
User Guide

Note: You can also find the information that follows online, at <https://www.mathmammoth.com/userguides/>.

The Common Core Standards documentation is available at:

<https://www.mathmammoth.com/preview/standards/MM-CCS-K-2026.pdf>

Basic principles in using the Math Mammoth Kindergarten curriculum

Math Mammoth kindergarten curriculum is overall mastery-based, but it is slightly more spiral than the other grade levels of Math Mammoth, because most chapters deal with *two* major topics instead of one.

The kindergarten level differs from the other levels of Math Mammoth also in the fact that it is not expected that the child read the instructions or work independently very much. This level is meant to be **teacher-led**.

There are two student books (A and B). The chapters in them are intended to be studied mostly in order. However, you can do the lessons on shapes, measurement, and position words earlier or later, as you wish.

The **two student worktexts** (parts A and B) contain all the lesson material and exercises. Many of the lessons include activities that teach concepts, and those are explained right in the student books. Don't skip the activities, as they are an integral part of learning the concepts and skills for this level.

Some lessons include an explanation of the concept in a blue box. You, as the parent/teacher, need to explain the concept to the child(ren), using the blue teaching box as a guide. And then, almost all of the lessons contain some exercises for the child to do in the book.

Each chapter introduction explains the basic goals for the chapter. Most of them also list **games** (both online and offline games) that you can use to reinforce and practice the main skills in the chapter. Then, each chapter introduction also includes a link to a list of free online games and activities from other websites. All of these games can be used to supplement the math lessons, for learning math facts, or just for some fun.

We also include a versatile **worksheet maker** that allows you to make additional worksheets for the main topics in the curriculum. You will need Internet access to be able to use it. Access it here:

https://www.mathmammoth.com/private/Make_extra_worksheets_K.htm

Manipulatives

Below you will find a list of the recommended and optional manipulatives for the activities and games.

Recommended manipulatives

- a 100-bead abacus
- dice
- dominoes
- number cards, UNO cards, or regular playing cards
- a set of geometric solids (part B, chapter 7)
- a set of pattern blocks (part B, chapter 5)
- toothpicks and modeling clay (part B, chapter 7; for building geometric solids)
- a tangram set (part B, chapter 7)

Optional manipulatives

- counting bears (optional but can be fun because the sets often come with sorting cups and activity cards)
- math linking cubes (Unifix cubes)
- Cuisenaire rods (optional)

Many of the activities use various commonly found items that you probably have on hand in your home. For your convenience, we include a list of the recommended items and links to Amazon below. Note: You only need *one* item from each section. We're providing several options, plus naturally there exist many more choices for these products.

Recommended manipulatives

A 100-bead abacus or school abacus

There are lots of choices; search Amazon's collection here:

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=school+abacus&tag=mathmammoth-20>

Learning Resources 10-Row Counting Frame or Abacus for Kids

This abacus has every five beads in alternating color (red, white), which is nice.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01LX6K2CV/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Wooden Abacus for Kids with Counting Sticks and Number Cards

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08SBWKJZJ/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Geometric Pattern Blocks and Tangram-like games

Coogam Wooden Pattern Blocks Set 130PCS

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07MYK64R/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Beestech Wooden Tangram game with a puzzle Book

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07Y37NNSR/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Vanmor Wooden Tangram set with shape cards

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07XJ23KPG/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Wooden pattern blocks shape set with pattern cards

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CMTB3DR2/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

GEMEM wooden pattern blocks set with design cards

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07QPS5CFL/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Geometric solids (3-D shapes)

DEEKIN 36 Pcs Geometric Shapes \$21

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0BN8TXVK6/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

DEEKIN 70 Pcs Wood Geometric Solids

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BC19RL8V/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Learning Resources Wood Geometric Solids Set of 19

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000T1QQZ8/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Search Amazon's collection for geometric solids:

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=geometric+solids&tag=mathmammoth-20>

Optional manipulatives

Cuisenaire Rods

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B016DU8UR0/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Counting Bears

Bmag counting bears

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07ZNYDLXY/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Neorod counting bears

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B085ZSMK8P/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Linking Cubes

Learning Resources MathLink Cubes (100 pcs)

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000URL296/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

200 Pcs Math Linking Cubes

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0GGCK8L8D/?tag=mathmammoth-20>

Search Amazon's collection for math linking cubes:

<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=math+linking+cubes&tag=mathmammoth-20>

Pacing the curriculum

Each chapter introduction contains a suggested pacing guide for that chapter. You will see a summary on the right.

Most lessons are one page long, intended for one day. Some lessons are two pages, either intended for one day or two. There are also some optional lessons (e.g. about coins), not included in the charts on the right.

It can also be helpful to calculate a general guideline as to how many pages per week the student should cover in order to go through the curriculum in one school year.

Worktext A	
Chapter 1	19 days
Chapter 2	14 days
Chapter 3	25 days
Chapter 4	21 days
TOTAL	79 days

Worktext B	
Chapter 5	14 days
Chapter 6	17 days
Chapter 7	20 days
Chapter 8	13 days
TOTAL	64 days

The chart below lists how many pages there are for the student to finish in this particular grade level, and gives you a guideline for how many pages per day to finish, assuming a 170-day (34-week) school year. The page count in the table below *includes* the optional lessons (in particular, the lessons about coins).

Example:

Grade level	Lesson pages	School days	Pages to study per day	Pages to study per week
K-A	89	91	1	5
K-B	79	79	1	5
Kindergarten total	168	170		

The table below is for you to fill in. To get the count of “pages to study per day”, **divide the lesson pages by the school days**. Lastly, multiply this number by 5 to get the approximate page count to cover in a week.

Grade level	Lesson pages	School days	Pages to study per day	Pages to study per week
K-A	89			
K-B	79			
Kindergarten total	168			

In general, kindergartners might spend 15-30 minutes a day on math, 1st-2nd graders might spend 25-40 minutes, third-fourth graders 30-60 minutes a day, and fifth-sixth graders 45-75 minutes a day. If your student finds math enjoyable, they can of course spend more time with it! However, it is not good to drag out the lessons on a regular basis, because that can then affect the student's attitude towards math.

Working space and the usage of additional paper

The curriculum generally includes working space directly on the page for students to work out the problems. However, feel free to let your students use extra paper when necessary. They can use it to draw diagrams and pictures to help organize their thoughts. Some students won't need the additional space (and may resist the thought of extra paper), while some will benefit from it. Use your discretion.

Concerning tests

While the rest of the grade levels in Math Mammoth include chapter tests, I feel that such testing is not necessary in kindergarten, as it can so easily lead to math anxiety and to viewing mathematics as a subject where correct answers are what matters most. Using tests has two sides. Even in other grade levels, the tests are optional. On the positive side, they can help the teacher know how their students are doing, and even help the student to know where they are at and to perhaps get some useful feedback. But all too often, testing leads to math anxiety. Also, students tend to study for the test only, just to forget the information right afterwards.

You can learn to assess your student(s) over the course of the year by observing them. This is even easier when you will be doing many activities with them that teach math concepts. You will be able to see where your child struggles and where they excel. You can even base a grade solely on your observations (if you need to give a grade). Or, you can use the chapter reviews as part of the grade.

The curriculum does include an optional end-of-year test, which is best used as a diagnostic or assessment test. If you do use it, it can tell you how well the child has mastered essential kindergarten math content.

Concerning the mixed reviews and the worksheet maker

The books contain mixed review lessons which practice concepts and skills from earlier chapters. They allow you to spot areas that the student has not grasped well or has forgotten. When you find such a topic or concept, you have several options:

1. Check if the worksheet maker lets you make worksheets for that topic.
https://www.mathmammoth.com/private/Make_extra_worksheets_K.htm
2. Check for any games and resources in the Introduction part of the particular chapter in which this topic or concept was taught.
3. If you have the digital version, you can reprint a corresponding lesson from the worktext for the student.
4. Check if our online practice area at <https://www.mathmammoth.com/practice/> has something for that topic.
5. Khan Academy has free online exercises, articles, and videos for most any math topic imaginable.

Frequently asked questions and contacting us

If you have more questions, please first check the FAQ at <https://www.mathmammoth.com/faq-lightblue>

If the FAQ does not cover your question, you can contact us <https://www.mathmammoth.com/contact>