensive full year's math curriculum (K-12), with an emphasis on mastery and problem solving. It includes manipulatives, even in the upper grades, and teaching videos. (Some families choose not to get the manipulatives as they can be a little pricey.) Online assessments make it easy for parents to choose the most appropriate level for their child rather than relying on grade level. Lessons can be followed by watching the DVD or reading the text. Children then have worksheets to practice what they learned in each lesson. Unit tests are also included. Packets come with answer keys as well for parents to oversee work. You can learn more about this curriculum at _____.

_____ - _____ is a comprehensive K-12 program focused on long term mastery and application of concepts. Children are taught incremental concepts in progression while consistently reviewing old concepts. Includes teacher guide, practice worksheets and tests for monitoring progress. The early years of math use manipulatives to teach concepts while the older grades use textbooks. For more information go to _____.

_____ - _____ provides a K-8 curriculum using textbooks and worksheets. It uses progressive math education methods to teach foundational math by building on concepts and skills from different angles to prepare students for more advanced levels. The website provides assessment tests in order to find the appropriate level for your child. For more information go to _____.

This section goes on to discuss an online option, a non-traditional storytelling math option, 4 other books/programs, and 2 fictional/biographical books about math.

Note: We encourage you to also include other age-appropriate math games and activities as desired.

Arts and Crafts

This section contains 4 books with various age-appropriate projects that value the process over the product.

Kit

This section lists art supplies, a book of nature activities, and a kids' encyclopedia that you can use for more than one year.

STEP TWO: READ THE REST OF THIS GUIDEBOOK

While you are waiting for the materials to arrive, read through the rest of your Whole Child, Healthy Planet Curriculum Guide, and get ready to have a great year!





Chapter 3

Now What? (The Instructions!)

Preparation

How to Use the Resources: Instructions and Activities

Enhancing Your Skills

This chapter contains two main sections:

- **Articles** about how to prepare your learning environment, observation and teaching skills, a learning model for using the materials, how to create “immersion projects” and branch off in multiple directions from a given resource, and more.
- **Detailed activity ideas** specifically written for the resources in this guide.

The activity ideas are specific to this grade level. The articles are included in most or all of the other guides (there is slight variation between some of the grade levels).

Articles include:

- *Setting Up Your Learning Environment*
- *Developing Observation Skills (Including Self Observation), Finding Teachable Moments*
- *Using Your Educator’s Ear with Materials and Books*
- *Introduction to Kindergarten*
- *How to Use the Resources in Our Curriculum Guide—A Learning Model*

INTRODUCTION TO KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to the world of Kindergarten, and congratulations! You have taken a big step in deciding to homeschool your child. We know that parents can have many concerns about the decision to homeschool, particularly if they have never done it before. We know also that many parents are the very best teachers their children can ever have. We are here to support your effort and back you up with great materials, ideas, and curricula. As you know, Global Village can help you with all aspects of organizing and carrying out your homeschooling. You can have as much or as little teacher support as you want and need.

Every home schooling family is different, so we hope that you will be creative with these materials and adapt them to your situation and needs. Should you need help with that, your GVS teacher can be of great assistance to you as you take on the tasks of working with your kindergartner.

One of the main things to remember when you go through this year is the actual meaning of the word, Kindergarten. It means “child’s garden” or, in other words, a garden for the children. It is a meaning that has become lost for the most part, as the world puts increasing pressure for “achievement” on parents and teachers of even the youngest children. We are here to help you stay true to the real meaning of the word, and create a garden for your child to grow in. So, what kind of garden would you like to create for your child? What does she need? What is she excited about? ... *(Excerpt – this article is 1-1/4 pages long)*



Articles and Instructions for Kindergarten

The following section contains over 10 pages full of ideas for working with kindergartners. Topics include:

A Sampling of Activities for Kindergarten – a one-page list of language, writing, readiness education (see excerpt below), science, and practical life skills.

Articles – Parents Learn, Too!; Thinking About Structuring Your Year (3/4 page, see excerpt below), First Look at Materials and Books (one page)

Additional articles on how to begin, how to structure your day, balancing structure and flexibility, language and reading for kindergarten, storytelling, following a child’s natural interests, and 3 pages of instructions and ideas for teaching math including an article called Teaching K Math with a Set of Dice, a Deck of Cards, and an Egg Carton.

A Sampling of Activities for Kindergarten

Here is a list of common Kindergarten-age activities. As we’ve said before, though, every child is different, so use your own judgment in what to do with your child.

Includes a page of different ideas



Thinking About Structuring Your Year

The books and resources we have suggested are excellent guides for beginning to structure your Kindergarten year, but it is up to you to build that year. Even if you can't quite believe it yet, and are quaking in your boots wondering why you did not get your child in that school you were thinking about, I want you to know this: no one knows better than you where to begin with your child. You know their strengths and weaknesses, you know the best time of day in which to find "teachable" moments, you know their interests and how best to capture their attention. A good way to begin to think about structuring your home kindergarten is to spend some time with your own journal thinking about your child and writing down your observations. Here are some questions that could guide you... *(Excerpt)*



Structuring the Day

It is well known that children thrive with a certain amount of structure. How will you arrange your learning day? How many hours do you see there being in it? Some people are very structured about their home schooling and set it up much like regular school. Others are less time-oriented and more exploratory. ... *(Excerpt)*

... Our goal is to make YOU the best home teacher you can be. Simply handing you a workbook that tells you exactly what to do is not going to give you the skill you need to be an excellent home educator. So, herein you will find a unit plan with some sample lesson ideas that point you in the direction of your own creativity and expertise. Hopefully, with some ideas from us on how to dig the learning out of books and lots of confidence to just go ahead and use your own inner teacher you will design your own program that will custom fit your child and yourself.

Balancing Structure and Flexibility

Lesson plans are funny things. On the one hand, they are detailed and exact; however, the creative teacher knows that although they present ideas and give structure, the best way to use them is not to hold onto them too tightly! So, take ideas—and perhaps take a way of structuring your work—from these examples, but please remember that what you are ultimately trying to do is multifaceted: you are trying to present something to be learned, provide an experience, and guide that experience, while at the same time you are using your observation skills to “follow the child,” as Maria Montessori said.

... (Excerpt)



This 10-page section ends with:

... There—that should get you started! Keep being creative and look for every opportunity in the day to teach what you want your child to learn. Every day is presenting a myriad of teachable moments and experiences. Math is all around us. When we cook together, when we see what the temperature outside is, when we go out into the world—it is all there just waiting for us to notice. Every time you use the everyday experiences of your young child as “school,” you teach them that they are living in a fascinating world of interconnection and discovery. This is so much better than the fractured bits of learning that can often be the world of early education. Get out and count those ladybugs!

HOW TO USE THE RESOURCES IN OUR CURRICULUM GUIDE—A LEARNING MODEL

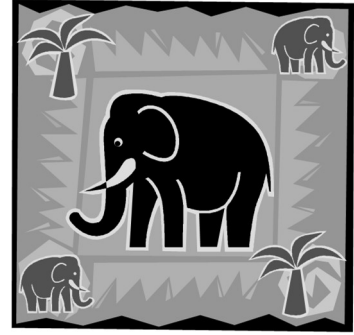
This article comes from Michele Blumberg's many years of experience as a very successful tutor.

In our curriculum guide we present a suggested book list you can use as the framework upon which to build your child's learning year. This is by no means a complete list of all books you need or could use. You can get many more suggestions from your GVS teacher.

Our hope is that you will utilize these books as a springboard into the many ideas and discoveries they present. At best these are a representation of what is out there. In exploring these suggested books you may be led to many others.

Most curricula are built around a textbook and a workbook. Ours is built around the inspiration found in many types of literature. Sometimes we do suggest a text or a workbook, but more often we look for a book that will bring about the same learning in a more creative, beautiful and fulfilling way. In many ways our choice of books resembles the idea of "living books" that early home educator Charlotte Mason proposes. Some of the qualities of living books are:

- Literature created by a person with an obvious special interest in his/her subject.
- A personal, human, emotional quality to what is presented.
- Books that are inspiring and attractive to the spirit as well as intellect.
- Material that promotes a sense of wonder and appreciation.
- Books that fulfill the learning goals of that grade.



DRAWING OUT THE LEARNING

Our suggested books (and those that you can find for yourself) can be used as a way into your own creativity. You can do this in lots of ways, specifically: Book Projects, Re-tell or Re-Create, Make Your Own Workbook, and Immersion Projects.

(... Excerpt) The article continues for 6 more pages, with

information on book projects (1 page),

narrative learning (1-1/2 pages, see excerpt below)

creative ways to make and use workbooks (2-1/2 pages)

and an introduction to immersion projects (1 page, see excerpt below).

Re-Tell and Re-Create: The Value of Narrative Learning

Traditional educational systems put a lot of value on the written word but research shows that narrative learning is very important as well. In the past, narrative learning (telling what you know from memory, by story and narration) was the primary way in which one demonstrated knowledge. For eons, and today in many world cultures, ‘telling’ is the way in which knowledge and wisdom is imparted. Deep intuition tells us that when one’s learning can be narrated in a manner that others understand a lot of learning has taken place. Educational theorists are beginning to recognize this ancient fact—“Constructing stories in the mind, or ‘storying’ as it has been called, is one of the most fundamental means of making meaning.” (Wells, 1986)

Indeed, one might well say that meaning making is the very heart and soul of education. It is certainly an important part of a GVS education.... *(Excerpt)*

IMMERSION PROJECTS

A great thing to do with a book you find especially inspiring is to create what I call an “Immersion” project. This is when you literally saturate yourself in a topic and draw all your learning from it for a while... *(Excerpt)*

... Hidden within any book—or even within any poem for that matter—is a wealth of what we call “inherent” curricula. The answers to many of our questions about “what do I do with this?” are right there in front of our noses. We can become skillful at finding those treasures and building our child’s education around them. And—it’s fun!

This sample immersion project, or unit plan, gives you examples of ways in which you can begin to look for inherent curricula in the books on our lists, or in any other books. The best way to get started at this would be to read the book and unit plan sample yourself first and see if you can begin to see how the activities and curricula jump off the pages.

Give it a try, and remember: your GVS teachers and advisors are always here to help!

SAMPLE IMMERSION PROJECT (AKA UNIT PLAN) THEME: WATER

Turn to pages 40 and 41 in (book)_____ There you will find instructions for making a “Bobbing Boat” and several other boat-related projects.

- Gather the materials to make the boat, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. Talk to your child about what you are going to do.
- Make note of the fact that the word boat begins with “B.” Does your child know what sound that letter makes? What other letters does your child recognize (and know the sound of) in that word? If your child is beginning to read, you might point out what the letters “oa” do in words and think up some other “oa” words.
- Write the letter “B” on a card and set it aside to decorate later. After you have made your boat, spend some time finding things around your environment that begin with “B.” Write the letter on a card and attach it to that thing.
- Make your boat.
- While you are making your boat, you have an excellent opportunity to begin a conversation about bodies of water and water itself. (This is actually the topic of this lesson!)
- Some questions to ask:
 - What kinds of bodies of water do we know of? (Lakes, oceans, rivers, streams, bathtubs, etc.)
 - How many have we been in? Where were we? Who were we with? What kinds of boats have we been in?
- When you have finished your boat making, take a little break—maybe have a glass of water! That will be fun at this moment.
- Next, read the book “Water Dance,” which describes the origin of water and the water cycle.



(That might be enough on this topic for one day—perhaps your child will want to go on, perhaps not; you will have to determine that.)

Meanwhile, you have just begun to scratch the surface of the wonders of water! The next projects you can move on to are:

- Write the names of all bodies of water you know on drawing paper and illustrate them.

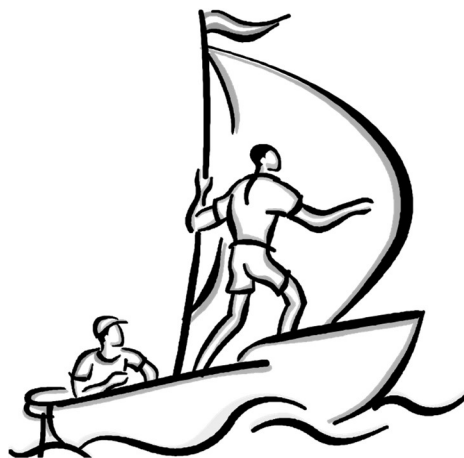
- Learn the words that are in the water cycle (evaporation, condensation, precipitation).
- Create a water cycle sculpture—here's how:
 - Cut out two white pieces of paper in the shape of a cloud.
 - Staple them together, leaving an opening on one end. Fill the “cloud” with cotton balls to make it puffy, and staple it shut.
 - Using blue yarn or ribbon, or by using long pieces of very thin tissue paper cut out long strings of “rain” and tape them to the “cloud.”
- Hang your cloud in your learning area.
- There are a few songs and rhymes about rain on pgs. 69 and 70 of ***Little Hands Fingerplays and Action Songs***.

Ways to further extend this learning:

- Visit several bodies of water (a puddle does count!)
- Get books from the library that involve bodies of water and rain.
- Look at some books that show storms and hurricanes (unless it's too scary!)
- Read some books that teach about water creatures and birds—then you will have many, many more ideas, and blast into a whole new area!

I hope you can see what I am illustrating here. With a good creative eye, you can dig the learning out of even a simple project like making a little boat. You start with a simple topic and let your imagination go. You can take a day, a week, a month or more to work on any given theme. When you teach this way you are presenting the child's mind with many things: they begin to see that the very world around them is fascinating and full of things to learn. They learn a way of learning based upon observation, creativity, and the further reaches of their own intellect. They become unafraid to explore and they learn that education is not the memorization of fragmented “bits,” but a whole picture emerging from the interaction of their own senses with the universe. (And you were worried they would not learn enough from you!)

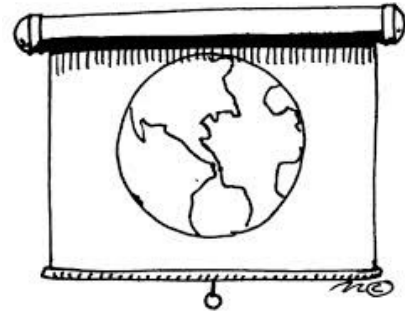
This can be done with just about any topic. So build a boat and set sail!



KINDERGARTEN SAMPLE MINI UNITS

By Patricia Kane

This section contains two sample “mini” units. The mini units are another way to extend the learning from any number of books in this curriculum guide. The first sample focuses on science, with an emphasis on honey bees, and the second is focused on social studies with an emphasis on friendship and diversity.



SCIENCE

Resources:

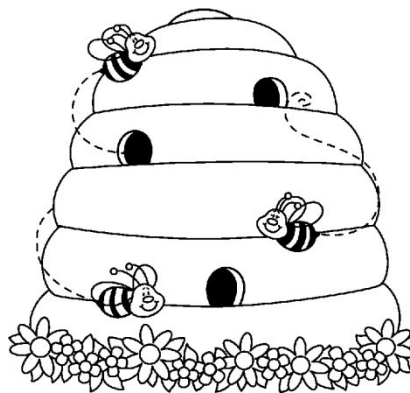
(book) _____

Wall map of the world, if possible

Activities:

This section has one full page of detailed activities. Here is an example:

- Find out how much nectar a bee can carry in its 'honey tummy' for one flight from flowers back to the hive. To see how much work this is, place a little cup that is filled with 1 tablespoon of water on one side of the room (the flower). Now, take a medicine dropper and 'fly' from the opposite side of the room (your hive) to the little cup where you pull 1 drop of water in your dropper, then 'fly' back to the hive where you deposit it into another small cup. Continue this activity until all the water from the flower is deposited in your hive. That's a lot of work, isn't it?



SOCIAL STUDIES

Books:

- *We Are a Rainbow* by Nancy Maria Grande Tabor

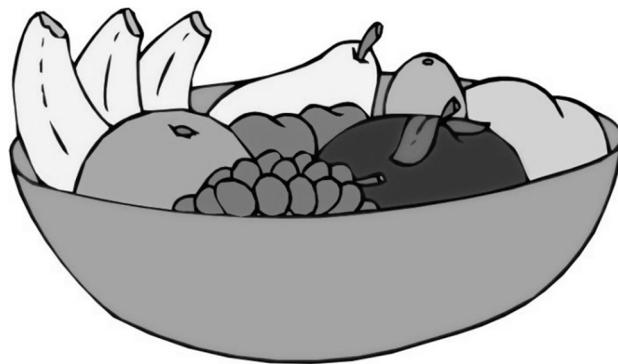
Other Suggested Books (Optional)

- *4 optional books listed here to support the topic of diversity and individuality.*

Activities:

This section has 1 ½ pages of activities. Here is one of them:

- After having read *We Are a Rainbow*, talk about how friends are like rainbows – how are they different from you and how are they the same. Paint a large rainbow (a large poster, if possible) and hang it on a wall. You can even make a rainbow by painting your hands and placing them repeatedly on the paper in a large arc. Paint a picture or make a collage of yourself to place on the wall below the rainbow. Invite a friend or family member to do the same. Look at your portraits and talk about how to be a good friend to one another while recognizing your similarities and differences.





Chapter 4

Planning, Scheduling and Record-Keeping

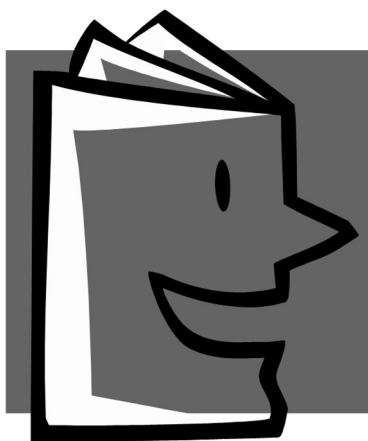
SUGGESTIONS FOR SCHEDULING

While some people do fine “just winging it,” we highly recommend that you look at the full year in the beginning, and plan around when your vacations and other family activities and trips might be. See the end of this chapter for some formats you may find helpful.

For planning purposes, you may want to divide the school year into nine four-week units. Most schools are in session for approximately 180 days per year, which comes out to thirty-six weeks. Allowing for four weeks of vacation time, this will take you through a typical 10-month school year.

Literature: Whole Child, Diversity, Social Studies

Storybooks—choose two or more of these each month. Obviously, many of them will not take long to read; the reason we chose them is that they are wonderful starting places for rich explorations. Your *Whole Child, Healthy Planet* Curriculum Guide contains many ideas on how to use these books as entryways to days, possibly weeks, of engaging study.



Additional reading—encourage your child to read (or look at books) as much as possible (and remember to read to them as much as you can!) Take them to the library (or bookstore, if you prefer) often. Let them choose books of interest. Don't worry if they are not at the “right” grade level. If a book is too difficult, but they're interested, then help them read it or read it to them. If you think it's “too easy,” don't worry about it. If it supports them in developing a love of books, then how can it not be a good thing? Also, remember that the book list in Chapter 6 contains many additional suggestions.

This section contains another 1-1/2 pages of general scheduling suggestions for:

Language Arts (spelling, grammar, cursive writing)

Science (story books, and the “making a difference” book)

Math

Art

PE

****NEW:** We have added a 5-page article about recognizing and assessing your child’s interests, and how to use those interests to drive your lesson planning.*

PREPARATION FOR UNIT ONE

Your child’s interests can become the most powerful foundation for his or her education. In fact, children develop lifelong learning skills by pursuing their interests simply because they are driven to understand and know more. **‘Interests’ are subjects, ideas, objects, topics, and events which captivate and stimulate the curiosity of a child.** Selected interests can be developed through mini units or immersion projects involving related, **fun learning experiences based on a child’s Learning Styles Profile. These experiences** provide children with opportunities to explore their interests further **while** demonstrating their understanding and expressing their thoughts and creativity.

As you notice your child’s current fascination with and questions about a topic, the focus of learning surfaces. *(Excerpt)*

The article continues for 4 more pages, with:

an interest inventory list of questions

tips for choosing interest-based resources

guidance for integrating your child’s interests into all subjects

.....Along the same line of not separating subjects from one another, core values are also integrated in child-driven education. Peace is engendered in an environment imbued with natural light, where children care for plants, practice gratitude, as well as reduce waste. Diversity is honored through accessible books & toys of many different races, religions, and cultures along with displayed artwork, photos, and drawings of multicultural children, their homes, and traditions. Songs or stories in different languages, dance, authentic foods, holidays and crafts introduce a wide variety of cultural traditions to your child. Lastly, involving children in sustainable practices, including the three R’s, being nature aware & water wise, shopping locally, composting, growing a garden, biking instead of driving will all contribute to a healthier and happier family and home in addition to a well-educated child!

As a model to plan your first weeks, review the mini units in this guide as well as the Immersion Project. Do you see how all subjects are integrated through the resources and activities? That is the key to planning your Kindergartner's year.

- Follow his or her interest to find lots of pertinent resources.
- Refer to your child's Learning Styles Profile which will guide the kinds of activities through which s/he'll flourish.
- Check in with your GVS teacher for specific suggestions.
- And always, have fun! The best education dances with surprise. It pursues wonder. It finds joy at every turn. Welcome to Kindergarten!



UNIT 1 PLANNING (WEEKS 1-4)

In order to keep yourself on track, look at the calendar and plan the dates for this unit (we recommend approximately 4 weeks).

UNIT 1 dates: _____

The guide contains a page with basic instructions and a planning chart for each unit/month (9 total)

NEW: *We have added 1 page of tips for Preparation For Unit 2, 1 page of tips for Preparation For Unit 3, and 1 page of tips for Preparation For Unit 4 and the rest of the year, to help you build on what you discovered about your child's learning as you plan your learning activities.*



Reminder: Chapter 3 of this curriculum guide lists a large number of activities that you can use to integrate and demonstrate learning as you work with the various books and resources listed below.

KEEPING A WORK LOG OR JOURNAL

Whether you are working with a Global Village teacher, a charter school supervisor, or in some other way, you will need to keep track of what you and your child have done together. There are many ways to do this.

Some home school parents like to keep a log or a journal of the day's or week's work. This can be useful in helping you realize just how much learning takes place in an average day; it can also serve as a guide showing you where you have been and where you are headed. It helps the GVS advisor immensely when you keep a log of your work; it will be valuable for you both to be able to refer to it during your conversations. This log can be very simple (see sample formats below) and need not take up too much time, or it can be a more elaborate project that you do with your student, producing a kind of scrapbook diary of your learning.

If you are the type of person who usually sticks to the plans they make, then your planning calendars could also serve as your documentation. If you tend to change plans as you go, then you will also want to keep track of what you actually did, since it may look very different from the plan you created.

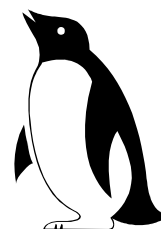
Take some time to consider how you will document your child's learning experiences; ideally, you can make it creative and fun as well as informative. Also, remember that you can experiment with all kinds of different methods—see what works best for you!

SAMPLE RECORD-KEEPING TEMPLATES

SAMPLE RECORD-KEEPING FORMAT #1

We suggest making a weekly summary of your child's activities. Feel free to adapt as needed.

This section contains five different templates that you can choose from for record-keeping and scheduling.





Chapter 5

The Global Village Philosophy, Untangling the Myths about Education and Learning

This chapter is devoted to supporting the homeschooling educator in deepening their own learning about the GVS Method. We include most of the articles in each grade level as a touchstone—a way to help you remember that your instincts are good—that there is a healthier way for your children to learn and grow. Just as your children’s learning spirals into increasing depth, so will yours as you revisit these articles each year.



A SPECIAL NOTE TO THE NEW HOMESCHOOLING PARENT

Congratulations! You have taken a very courageous step on behalf of your child and their future. You may find that the first few months are not easy as you adjust to new routines. The good news is that you will also find your children coming back to life during the process of making education more engaging and relevant to them.

Homeschooling is a wonderful and complex journey. You will have days that feel great, and days when you wonder why you ever had such a crazy idea. Over time you will find the days that you question become fewer and farther between. You will also quite likely find that you experience less conflict with your children than parents with children in traditional educational settings. Many homeschool parents tell us of the joy of being able to spend so much more time with their children. It may not seem like it now, but childhood actually goes amazingly fast. In families where the parents work all day and the children are at school (not to mention homework time!) there is often little energy left for family time. ... *(Excerpt)*

LEARNING STYLES

Respecting learning styles is another way of valuing diversity. Just as the world contains a wide variety of cultures, it also contains a broad spectrum of learning styles.

The traditional educational model works well for those students who like their days to be predictable and orderly, sit at desks, eat only at scheduled times; who learn best by listening, reading, and doing worksheets. These students are actually in the minority. The majority of students—those with differing learning styles—learn best within alternative structures.... (Excerpt)

...As you move through this year in your child's life, we encourage you to pay a great deal of attention to their interests, needs, and learning style. You do not have to "do school" in the "usual" way, and we hope you don't!

MUSIC, ART, NATURE, AND IMAGINATION

For many children, the arts are what make the soul come alive and sing its song. We hope that you will put as much art, music, nature study, and time for imagining into your child's life as you can. ... (Excerpt)

SOME THOUGHTS ON VOCABULARY, GRAMMAR, AND SPELLING

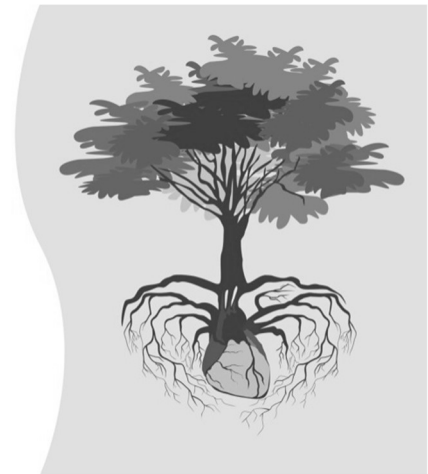
So many children have been traumatized by traditional ways of teaching these subjects that we hesitate to tell you what or how much to do in these areas. How much you do with vocabulary, grammar, and spelling this year is up to you.

We believe that it is often not necessary to emphasize these topics as much as traditional schools do (and certainly not in the same ways), especially if your child reads a lot. It is possible to learn a great deal of vocabulary, grammar, and spelling just by reading. Please do not force-feed your children; it will only cause them to hate it.

It is not necessary to buy a special vocabulary book, particularly in the younger grades. There are many ways to integrate vocabulary in a natural way. For example, you could create a special binder or scrapbook where your son writes down words that are new to him. He can illustrate this book if he wishes. Having him create his own flashcards is another fun way to go. You can also come up with ways to play with spelling words; you do not have to give a spelling test each week. If your son thinks it's fun, then go ahead, but do not push it if it just gives him a sense of failure.

Please remember that it is always important to follow your own instincts and your child's natural timing. Your children will learn much more if you present the topics in a gentle, natural, and enjoyable way.

As always, don't hesitate to check with your Global Village teacher if you have questions or concerns.



HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE “DOING ENOUGH?”

Many new homeschool parents worry that their kids are not doing enough, partly because learning becomes less of a struggle. If they enjoy their studies and stay focused, they may well finish their “official” schoolwork in a short period of time, well before their school-going friends are home. Now what? How can we explain to the neighbors that our kids are already done with school for the day? People who are unfamiliar with the process of homeschooling or those with a narrower view of learning may think that “real learning” occurs with pencil in hand and books open, so when a homeschool student finishes much faster than they would have if they were at school, it is only natural that someone will be concerned that they are not “doing enough.”

Let us help you expand your view of what learning is. What many people forget is that **learning does not stop when you put the books down**. It is so much more than sitting in a classroom listening to lectures, reading a textbook, and answering questions. Learning goes on throughout the day, whether you are consciously “doing school” or not... *(Excerpt)*

... Pay attention to your son and observe his level of engagement. If he has lost interest, and/or if you are starting to force him to do it, then that is a clue that it is time to move on. Is he still reading about Egypt when you want him to move on to the next topic? That is a good clue that he is not done yet

WHAT IF MY KIDS FINISH EARLY OR WE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO DO? (YOU’RE IN LUCK—WE LIVE ON A FASCINATING PLANET!)

If your kids finish early, first of all don’t forget to celebrate! Then, if you want to, this is a prime opportunity to go deeper and wider. ... *(Excerpt)*

Note: Remember that Chapter 6 has a very long list of additional resources for you to choose from.

AM I GOING TO RUIN MY CHILD’S LIFE IF...?

Here is one of the main myths that new homeschool parents (or anyone who questions the traditional model of education) run up against:

You will ruin your child’s life if you take them away from the only people who “know” how to teach, and from the “standards” that specify what every child needs to know



when. If you don't follow these rules then your child will be "behind," won't get into a good college, won't get a good job, and won't have a good life... (Excerpt)

OBSERVING THE ROLE FEAR PLAYS IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

Most of the traditional views on education are oriented around fear, particularly in the so-called "No Child Left Behind," era. Now it is not just kids failing, it is entire schools under threat of being taken over if their kids do not do well enough on standardized tests created by people who think they know how to quantify learning and define what is essential. The government pressures the administrators, who pressure the teachers, who pressure the kids... (Excerpt)



ABOUT "STANDARDS" AND GRADE LEVEL

There is much talk these days about state standards, accountability, and testing, testing, testing. Accountability to whom? To the planet? To future generations? While these "standards" may be a good starting place, do they really address what people need to learn and do in order to become effective global citizens and stewards of our planet?

This section is not written in order to "bash" anyone. However, in order to move past the intense fear that surrounds ideas about grade level and standards we must first confront them. It is a myth that forcing children and schools to "meet" arbitrary state and national standards is either necessary or effective... (Excerpt)

ASSESSMENT, TESTING, AND GRADES

Friends and family members of homeschool students often want to know what grades they are getting. New homeschool parents feel the pressure. They want to be able to reassure everyone that their children are doing fine, that they have not made a big mistake by pulling them out of school.

Why all this emphasis on grades? What do they think grades mean? What are they really asking: Are your children learning as much as mine? Are they learning as much as they would in a “regular” school? Most of us have been taught that grades are a valid way of assessing children and comparing them to each other, but are they?

Many colleges have begun to question the validity of standardized tests because it turns out that one of the main things these tests predict is a student’s ability to do well on future standardized tests. Fortunately, these colleges are looking for a broader picture of their potential students. Can a test measure the light in a young person’s eyes? Can it measure their ability to hold true to their vision—to follow their dreams?



What does an “A” really mean? People like to pretend that letter grades have a consistent meaning, but they do not. In some classrooms, students are marked down for being late, for missing class, not submitting their assignments on time, for not “participating,” etc. While it is true that a student generally has to have a fairly good grasp of the material to get an “A,” there are many “C” or “D” students who may have an equally good, if not better, understanding of the concepts. They may have a stressful personal life, no study space, an illness, or perhaps they have to go to work right after school in order to help support the family.

What does it mean to “be” a “C student” or an “F student?” The assumption is that these children are not as intelligent as the “A kids.” Think back—do you remember who the “smart” kids in your class were, and who the “dumb” kids were? And the rest, who were “average”? Where did you fall in that spectrum? How did it feel? How has it affected you in your later life? How did you feel about the kids that were “above” or “below” you? Did you really see them, or were you blinded by the labels given to them? If you were one of the “smart” ones, did you feel extra pressure to do well on tests? If you were not a “top student,” did you feel like not trying so hard because you didn’t think you could do well enough anyway?

Grades often interfere with real learning. Real learning is not about consuming facts or covering a wide swath of material. Real learning occurs when there is engagement. Students in traditional schools learn what their teachers expect from them in order to get a good grade early on. Getting a good grade soon becomes more important than the learning itself. In addition, the pressure to get a good grade can create a level of stress that ends up impeding the learning process. Students come to associate learning with fear, pressure, and potential reward and punishment. At Global Village, we recommend that our K-8 students do not receive letter grades.

So how do you know if your child is learning? Well, the truth is that the vast majority of parents we have worked with develop a good sense of this, and children themselves know and will be quite honest about it if you ask them. Parents, particularly those new to homeschooling, often worry that their children are not doing “enough,” or that they are not doing what they “should” be doing. But when asked what their instincts tell them, what

their hearts tell them, then we hear the stories about the transformation of their children, how they are actually doing very well—flourishing, in fact.



There are many ways to assess learning that don't involve testing. Throughout this curriculum guide, we provide a wide variety of suggestions for learning activities. The projects your children create and the conversations they have with you and others will tell you a lot about what they are learning. If you are working with a Global Village teacher, she will help you with the assessment process. If you are not, then give yourself permission to follow your own instincts. Do your best to free yourself from what you were taught about how to "do school."

Mastery Learning: Our goal is for students to learn the material rather than pushing them through whether they understand it or not. Therefore, we give them more than one opportunity to submit their work. If there are tests in the materials you are using, use the tests as a tool. If you take the pressure off, then tests can even be fun. Do them in color—put glitter on them! If the test shows you that your daughter still has trouble understanding some of the concepts, then let that be an opportunity for you to go back and spend more time on the material. Do not let the tests become a judgment about how smart or "good" she is.



The type of feedback GVS teachers give (and the type we recommend you give) depends on the individual student, as well as the style of the teacher. We believe that one size does not fit all. Different strategies work better at different times and with different students. For example, in the case of a student who absolutely hates to write and gets paralyzed whenever she is asked to write anything longer than a paragraph, we recommend that the home teacher ignore spelling and grammatical errors in the beginning, in order to get the ideas flowing again and allow the student to experience some success. In contrast, another student who is feeling very confident will quite likely be ready to receive more detailed feedback on spelling, grammar, and writing in general.



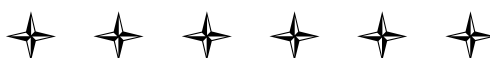
Chapter 6

Going Further: Additional Resources

RECOMMENDED BOOKS AND MUSIC— SOME OF OUR STAFF FAVORITES

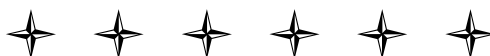
This chapter contains supplemental articles and resources (over 80 books and several CDs) plus detailed resource descriptions. You do not need to use any of them if you don't want to. This is a "bonus" section of sorts – a collection of extras that we thought you and your kids would enjoy as you move through the homeschooling journey together.

If you purchase more than one grade level, you are likely to find quite a bit of similarity between the resources we provide in this section, particularly if you order successive grades. We gradually adjust the lists as the grades progress, but we leave some books on for several years because we know most people will not have the time to read even a small percentage of them in one year. As an example, the lists of "Books for Instilling a Love of Reading" are quite similar in grades 1 and 2, but entirely different for a first grader and an eighth grader. It is the same with the "Classic Books" and "Health and Development, Heart/Soul" section. The music list is the same for each grade level.



The full guide, which is 104 pages, concludes with a copy of The Earth Charter. Global Village School's Whole Child, Healthy Planet curriculum guides are centered on the four core principles of the Earth Charter:

- *Respect and Care for the Community of Life*
- *Ecological Integrity*
- *Social and Economic Justice*
- *Democracy, Nonviolence, Peace and Diversity*



Thank you for your interest in our Whole Child Healthy Planet curriculum guides. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions!

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Appendix

The Earth Charter

THE EARTH CHARTER

The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society for the 21st century. The mission of the Earth Charter Initiative is to help establish a sound ethical foundation for the emerging global society and to promote the transition to a sustainable way of life founded on: respect and care for the community of life; ecological integrity; universal human rights; respect for diversity; economic justice; democracy; and a culture of peace.

The Earth Charter Principles:

1. Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.
2. Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.
3. Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.
4. Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.
5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.
9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.
10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.
11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.
12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.
13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.

14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.
15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.
16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.

The Earth Charter was formally launched in 2000 in ceremonies at The Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. Over the next five years, a formal endorsement campaign attracted over 2,500 organizational endorsements, representing millions of people, including numerous national and international associations, as well as the global assemblies of institutions such as UNESCO and IUCN. Over 400 cities and towns enacted resolutions endorsing the Earth Charter. And many thousands of individuals endorsed the Earth Charter through the on-line endorsement system.

The Initiative is supported by Earth Charter International (ECI), a small coordinating secretariat governed by the Earth Charter International Council and comprised of a small network of regional centers and field-posted representatives. Currently there are two formal Centers: one Center in Stockholm, Sweden (Center for Strategy and Communication) and one in Costa Rica at the University for Peace (Center for Education for Sustainable Development). These Centers in turn work with a very global and diverse association of governmental, civil society, religious, business, and international institutions who are formally or informally linked to the Initiative, as Affiliates, Partners, Endorsers and Supporters.

