Please Note: I have developed these curriculum materials to use with my own family. I am not offering any legal advice on homeschooling nor can I guarantee in any way that these materials will meet your state standards for education. It is up to you to be sure your family is working within your state's guidelines. I will try to keep all links/book lists current but obviously use caution when visiting websites and note that book availabilities change all the time. In most cases you should be able to find a suitable replacement.

If you find any major mistakes please let me know via email (michelle@weefolkart.com) but please ignore minor mistakes such as typos. I try... but remember this is a labor of love not a business. One of the best ways to say thank you is to place your Amazon or BWB orders by starting on our site. The little gift cards I get help me find great books to share with you!

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Harvest Time 12 Week Curriculum
(Preschool-Kindergarten / Ages 4-6)
## Harvest Time Curriculum Overview
(Preschool-Kindergarten / Ages 4-6)

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### Additional Books & Supplies

Picture Study: Come Look with Me World of Play by Gladys Blizzard

Manipulatives: Toy Farm and Animals


See the Craft Supply List for more details.
Harvest Time

Harvest Time was developed as a twelve week fall program when my oldest was in kindergarten and my middler in preschool (originally published Aug 2008). It is the first term of a 3 term year schedule that focuses on the rhythm of the seasons with a special emphasis on holidays and nature. To complete the year you will also need to download Winter Wonderland (term two) and Bees, Butterflies and Buds (term three). This program was designed as a gentle way to introduce my children to the world around us. We read, baked, and crafted together. We did great big messy art and made a long lasting Harvest Quilt that is often fought over when we snuggle on the couch. It was a wonderful year that we all enjoyed thoroughly. I’m now dusting it off in preparation of using it again with my youngest.

How is this program set up?

Each week includes one fictional story to be read two or three times throughout the week and one corresponding non-fiction book that can be read once. These books will cover all the social studies and science you need at this age. Each week includes one or two activities that correspond with the book theme of the week. One journal page with your child’s narration is completed each week. I also encourage you to take a weekly field trip to places that often do not need to be further than your own backyard or neighborhood market. We also add in a picture studies and poem memorization. Keep in mind that the layout is very flexible and you will have to determine when to complete each task. You will find a Weekly Guide within this packet to help you get organized. You can complete the ‘assignments’ by working two, three or four days a week.

Preschooler

The Flower Fairy Alphabet coloring book & corresponding poems are a lovely way to introduction your preschooler to the alphabet. Please note, the letters are arranged in the order they are presented in the Explode the Code Series for Kindergarten. You can follow that order or just start with A if you would like. Handwriting wise I’m happy if my preschoolers can write their own name (I write my preschooler’s name with a yellow marker on lined paper for her to trace) but you can easily add in the D’Nealian Handwriting Little Books, completing one a week if you have a child who would like more instruction. For math we play counting games (counting bears, beans, pennies), use pattern beads and play simple card games like Go Fish, War and Memory (we use a Math Deck - no face cards and Aces are marked as 1s). For math game ideas I recommend the book “Games for Math” by Peggy Kaye. We also practice color and shape recognition. Puzzles are a great too.

Kindergarten

To make this a full curriculum for a kindergartner you will need to add in a math program, I recommend Right Start Math A, and a phonics program, I use the Introduction to Explode the Code Books A, B, C for Kindergarten (and possibly book 1). I have scheduled the alphabet in the order they appear in ETC. ETC also has teacher guides if you would like assistance in introducing phonics. I do recommend the Leapstart Letter Factory DVD as well but be careful with the sounds for R and L. On the video the R comes off sounding like ER and the L like UL... be sure to repeat the sounds to your child without the leading vowel. When my kids start showing an interest in reading I start with the Bob books and move onto the Now I’m Reading readers. We use D’Nealian style handwriting books. I have added both the D’Nealian Handwriting Little Books and the Kindergarten book to my Amazon list. “Games for Math” by Peggy Kaye is a great add on.

That’s A LOT of Books

Yes, it is. 24 books a term, 3 terms in a year... gulp! I’m fortunate to have my mother’s old preschool library available to me and therefore own most of the listed titles. But do not despair. You don’t need to buy them all. I recommend purchasing the Primary Story Books. Those are the books you and your children will want to read again and again. Amazon’s 4 for 3 promotion is available on most children’s books which helps bring the cost down or try Better World Books to get used books. Then, use your library to fill in the Enrichment Books. If you can’t find the exact enrichment book I list at your library that is o.k.. You can make substitutions.

Additional items... Do I really need a Toy Farm?

Yes, I really think you do. Young children often need to act out or recreate what they are learning. A nice toy farm will add so much to your program. You might want to get a few special accessories that you bring out at different points throughout the term to add to your farm. We have and enjoy the Wooden Farm by Melissa and Doug with some Plan Toys accessories (like the tractor and garden), Animalz wooden animals, Holtztiger wooden animals and a Safari Toob of Farm Babies... very eclectic and the kids play with the variety of animals all together. Moms who knit might be interested in the Jan Messent’s Knitted Gardens for some ideas on knitting a play farm mat.
Journal Pages + Narration

Every week you should complete at least one Journal Page with your child (print at least 12 copies). There are several ways you can use these pages but the basic idea is to have your child narrate back to you a summation of the Primary Story you just read. Younger children or children new to narration may need help from you, in which case you can ask them leading questions (What happened first? Who was the main character? What did she want? How did she get it? etc.). You can either write the narration directly on the page (good for young students), write the narration on a separate sheet of paper and have your child copy it to their page (good for older students) or neatly write the narration on the page in yellow marker and then have your child trace the narration. Regardless of how you record the narration, be sure to follow grammar rules. Encourage your child to narrate in complete sentences. Younger children may need coaxing. Remind your child that all sentences start with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark. Every main word in a title should be capitalized (you do not capitalize little words such as, and, of, the). The second part of the journal page is to have your child draw a picture about the story in the box. You may choose to have your child do this while you read the story or after she completes her narration. I have found that my very active son actually listens better when his hands are engaged in a task but my daughter does better curled up on my lap during the story with time to color after.

Feel free to make extra copies of the journal page to record field trips, science experiments or nature studies. I leave blank copies of the journal pages in my children’s coloring area for them to write stories and such on whenever they want. You can find a variety of different journal pages available on WeeFolkArt.com with varying line spacings, number of boxes, etc.

You may choose to use the journal pages to record some of your child’s activities. I will paste a photo of my child completing a craft in the coloring box and add a few notes in the space provided. I then tuck the journal page back into my notebook along with my child’s narration and I have a great portfolio of my children’s work.

Field Trips

In your activity box you will see some basic Field Trip (FT) ideas. Actively participating in the community is important and children learn a lot from these simple outings. Try not to run other errands while on a field trip. Spend time talking with employees. Have your child ask the employee questions. Being comfortable asking for help is a life skill (talking about stranger safety is important too). When you go to the grocery store to look at the produce isle be sure to spend a lot of time comparing the veggies. Have your child try to relate the veggie with the part of the plant it comes from... leaf, stem, root. Try not to shop for your whole shopping list but rather pick some veggies (and other items needed) for a single meal. Be sure to try a new veggie... if you let your child pick anything she wants she may be willing to try something you would never have imagined her liking. Take time at the bakery to sit down and have a cup of coffee (you, not your child :) ) and a pastry. Enjoy a special treat together. Use your imagination with the field trip ideas and try not to skip them even if they seem really simple. Don’t under estimate how much fun your child will have sitting on a riding lawn mower at Home Depot (or similar store) and be sure to do stuff like compare prices, sizes, colors... even features if you child is interested. You have a few extra weeks without a FT listed in which you can make up any missed field trips. Take photos on your Field Trip and remember you can complete a Journal Page about your Field Trip when you return home.
Poetry

Each month you will be memorizing one poem. There are many different ways to do this. Try reading it to your child three times, then have you child repeat the poem as best as they can remember with you. After that, have you child repeat the poem with you three time in a sitting. When they are ready have them try on their own. This is a great activity to work on in the car. You can also use line from the poems for copy work/handwriting practice. When they have learned the poem have them recited it for someone other than you. Maybe they can call a grandparent. My children love reciting poems that they have learned to friends and family. Recitation is a great beginning to public speaking, a life skill everyone should develop. Don't forget to review past poems as well.

**Little Boy Blue**
Little Boy Blue,
Come blow your horn,
The sheep's in the meadow,
The cow's in the corn;

Where is that boy
Who looks after the sheep?
Under the haystack
Fast asleep.

Will you wake him?
Oh no, not I,
For if I do
He's sure to cry.

**Johnny Appleseed**
Oh, the Lord's been good to me.
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need:
The sun, the rain and the appleseed;
Oh, the Lord's been good to me.

Oh, and every seed I sow
Will grow into a tree.
And someday there'll be apples there
For everyone in the world to share.
Oh, the Lord is good to me.

**Thanksgiving**
The year has turned its circle,
The seasons come and go.
The harvest is all gathered in
And chilly north winds blow.

Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields, their yellow grain,
So open wide the doorway--
Thanksgiving comes again!

In addition to the memorization poem, each week you will be reading one Flower Fairy (FF) poem that corresponds with the letter of the week. These are just for fun but you might want to have your child identify the adjectives or descriptive words.
Name: ___________________________  Date: _______________________
Title: ____________________________
Salt Dough Veggies

To make your Salt Dough Veggies use the recipe below to make your modeling dough. Shape the dough into small pumpkins, lettuces heads, squashes, etc. For a realistic touch, you can add small twigs for stems. Use toothpicks to add details. The Salt Dough retains its modeled shape surprisingly well. Once the dough is completely dried you can paint your veggies with non-toxic craft paint. Once the paint is dry add them to your toy farm.

Note: Both puppies and almost 2 year olds like to eat the finished veggies! Keep them away from your little ones if you have ‘em. These can be a choking hazard. BTW, After the initial sampling by the aforementioned ‘snackers,’ we have had many of our veggies last for two years now and they are played with almost daily on our toy farm.

Basic Salt Dough Recipe

1 Cup Salt
2 Cups Flour
3/4 Cup Room Temp Water
1 TBSP Vegetable Oil

Bake at 200 F for several hours until dried through.

Butter Battle

Start by making a loaf of bread (optional). I have included one of our favorite Bread Machine recipes. For the Butter Battle you will need heavy whipping cream, some salt, an electric mixer (a stand mixer works well) and a mason jar with lid. Pour a little bit of heavy whipping cream into a mason jar, about an inch deep, and the rest into a mixer bowl. You can add a little bit of salt. Turn the mixer on at a low speed. Then take the jar (be sure the lid is on tight!) and shake, roll and agitate constantly. Let you kids take turns. You will know you have butter when the cream transforms first to thick whipping cream (forms peaks) and then to what I can best describe as scrambled eggs in milk. It will totally pull away from the sides forming solid clumps in the middle, in a pool of buttermilk. Once this happens you can pour off the buttermilk (you might want to save it and make some buttermilk pancakes), then spread some on your freshly baked bread.

Yum! You can store extra butter in a tupperware container.

(My son challenged our stand mixer and we had an epic battle of man vs machine. Guess who won? The boy! I was amazed at how he never tired of shaking that jar. It just shows the boundless energy of a 5 year old boy).

Herb and Parmesan Bread (Serves 1 loaf)

1 1/4 c. milk
2 T. butter, melted
1 egg
1/4 c. honey
2 t. salt
1 T. dried basil
1 t. dried oregano
1/2 c. shredded Parmesan cheese
1 c. old-fashioned rolled oats
3 c. flour
2 t. active dry yeast

DIRECTIONS

Add ingredients in the order listed to your Bread Machine. Bake on whole wheat setting.
Tracks in the Mud

For this project you need a giant strip of paper. You can get rolls of white easel paper from most art/teacher supply stores or brown packing paper from most office supply stores. If you can not find easel or packaging paper you could use the back side of wrapping paper. Start by taking a scavenger hunt through your house for items that would make fun tracks in the mud. This could include toy cars, old toothbrushes, q-tips, feathers, scraps of fabric, etc. Then head outside where you can roll out a large sheet of paper on the drive way or side walk. Fill a baking pan with WASHABLE brown paint (make sure your kids are dressed in ‘mess’ clothes). Dip the items you found into the paint and then drive them across the paper to make mud tracks on the page. What items left the best tracks? What patterns did the items leave behind? If you cannot head outside you could do a scaled down version at the kitchen table but I do think it is important to sometimes engage in big, messy art.

This is one of those projects that is all about the PROCESS not the PRODUCT. Before too long my kids were full bodied painting.

Quilt Squares

Once a month you are going to make a quilt square to highlight some of the fun things you are learning about this program. Each child (and mom) will need a 10” x 10” white muslin fabric square every month. At the end of the Harvest Studies Program you will sew all the squares into a memory quilt.

I’m including the directions for a Glue Batik Fabric Painting method but you could use fabric markers to color a picture on the square instead if you would prefer. This is a really easy project for any age child but it does take a couple days to complete due to drying times.

Cut out 10” squares of white muslin. Try to use an image that represents what you have learn about this month. You may want to have your child include her initials. Mom, you may want to do a square that includes the date. Remember that you will be sewing these later so try to keep your image a half inch away from the edge of the fabric. Once your design is ready, trace it with Blue Gel Elmer’s School Glue (yes it must be the Gel glue). Let the fabric dry over night. When the glue is completely dry, use watered down acrylic paints (non-washable) to cover the entire square. I recommend only using one or two colors per square. Let your square dry completely. Hand wash your square in warm water. The glue area will wash away (you might need to rub the glue areas gently) leaving a batik style image behind. Let the square dry again. You may want to use an iron to remove wrinkles and heat set the paint. Now store your quilt squares in a safe place until you are ready to make your quilt.

Little Red Hen Cake

The Little Red Hen in Paul Galdone’s version of the classic tale bakes a cake instead of a loaf of bread. So I went in search of a cake recipe that resembles the ingredients listed in the book.

Yellow Pound Cake Recipe

2 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup butter softened
1 tsp vanilla
5 large eggs
3 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup milk

DIRECTIONS
Heat oven to 350. Grease & flour bottom of 2 loaf pans or bundt cake pan. Beat sugar, butter, vanilla and eggs in large bowl. Mix flour, baking powder and salt. Beat flour mixture into sugar mixture alternately with milk. Spread in pan. Bake bundt about 1 hour - 1hr 20min (check with toothpick), loaf pans 50-60min.

Wax Paper Stained Glass Leaves
This is a pretty standard melted crayon/wax paper stained glass project that will leave you with lovely fall window decor.

Take broken crayons (or I always try to remember to pocket the crayons from the restaurants that don’t reuse the crayons), a wooden mallet, a cutting board, and Ziplock baggies (you will ruin them so reuse some old ones). Remove the paper from the crayons and sorted them by color. We choose to only use leaf colors. Put all the reds, oranges and pinks in one bag and all the yellows and greens in the other. Then let your kids whack away at the baggies on the board until you get very, very small pieces. You could use a cheese grater but this seemed much safer for the kids... albeit noisy. Then sprinkle the wax bits onto a piece of wax paper, wax side up (crayon bits that get too close to the edges will bleed over the edge). Place another sheet of wax paper, wax side down. Sandwich your wax paper between two pieces of scrap fabric (didn’t try it but paper towel might work). Iron until melted (MOMS ONLY - irons are HOT). PLEASE NOTE: You want that scrap fabric... I had some colors bleed through!

To make frames for widow panes, fold two sheets of construction paper together and cut out a basic leaf shape. You could trace real leaves (cut the real leaf in half length wise to use as a template). Then cut out the center leaving only about a 1/2” frame. Trace the shape onto the wax paper sheets and cut out a center panel... slightly smaller than the outside of the construction paper frame. Use a glue stick to sandwich one construction paper leaf frame, one wax paper cut out and the other construction paper leaf frame together. Use double sided tape to stick them up on windows throughout the house. They are quite pretty!

Apple Prints
This is a very easy craft! Start by cutting a couple apples in half (some lengthwise, some crosswise) for your kids. Then press them cut-side down onto red and/or green ink pads. Then stamp away onto paper (this is a fun way to make your own wrapping paper or greeting cards). You have to press the apple very firmly to get a ‘full’ apple shape or even rock it slightly (I guess a straight cut really isn’t as straight as you think). Be sure to take note of the star in the middle of some of the cross cut apple prints.

Apple Bread
Here is a very yummy fall treat. It is very good plain but we also like it with cream cheese.

Apple Bread Recipe
1/4 cup butter
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup sugar
1 cup orange juice  
1 1/2 TBSP milk  
2 cup flour  
2 eggs  
1 1/2 - 2 c. chopped apples  
1 tsp baking soda

**Topping:**  
1 tsp sugar  
1/2 tsp cinnamon

**DIRECTIONS**  
Mix all ingredients together (except topping ingredients) and place in greased loaf pan. Mix sugar and cinnamon and sprinkle on top of loaf. Bake at 350 for 1 hour. Be sure to check the middle of the loaf with a toothpick when the time is up. I find that the cooking time can vary quite a bit depending on the apples.

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**Weaving Project**

Cut out approximately a 4”x8” rectangle of cardboard (the flaps of an Amazon box work well). Then cut seven 1/4” deep notches along both the top and bottom... about 1/4” apart. To get started, tape a piece of yarn to the back of your cardboard loom and then wrap the yarn from bottom to top through the notches. When you have wrapped it around each notch, cut the yarn and tape it down on the back as well.

Then pull out your scrap yarns, the more variety the better. You need to cut the yarn into approximately 8” long pieces. *This was my kids’ favorite part... getting to take scissors to my yarn (I did lock away the really good stuff). They loved the fuzzy fun furs and the nubby yarns. Now just weave in the yarn scraps in a basic one up one down fashion, then switch to one down one up the next row. Keep repeating until you have filled your loom. This is another project that is all about the process, not the product. If you children enjoy it you might want to purchase a child’s loom.*

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**Pumpkin Muffins**

> Your house will be filled with the aroma of fall when you bake these hearty muffins.

**Pumpkin Muffin Recipe**

1-1/3 cups all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup whole wheat flour  
1/3 cup sugar  
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/4 ginger  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 slightly beaten eggs  
1 cup canned pumpkin  
1/2 cup fat-free milk  
2 tablespoons cooking oil  
1/4 cup orange juice

**DIRECTIONS**  
Place muffin cups into a muffin tin, set aside. In a medium bowl combine the all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, baking soda, and salt. Make a well in the center of flour mixture; set aside. In another bowl combine the eggs, pumpkin, milk, oil, orange peel, and orange juice. Add the egg mixture all at once to the flour mixture. Stir just until moistened (batter should be lumpy). Spoon batter into the prepared
muffin cups, dividing the batter evenly. Bake in a 400 degree F oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until the muffins are light brown.

Paint/Carve a Pumpkin

No real directions here... I'm assuming everyone knows the drill on how to carve a pumpkin. You can paint or carve your pumpkin as you wish. I recommend paint for younger children or let you child draw an image on her pumpkin and you cut out the shapes... young preschoolers may not draw a face but I have found all my children were simply happy to have me cut out whatever they did draw. Each of my kids have gone through a 'holey' phase as well. Not wanting to be done carving they continue to add embellishments (ears, eyebrows, etc.) until the face is no longer recognizable... albeit scary looking. Be sure to clean and save the seeds to plant in your garden next year or if you would like to try a yummy treat bake your seeds with a little oil and salt.

Beeswax Candles

I ordered a Natural Beeswax Candle kit from one of my favorite stores... A Toy Garden but many Natural Craft or Toy stores will carry the supplies. The kit we purchased came with 6 sheets of beeswax and wicks. Start by cutting the wick slightly longer than the width of the beeswax. Place the wick along the edge at one end and carefully turn over the edge of the wax to hold it in place. Roll the wax slowly and tightly. You want room temp or slightly warmer wax to avoid cracking. The directions suggested using a hair dryer to warm the wax slightly. Our wax was fine at room temp in the sunny dinning room. Once rolled, hand press or roll the top edge firmer to taper the top. Trim up the wick and tada... your very own candle! You can also buy colored beeswax sheets that can be used to decorate your candles with fun shapes. For our first go we were happy with au natural.

Gingerbread Cookies

These spicy cookies are a family favorite and are wonderful throughout the year, not just at the holidays.

**Gingerbread Cookie Recipe**

- 1 (3.5 ounce) package cook and serve butterscotch pudding mix
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

**DIRECTIONS**

In a medium bowl, cream together the dry butterscotch pudding mix, butter, and brown sugar until smooth. Stir in the egg. Combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, and cinnamon; stir into the pudding mixture. Cover, and chill dough until firm, about 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease baking sheets. On a floured board, roll dough out
to about 1/8 inch thickness, and cut into man shapes using a cookie cutter. Place cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets.
Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, until cookies are golden at the edges. Cool on wire racks.

Handprint Turkey Place Mats
Using washable paints, cover you child’s palm and thumb with brown paint and each finger with reds, oranges, or yellows. Carefully place you child’s hand, with her fingers spread out, in the middle of a large white sheet of construction paper. When the paint dries you can draw in details for your turkey. Add legs, a beak and eyes. When your child is happy with their turkey cover the entire sheet of construction paper with contact paper front and back. Be sure to leave a 1/2 of contact paper touching around the border and trim the excess. You now have a reusable place mat that you can wipe clean with a damp cloth. If you are hosting Thanksgiving, you may want to make one for all your guests. Be sure to add each guest’s name on the front to serve as a place card and everyone can take home a piece of your child’s artwork.

Corn Bread Muffins
I’m sorry but I don’t have a recipe to share for this one... I always follow the recipe on the back of the Quaker Corn Meal box. Sometimes it is just that easy :).

Assembling Your Quilt
Ok, it is now time to gather up all the quilt squares your family has made throughout the term. You will need to cut out some additional 10” squares of fabric that go with the harvest theme (you will want a minimum of 16 squares - ours is shown with 20). Have your child help you lay out the pieces in a pleasing pattern. Collect and pin all the pieces used in one row. Then use your sewing machine (you can hand piece if you wish) to sew the quilt squares together; right sides together leaving a 1/2” seam allowance. Once all the rows are pieced, lightly iron the seams then piece and pins the rows together. Sew and iron the seams.

You now need to add the batting and backing. Since everyone’s finish quilt may be a different size, you will have to calculate how large of a piece of fabric and batting you will need. Pin and sew up the edges (be sure to layer it batting, backing right side up, top right side down) leaving a 6” opening.

Trim the edges, flip the quilt right side out, hand stitch the opening closed, and then iron the side seams for a finish edge. You can then either quilt the top or add ties in the corners with a thick cotton thread.

Congratulations on completing your Harvest Quilt and your Harvest Time Term. I hope you and your child had a wonderful time learning together. Enjoy your holidays and join us again for Winter Wonderland.
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### Resource Planner for

#### Book List

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#### Project Supply List

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#### Field Trips & Enrichment Activities

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