

The Loom: SCHEDULING ADVICE BY DANA CAYWOOD

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I'm sure you've heard the acronym: KISS. "Keep It Simple Sweetie." With this in mind, schedules for Lower Grammar students and preschoolers need to be flexible. A few things to consider as you plan your days:

- How about a 4-day school week? Your 5th day could be field trips, baking, or other hands-on projects. Yes, count this as "school".
- Have a stopping point each day. If you don't get done with your plans, there is always tomorrow!

Household training is a must. Taking tiny steps toward this type of learning will be invaluable in future years.

- Are baby supplies close at hand? Don't make things more difficult by having to traipse upstairs, or across the house, for items you know you'll need every hour.
- Train children as to your expectations during baby-care time.
- Teach these children to check off (check mark or sticker) each task on their chart as it is completed.

MAPPING IT OUT: ONE METHOD (Most of the activities listed below can be done in 10-20 minute increments. The order in which you do them isn't as important.)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 am	Breakfast, chores, family devotion				
8:30 am	Independent play time while Mom begins working with oldest child: phonics				
9:00-12:00 pm	Alternate days: Gross motor skills: playing with ball, riding bikes, marching around the house, relay races, etc. Fine motor skills: play dough, cut-and-paste, coloring pages, puzzles. Fine motor skills can be worked on during the next learning segment.				
	Read alouds: from <i>Tapestry</i> history core	Read alouds: from <i>Tapestry</i> history core	Mapwork and assignment in <i>Tapestry's</i> Writing Component	Hands-on activity based on week's reading	Finish hands-on activity from yesterday
	Memory work: show and orally review on a poster	Memory work: cover key words	Memory work: cover more key words	Memory work	Recitation
	Science: read from text or library book	Handwriting practice	Science: hands-on activity or create a notebook page	Handwriting practice	Library trip to prepare for next week
	Math. Give younger children their own "assignments". Base this on what will hold their attention.				
	Educational games: puzzles	Educational games: math-related	Educational games: history-related	Educational games: phonics-related	Educational games: child's choice
	Household training: keeping up with your bedroom				
	12:00pm	Lunch and cleanup. Outside play if the weather is good.			
1:00 pm	Naps or quiet time in your rooms				
2:00 pm	Read-alouds: from <i>Tapestry</i> literature. OR, do before lunch. Take 5 minutes to review phonics lesson or spelling words.				
2:30 pm	Household training: choose one room and everyone work in it all week.				

The Loom: TRAINING TIPS & SCHEDULING FOR UPPER GRAMMAR

TRAINING TIPS & SCHEDULING FOR UPPER GRAMMAR

When your oldest child is an Upper Grammar student, typically 4th – 6th grades, he is ready to begin assuming more responsibility for his own education. As with everything else in life, this is a process. Hang in there! It will bear fruit in time.

- Gear your academic day around the needs of the oldest child, since he has the most to accomplish, and fold younger children into the mix.
- Incorporate weekly planning by involving the student. You are still in control of content, but let him choose how many pages or assignments to accomplish each day. He'll write this into his own blank chart.
- Continue to check on his work daily. Make sure he knows, ahead of time, the consequences for poor or lacking work.
- Reading aloud to your student is still important. Conversely, you'll occasionally want him to read aloud to you to check for understanding.
- Utilize students this age for reading to preschoolers. Not only does this develop oral reading skills, but also helps build relationships.
- Thirty minute increments for each subject are about right. Four major academic days will still work!
- Memory work and educational games are now part of subject assignments, without separate designation.
- The row that I've called "other" is for one more thing...it could be Latin, phonics review, piano lesson, etc. Limit this to one row so that neither you nor your kids will be overwhelmed.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00 pm	Breakfast, chores, family devotion				
8:30 – 12:00 pm	History readings & map work	History readings & questions	History readings & oral review	History hands-on	History hands-on
	Science assignment	Science assignment	Science experiment or notebook page		
	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
	Language Arts: grammar	Language Arts: grammar	Language Arts: composition lesson	Language Arts: composition assignment	Language Arts: oral presentation while Dad is home
	Language Arts: spelling	Language Arts: handwriting	Language Arts: spelling	Language Arts: handwriting	Language Arts: spelling test
	Language Arts: literature reading	Language Arts: literature reading	Language Arts: literature reading	Language Arts: worksheet	Language Arts: discussion
	Other	Other	Other	Other	Other
12:00 pm	Lunch, clean-up, keeping up with your bedroom (10 min.), outside play time if the weather is nice				
1:00 pm	Naps or quiet time in your rooms. Can incorporate read-alouds to begin this time segment.				
2:00 pm	Fine Arts: music lessons or practice, or assignments from this row of the <i>Tapestry</i> Year-Plan				
3:00 pm	Household training: choose one room and everyone work in it all week. (15 min) Then free-time according to family rules.				
4:00 pm	Outside play, sports, etc. Encourage exercise!				

WHAT IF YOU HAVE A HOUSE FULL? STUDENTS AT ALL LEVELS?

Well, *your* day will be full... your younger children will work for various times in the day; your older children will work much of the day. Think back to your high school years: the days were pretty full if you had schoolwork (including homework), a sport, a musical instrument, clubs of any sort, and church obligations.

Please note, these are time *slots* for various activities. *Not all activities use up all available time in each slot!* Additionally, not all families have children in all age-levels represented, but in case you do, there's a place for everyone.)

Abbreviations: PS = preschool, LG = Lower Grammar, UG = Upper Grammar, D = Dialectic, R = Rhetoric

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday			
6-8 am	Morning chores, breakfast and dishes, ablutions, house pickup, quiet times and family devotions							
8-9 am	Planning meetings		PS-LG: w/Mom: Phonics Math Science	UG-R: Independent reading, Spelling, Math	LG: Phonics/Math lesson	PS-LG: w/Mom: Phonics, Math, Science	UG-R: Write rough drafts.	LG: Phonics/Math lesson
9-10 am	PS-LG: w/ Mom: Phonics Math	UG-R: independent reading		LG: Quizzes: Spelling, Vocab. LG: prewriting with mom All others: independent work of various kinds.				Mom red-pencils rough drafts of writing assigns. Discusses changes one on one with each.
10-12 am	RECESS FOR ALL: 15 minutes. Snack: fruit, toast or protein (like cheese stick).							
	PS-LG: read aloud w/ mom	UG-R: more independent reading/Math	Hands-on fun! Or, more independent work with read-alouds for younger.	UG: prewriting with mom D: prewriting with mom R: prewriting with mom	Hands-on fun! Or, more independent work with read-alouds for younger.	Weekly quizzes/ tests: Spelling, Vocabulary, History/essay. Polish writing and present.		
12-1 pm	Lunch and dishes. Chores like laundry, dinner preparations, maybe a quick errand.							
1-3 pm	PS-LG: naps or rest UG: Math class w/mom: Mom checks planners D-R: independent work: make Vocabulary cards, maps for the week, Science reading, practice instrument		LG/PS: naps or rest UG: Math class w/mom: Science class w/mom D-R: independent work: run Vocabulary cards, Science class w/mom		Weekly co-op meeting: History lecture/ discussion LG/PS: naps or rest UG: Math class w/ mom: Science class w/mom D-R: independent work: time line, run Vocabulary cards, Science class w/mom		Weekly co-op meeting: Literature discussion Writing class. If mom's not teaching, go to the library w/ little ones. Else, errands.	
3-5 pm	Sports/lessons/practice for music lessons, recreation. Perhaps afternoon tea? Snack. Laundry, cleaning, errands as needed.							
5-7 pm	House pick-up, dinner prep, eat dinner, dishes: Daddy time!							