PLANNING, ORGANIZING, AND DOCUMENTING YOUR HOMESCHOOL

The Neurodivergent Way

Boost Packets

by Amy Bodkin Consulting

PLANNING, ORGANIZING, AND DOCUMENTING YOUR HOMESCHOOL

THE NEURODIVERGENT WAY

PART OF THE BOOST SERIES

BY
AMY BODKIN CONSULTING

AMYBODKIN.COM

COPYRIGHT © 2022 BY AMY BODKIN CONSULTING, LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. AMY BODKIN CONSULTING GRANTS PERMISSION TO PRINT THIS GUIDE FOR USE WITHIN YOUR IMMEDIATE HOUSEHOLD. SHARING THIS FILE OR MAKING COPIES OF THE PRINTED MATERIAL FOR USE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD IS IN VIOLATION OF THE COPYRIGHT © HELD BY AMY BODKIN CONSULTING, LLC.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLANNING, ORGANIZING, & DOCUMENTING YOUR HOMESCHOOL

Introduction	VI
Step #1: Measuring Where You Are	1
Samples of Different Ways to Measure Progress	7
Step #2: Planning Your Year	23
SAMPLES OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO PLAN YOUR YEAR	29
Step #3: Organizing for Success	33
SAMPLE CHECKLISTS OF SCHOOLWORK	39
Appendix A	45
Appendix B	53
ABOUT THE AUTHOR	61
ALSO FROM ABC	63

INTRODUCTION

PLANNING, ORGANIZING, & DOCUMENTING YOUR HOMESCHOOL

Hi, I'm Amy Bodkin. I'm a homeschooling parent just like you but I'm also an Autistic adult who struggles with ADHD.

Maybe you need help planning and documenting your homeschool in a way that can work for you (and your own neurodivergence). I know I did! And that's why I created this guide. In it, I'll show you step-by-step the method I use to plan (and document) my homeschool year without the stress.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING (OR THE LACK OF IT)

I recently answered an Executive Functioning Questionnaire. Executive Functioning is how we refer to the set of mental skills required for planning, remembering, focusing, and organizing tasks. The questionnaire assessed 12 different areas of Executive Functioning that can all contribute either positively or negatively to accomplishing tasks:

- Response Inhibition
- Working Memory
- Emotional Control
- Task Initiation
- Sustained Attention
- Planning/Prioritization
- Organization
- Time Management
- Flexibility
- Metacognition
- Goal-Directed Persistence
- Stress Tolerance

You can take the same Executive Functioning Quiz here.

It turns out that of the twelve skills, I only have three strengths. By this point, you might be wondering what exactly my three strengths are.

They are Metacognition (seeing patterns in things), Organization (but only specific types of organization), and Flexibility – most of which are not very helpful for things like

ABC BOOST PACKET

paying bills or planning and documenting your homeschool year.

Given that I am now in my 40s, I am beginning to think that it is highly improbable those skills are ever likely to develop. I decided I better use my fancy Metacognition and Organization skills to create a way of planning and documenting our homeschool year that required as little Executive Functioning as possible. So I did.

This packet, *Planning, Organizing, and Documenting Your Homeschool,* with all of its templates, is the result of those efforts.

And it only requires work from you one week out of the year! I always tell people that you can do anything for a week! The longer we have to maintain a skill we don't naturally have, the harder it gets.

THREE SMALL STEPS FOR YOU, THREE GIANT LEAPS FOR YOUR HOMESCHOOL

What feels like three simple steps will make a huge impact in your homeschool. I will walk you through the three small steps to implementing my system:

- Measuring Where You Are
- Planning Your Year
- Organizing for Success

Then all you have to do is repeat these steps one week out of every year!

I know it can be challenging to find your way through everyday activities when you struggle with executive functioning. It is my hope that you find this packet helpful and that it serves you well!

Thank you for choosing Amy Bodkin Consulting!

Amy Bodkin, EdS

AMY BODKIN CONSULTING, LLC

© AMY BODKIN CONSULT-

PLANNING, ORGANIZING, AND DOCUMENTING YOUR HOMESCHOOL

THE NEURODIVERGENT WAY

Measuring Where You Are

1

ONE SMALL STEP

ONE GIANT LEAP

STEP #1

MEASURING WHERE YOU ARE

YEARLY ASSESSMENT

The first step is to measure where you are. It always helps to know where you are before you try to figure out where you need to go! Even if you are in a state or country that requires little to no documentation, I recommend taking some measurements each year to gauge your child's progress.

My children enjoy doing these small assessments partly because I give them the entire week off from all other schoolwork, and, now that they are older, they also enjoy seeing how much they have grown!

If you are a part of my <u>Special Needs Membership</u> group at amybodkin.com, you can get a free Achievement test and a free Developmental test each year. Members of the Special Needs Membership group also have the opportunity to attend my Office Hours at no extra charge for any questions you might have.

A short Psychological Achievement Test (like the Wide Range Achievement Test or the Peabody Individual Achievement Test) helps us know if children can perform as expected for their developmental age.

A Psychological Achievement Test is different from an Academic Achievement test (like the California Achievement Test or the Iowa Achievement Test) because Academic tests only measure where a child is in the mastery of a curriculum.

I particularly appreciate being able to do a Psychological Achievement Test on my kids each year. It helps me determine whether or not the level of schoolwork I have given them appropriately matches their developmental level.

The average child's age can give you a reasonably good guess about where they should work. However, for a child who is developing atypically, sometimes we need a little more guidance. This is important because children make the fastest progress when they are working at a level that is developmentally comfortable for them.

Let me say that again: children progress much faster when they work at a developmentally comfortable level.

But what do you do when a child is not ready for formal academic work yet? In this case, a Developmental Test (like the Vineland) is going to be your best tool for determining a child's developmental level.

WORK SAMPLES

Additionally, I like colle	cting work san	nples each year t	to turn in to my	Homeschool

MEASURING FLUENCY

The last thing I like to measure is fluency in both reading and math. These are skill-based subjects where it is essential to develop fluency before moving on to more advanced areas of study. Without fluency, doing Algebra and reading books at a high school level can be very frustrating!



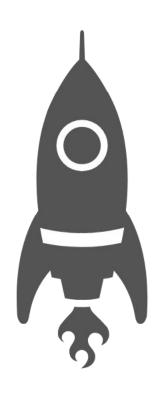
In Appendix A, I have included templates and instructions on how to measure fluency.

I have also included a demonstration of this in the video that comes with this packet. You can access the video through your <u>ABC Account</u>. It will be included in the accompanying course titled <u>Planning</u>, <u>Organizing</u>, <u>and Documenting Your Homeschool</u>.

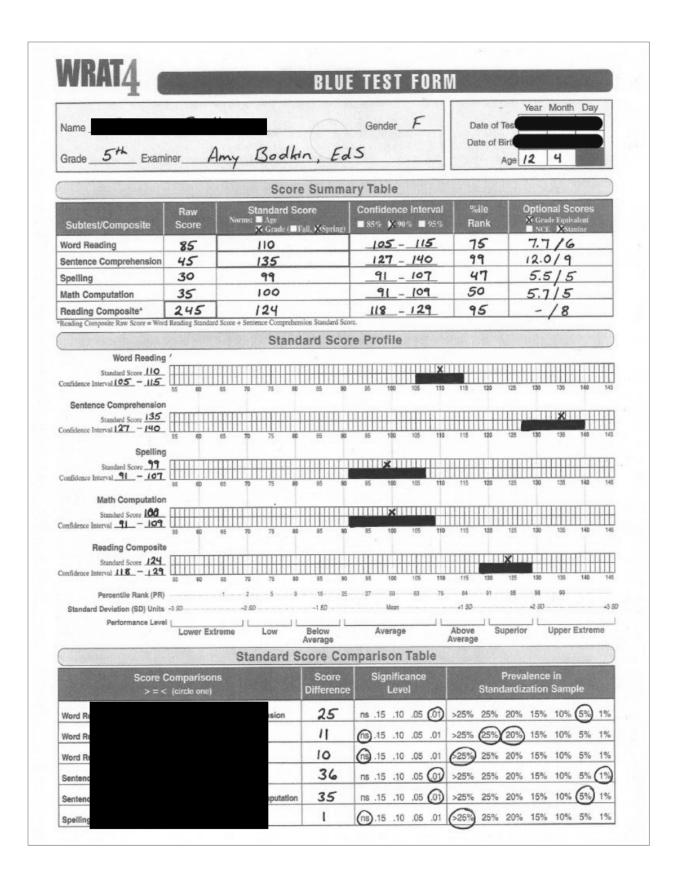
On the following pages, I have included samples of all the different ways we measure progress in a typical year that one of my children allowed me to share with you.

You do not have to use all of these tools each year, but each one does provide valuable insights. It will largely depend on the legal requirements where you live and what is most beneficial to you.

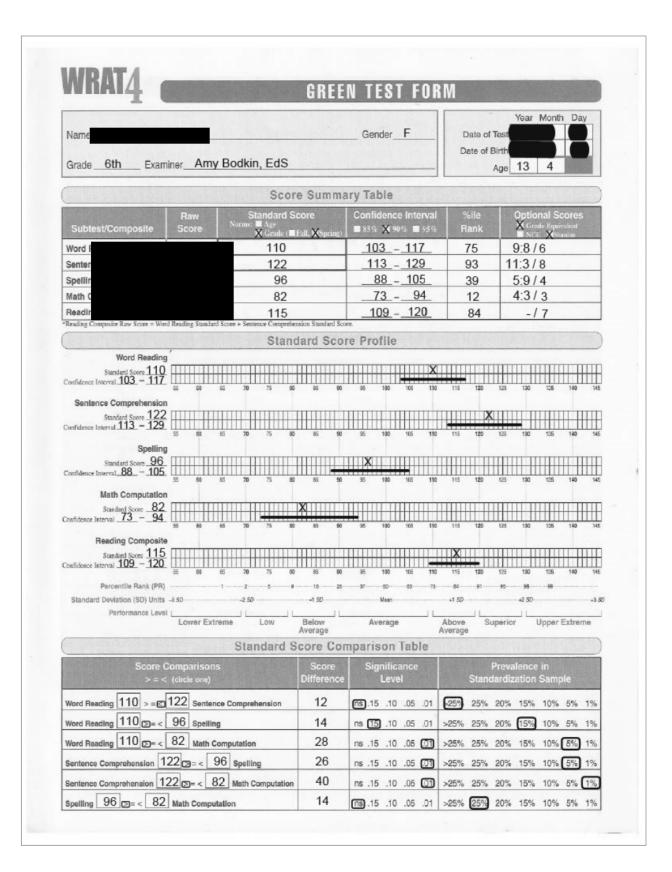
Samples of Different Ways to Measure Progress



TESTING - BEGINNING OF YEAR



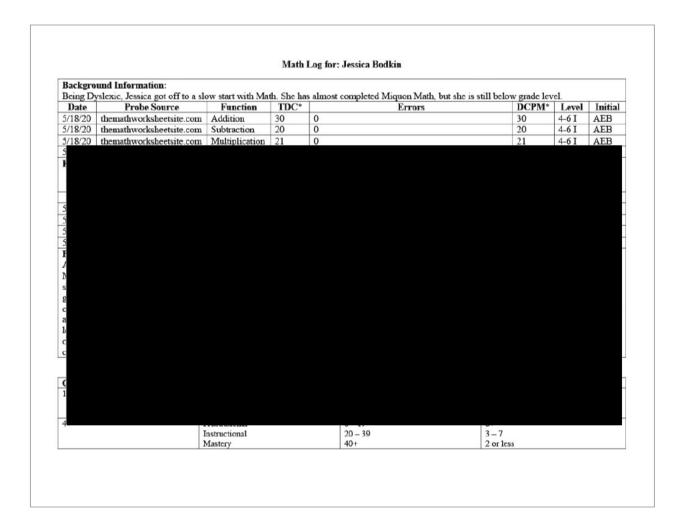
TESTING - END OF YEAR



READING FLUENCY ASSESSMENT

Backgro	und Informatio	n:			Reading Log for: Jessica Bodkin			
_			ng at 0	5 vears old	. She used the Seeing Stars curriculum this year to improve her S	Sambol Proce	esing sk	:11.
Date	Probe Source	Grade	Pg#	TWR*	Errors	WCPM*	Level	Initial
5/18/20	DIBELS	8	2	98	2 (skipped monkey, but)	96	3-6 I	AEB
5/18/20	DIBELS	7	1	91	5 (mispronounced curse, skipped that, behave, in, be)	86	3-6 I	AEB

MATH FLUENCY ASSESSMENT



HANDWRITING SAMPLE - BEGINNING OF YEAR

Roald	Dahl	Сорц	work

Jessica Bodkin 5/19/20

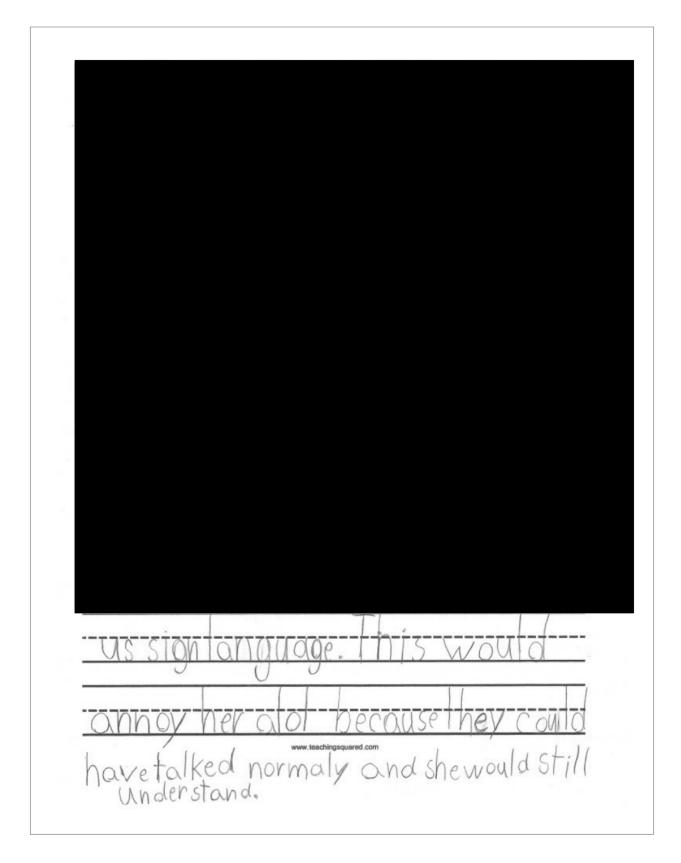
Having power is not nearly as important as what you choose to do with it.

nearly as impartar	
what you choose to	/
V	do sulla
it,	

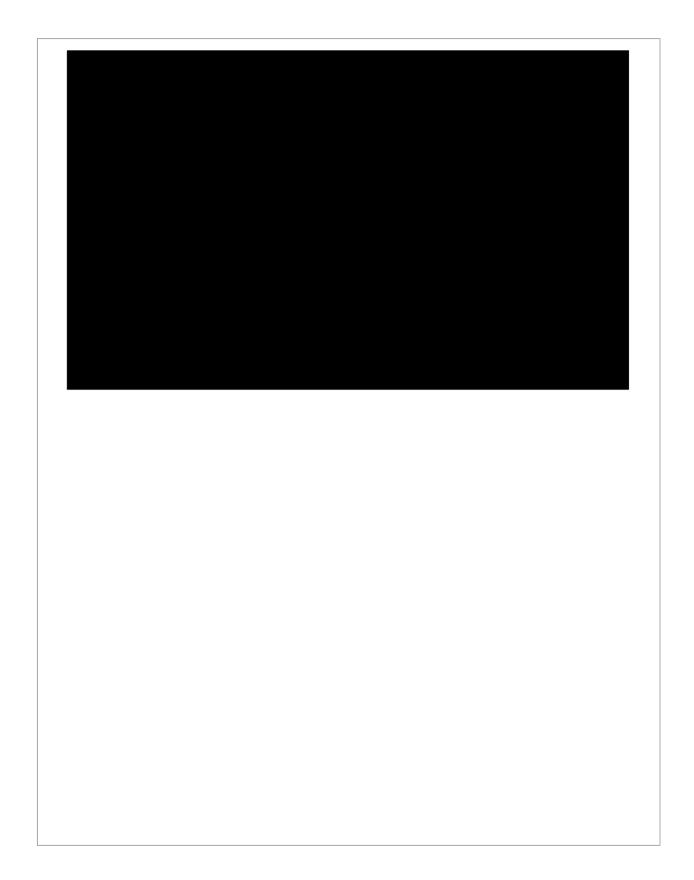
HANDWRITING SAMPLE - END OF YEAR

Quotes on Nature
If one way be better than another, that you may be sure is nature's 5/26/21
way.
- Aristotle
If one way be better than another, that you may be sure is nature's
way.
- Aristotle
I one way be better than
another, that you may bee
Aux in mature of Millians
A it to
- (NUDIOTIL)
THE OTH INDAPTHAMBATUTE OF
www.STUDENTHANDOUTS.com Page 12

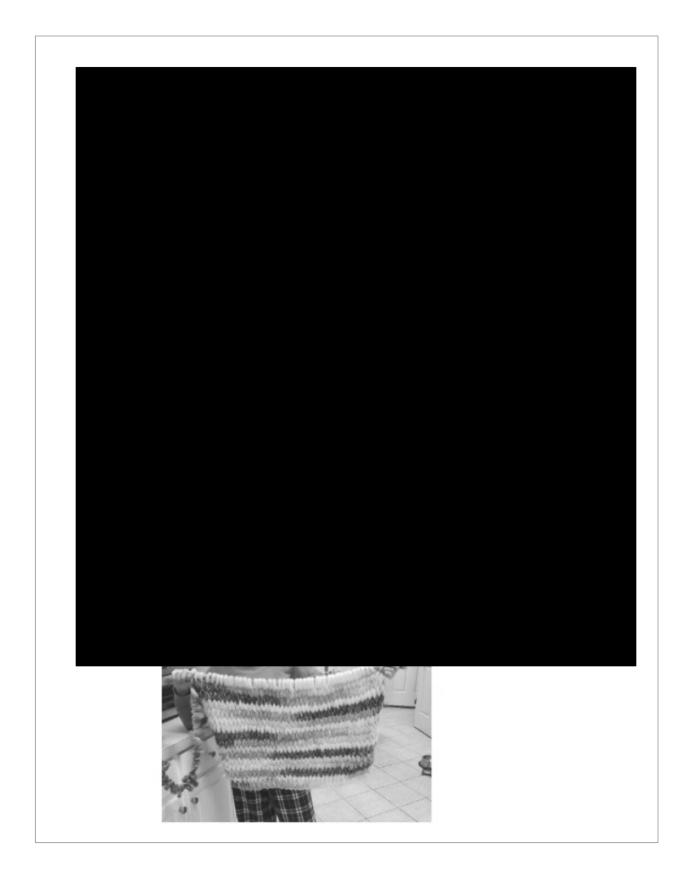
COMPOSITION SAMPLE - BEGINNING OF YEAR



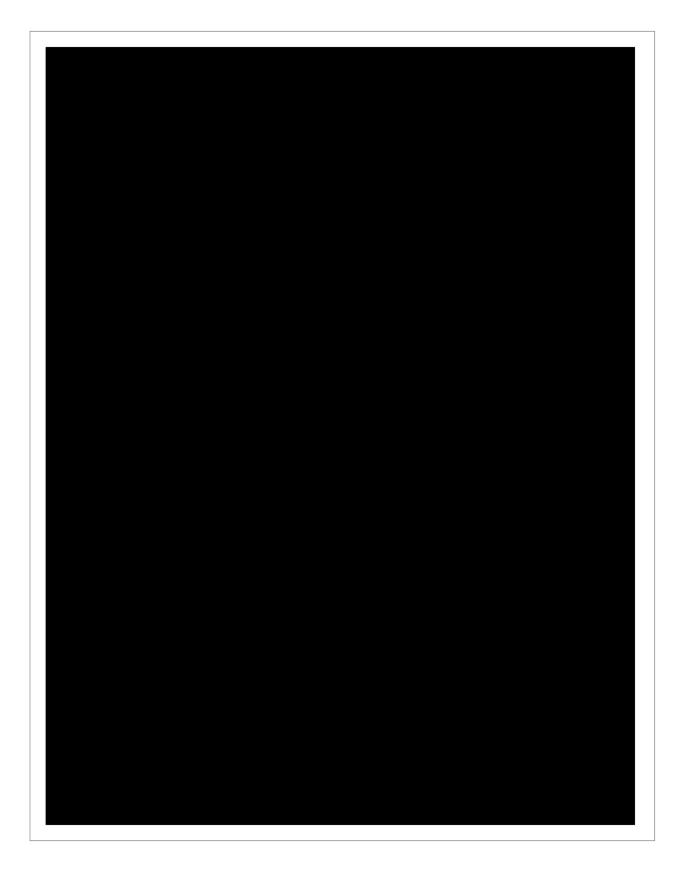
COMPOSITION SAMPLE - END OF YEAR



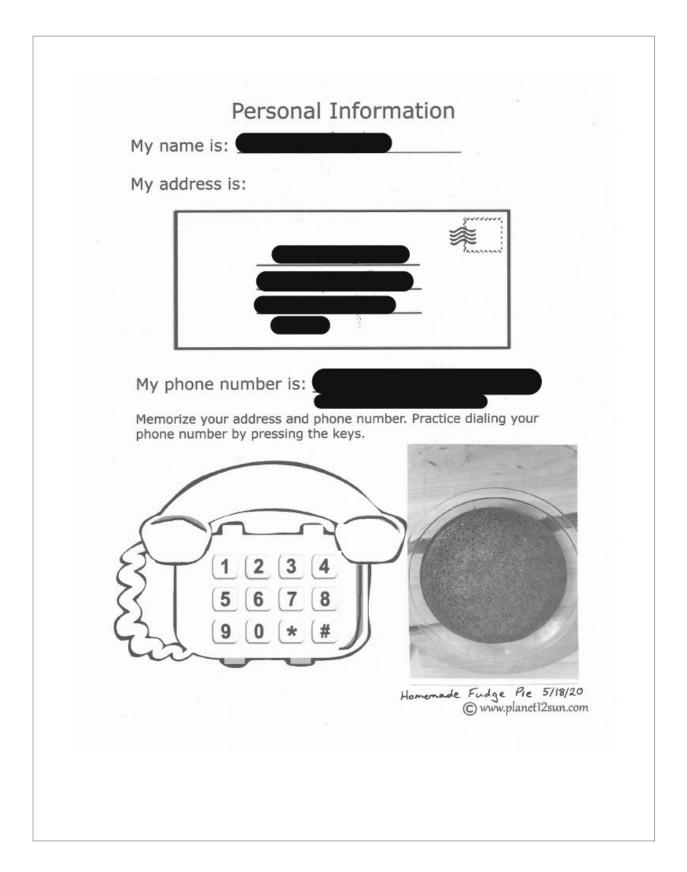
ARTS & CRAFTS SAMPLE - BEGINNING OF YEAR



ARTS & CRAFTS SAMPLE - END OF YEAR

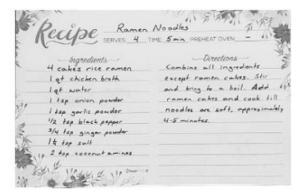


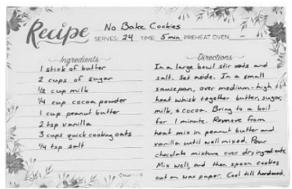
LIFE SKILLS SAMPLE - BEGINNING OF YEAR

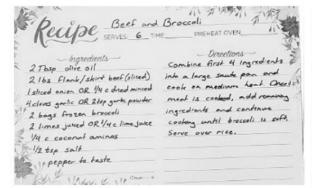


LIFE SKILLS SAMPLE - END OF YEAR

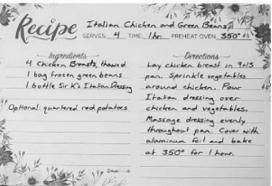
Recipes she learned to cook this year

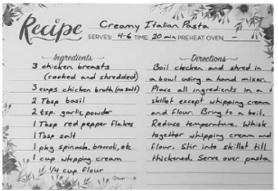




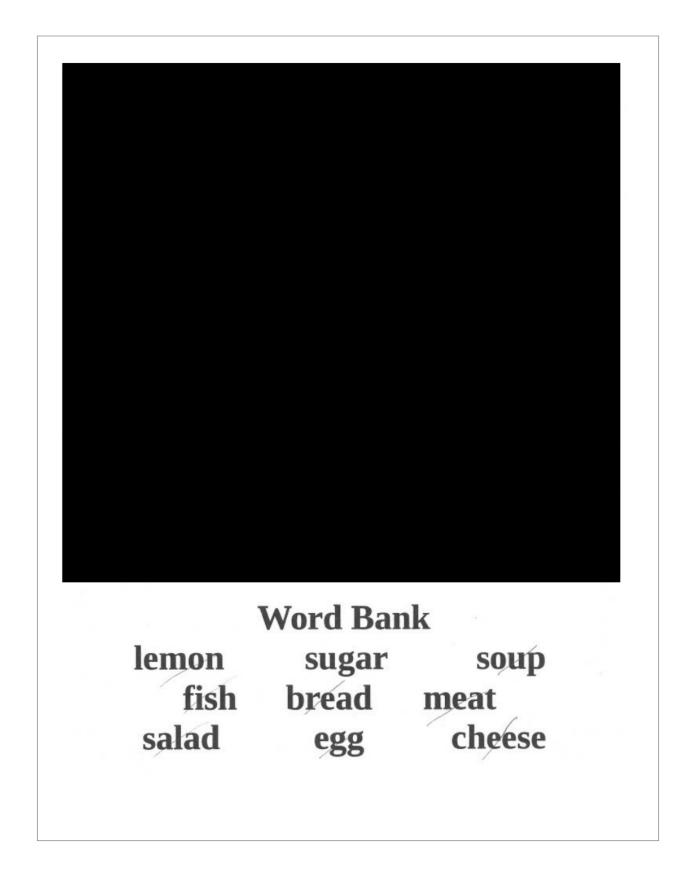




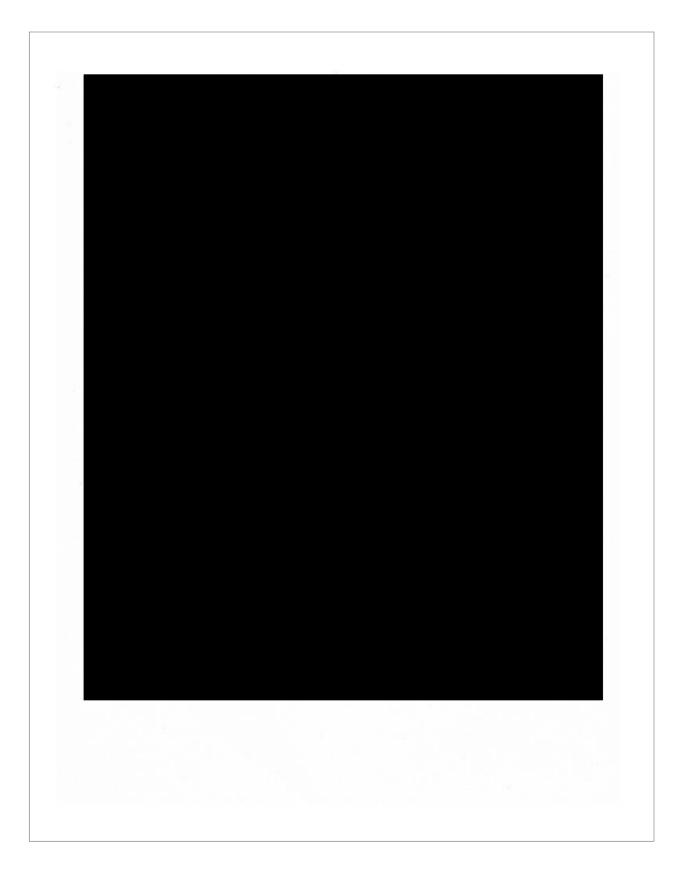




FOREIGN LANGUAGE SAMPLE - BEGINNING OF YEAR



FOREIGN LANGUAGE SAMPLE - END OF YEAR



PLANNING YOUR YEAR

2

ONE SMALL STEP

ONE GIANT LEAP

STEP #2

PLANNING YOUR YEAR

CHOOSING SUBJECTS

When planning a homeschool year, people sometimes have particular ideas about what they would like to teach. As long as it is comfortable and enjoyable for your child and meets your legal requirements, you can choose what you would like! However, we do want some kind of guidance as to what is appropriate and necessary for children at different stages of development!

For years, I have used the <u>Form Guides at A Charlotte Mason Plenary</u> as my guide to planning a custom year for my children. The Form Guides center on the educational philosophy of Charlotte Mason, whose work on creating an education tailored to a child's development is unequaled.

I will now take a few moments to tell you how I have found these to be the easiest and most adaptable option for families with a wide variety of special needs.

Charlotte Mason's Forms are similar to U.S. grade levels, except they progress developmentally and not by age. Therefore, you can use one Form Guide for many years.

Technically the Forms progress this way:

- Form 1 = Grades 1-3
- Form 2 = Grades 4-6
- Form 3 = Grades 7-8
- Form 4 = Grade 9
- Form 5 = Grades 10-11
- Form 6 = Grade 12

However, Charlotte Mason created her educational philosophy more than 100 years ago. And while her breakdown of Forms by language development is still accurate, Form 2 is now the equivalent of an American High School Education, and Form 1 is now the equivalent of an American Elementary through early Middle School Education.

A Charlotte Mason Plenary (CMP) also carries a Preschool/Kindergarten Guide that is perfect for children not yet developmentally ready for Form 1 work but who are at the

age of compulsory education.

CMP also offers a <u>Special Needs Developmental Guide</u> that I wrote to help other Special Needs families find the Form Guides as helpful as I have! It walks you through how to place your child in the correct developmental level and how to make adaptations when needed that make sense and are effective!

WHAT LEVEL?

Once you have figured out what you want to use as a guide for the subjects you will teach, you need to decide at what level your student should work.

We can determine this quickly by looking at the grade equivalency on your student's

What Materials?
Now that you have settled on what subjects you are going to teach and at wha
grade level, it is finally time to start planning your year!
Instead of creating a week-by-week schedule, look at each subject and then list the

I have included two sample School Year Plans on the following pages, one based on Form 1 and one on Form 2. I have also included a School Year Plan Template in Appendix B.

You will notice that I have divided subjects into two categories:

- Content/Beauty Subjects: Literature, History, Science, Religious Studies, Poetry, Folk Songs, Artist Study, etc.
- Skill Subjects: Reading, Math, Writing, Foreign Language, Physical Exercise, etc.

Both categories are essential! Content/Beauty Subjects make education enjoyable and have the added benefit of helping reduce anxiety. Skill Subjects are those exercises

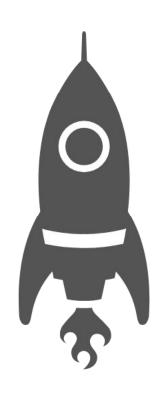
the body needs to develop specific skills, and no one else can do those exercises for you.

As I go throughout the year, I highlight the books we are currently reading in yellow, and when we finish them, I highlight them in green. Books we have lost (or ones I am considering not reading), I highlight in red.

At the end of the year, I delete everything that is not yellow or green (or paste them to a new plan for the following year), and then I put the document into the folder for our Homeschool Evaluator, so she will know what we did that year.

And done!

SAMPLES OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO PLAN YOUR YEAR



SAMPLE PLAN FOR FORM 1

Weekly Reading Schedule and Log (ideally including daily Poetry):

History (including Book of Centuries and Folk Songs) – finish Story of the World 2, parts of Child's History of the World, parts of Our Island Story, parts of Jewish History, Marco Polo by Demi, Michelangelo by Stanley,



SAMPLE PLAN FOR FORM 2

Weekly Reading Schedule and Log: Language Arts (Artist – West/Hurley, Bullfinches Mythology: Age of Fable, Composer – Gershwin/Sousa) 1) Literature: Searching for Dragons, Calling on Dragons, Talking to Dragons, Children of the New Forest,

ORGANIZING FOR SUCCESS

3

ONE SMALL STEP

ONE GIANT LEAP

STEP #3

ORGANIZING FOR SUCCESS

HOW MUCH TIME?

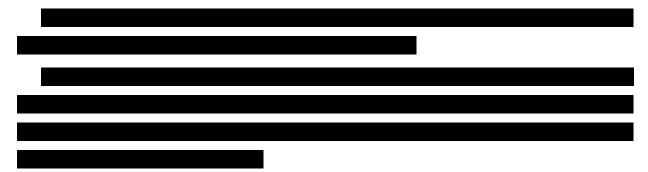
When organizing our year for success, we first need to consider how much time we have to give. Given all the other duties a special needs homeschool parent has, you should spend – at most – two hours on schoolwork daily.

But how will we educate all of our children, especially those who need lots of extra support, in just two hours a day?

GROUP WORK
If you have more than one student, we can combine as many subjects as possible!

INDIVIDUAL WORK

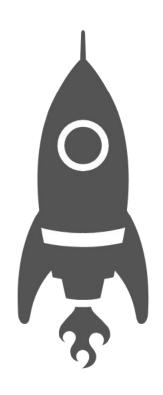
In the previous section, I mentioned individual work. From the time my children were young, I worked to teach them how to do independent work successfully and independently!



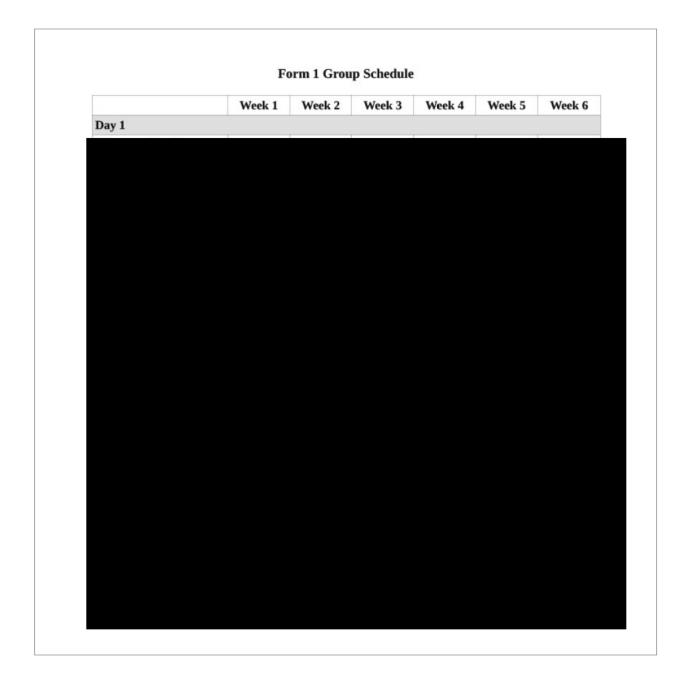
I have included Sample Checklists for Group Work and Independent Work appropriate to Forms 1 and 2 on the following pages. There are also templates for these checklists in Appendix B.

And remember, you can organize and divide this work in many different ways to best suit your family's needs, so don't feel limited by my examples!

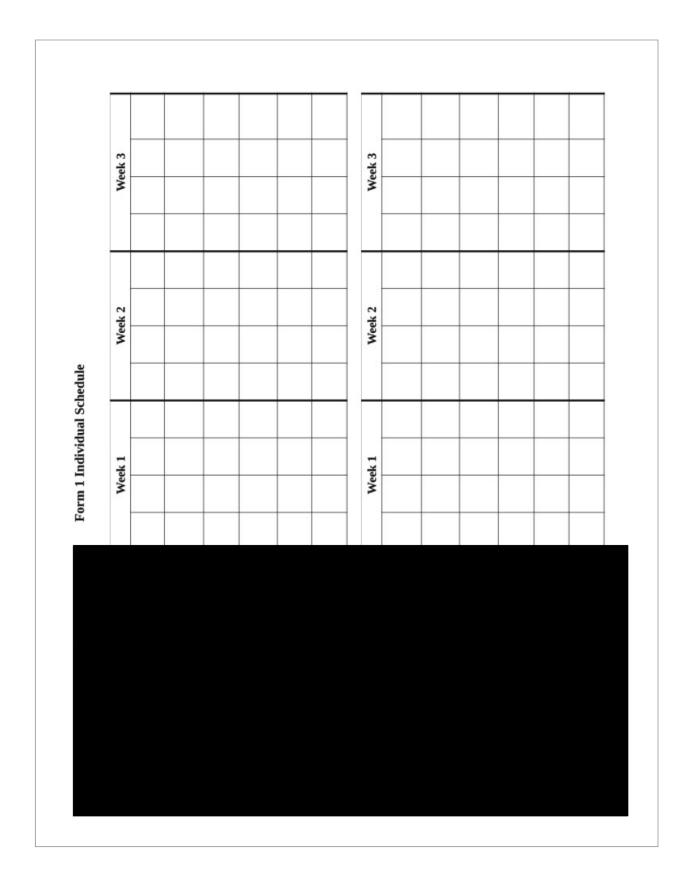
SAMPLE CHECKLISTS OF SCHOOLWORK



FORM 1 GROUP SCHEDULE PLAN



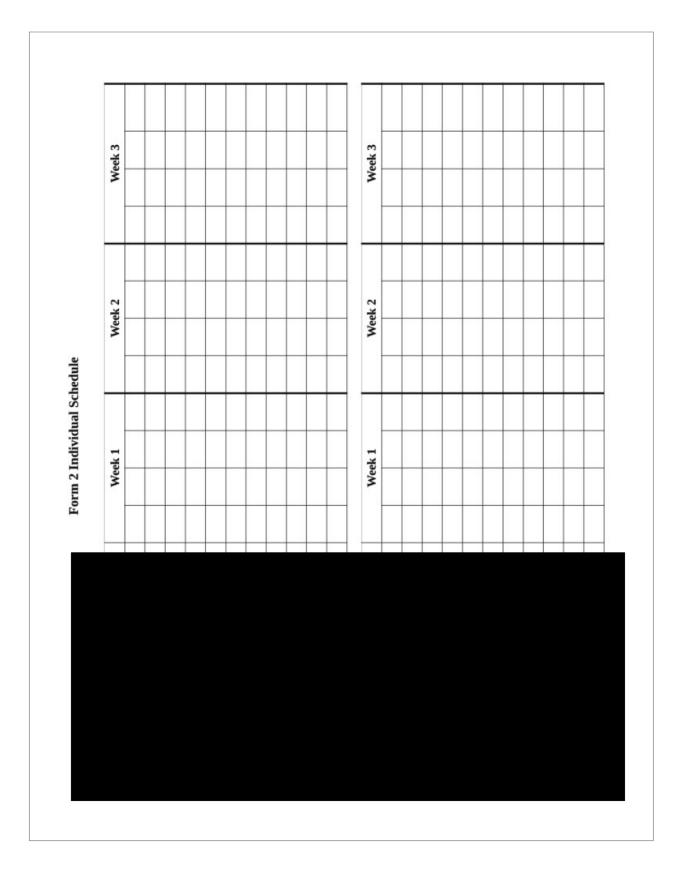
FORM 1 INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULE PLAN



FORM 2 GROUP SCHEDULE PLAN

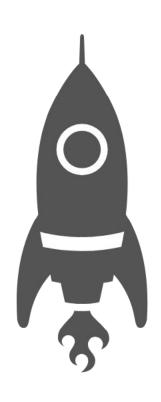
		orm 2 Grou				
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
Day 1	69					
Literature Read						

FORM 2 INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULE PLAN



APPENDIX A

CURRICULUM-BASED MEASUREMENT
TEMPLATES

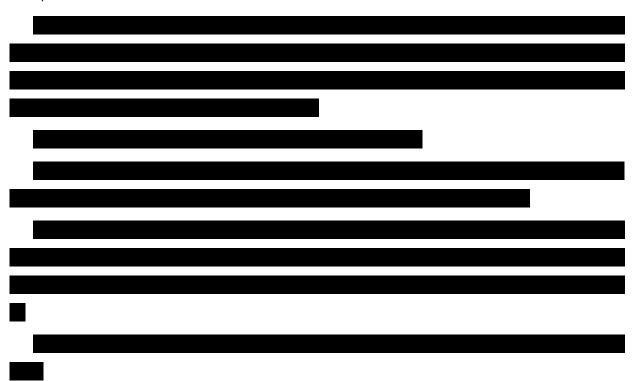


APPENDIX A

CURRICULUM-BASED MEASUREMENT

WHAT IS CURRICULUM-BASED MEASUREMENT (CBM) AND WHY USE IT?

CBM is a way of seeing where a student is in basic reading and math skills without using a test. Instead, you'll use math sheets and reading passages that you can print on the computer!

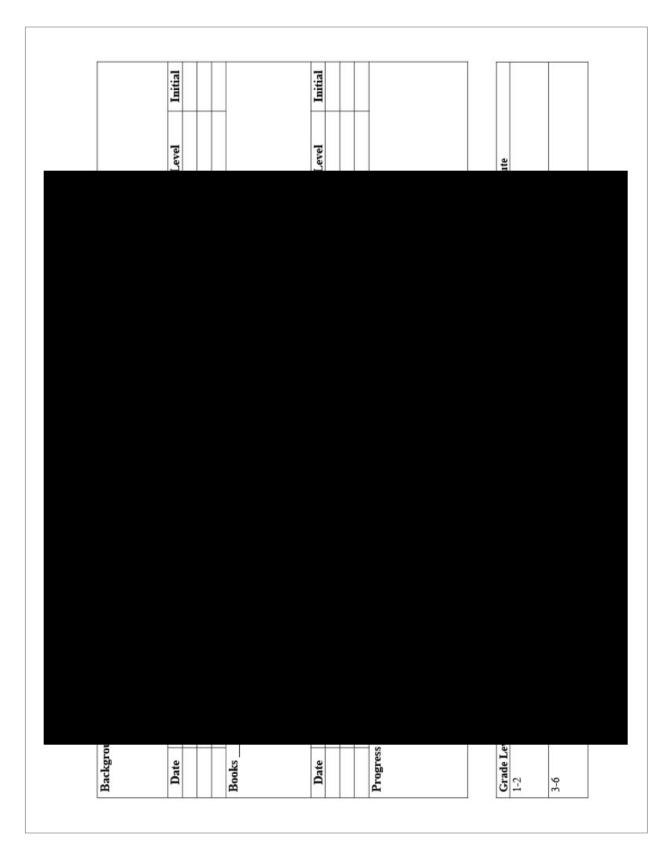


But how do you use CBMs? See the next two pages for instructions on using CBMs for both reading and math.

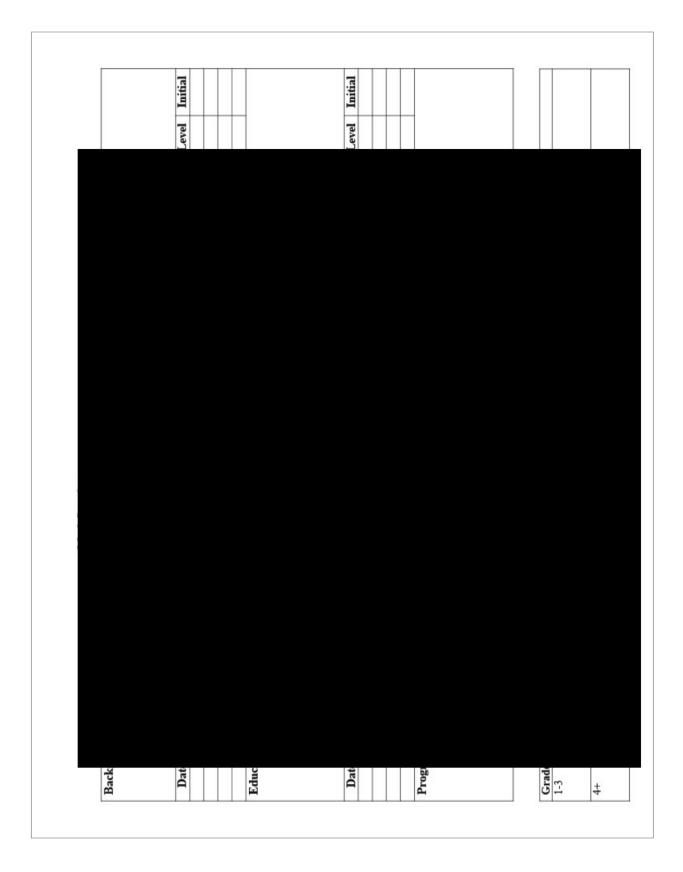
CBM FOR READING

CBM FOR MATH	

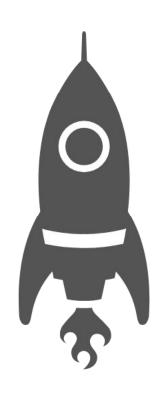
CBM READING LOG TEMPLATE



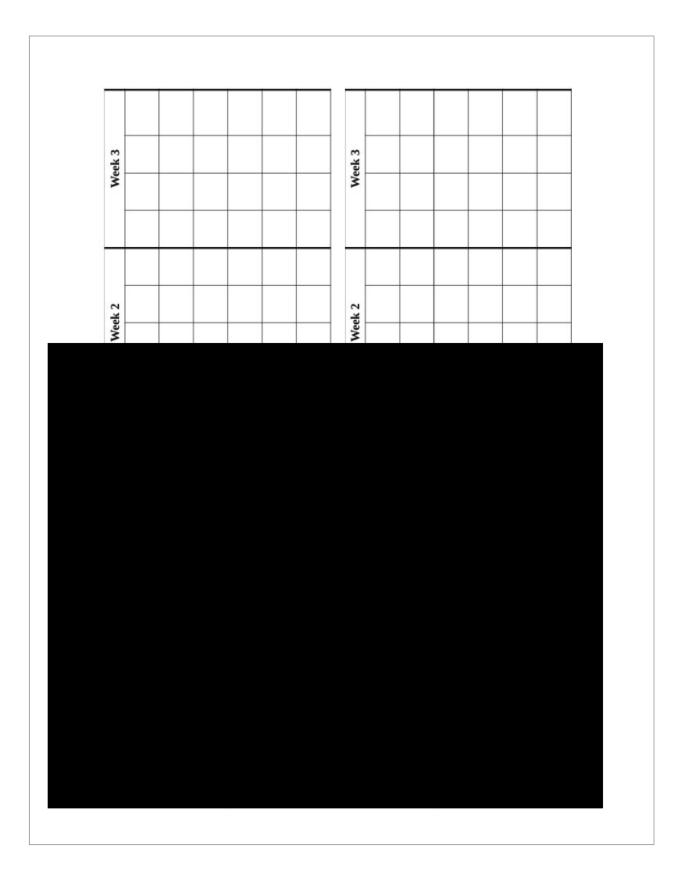
CBM MATH LOG TEMPLATE



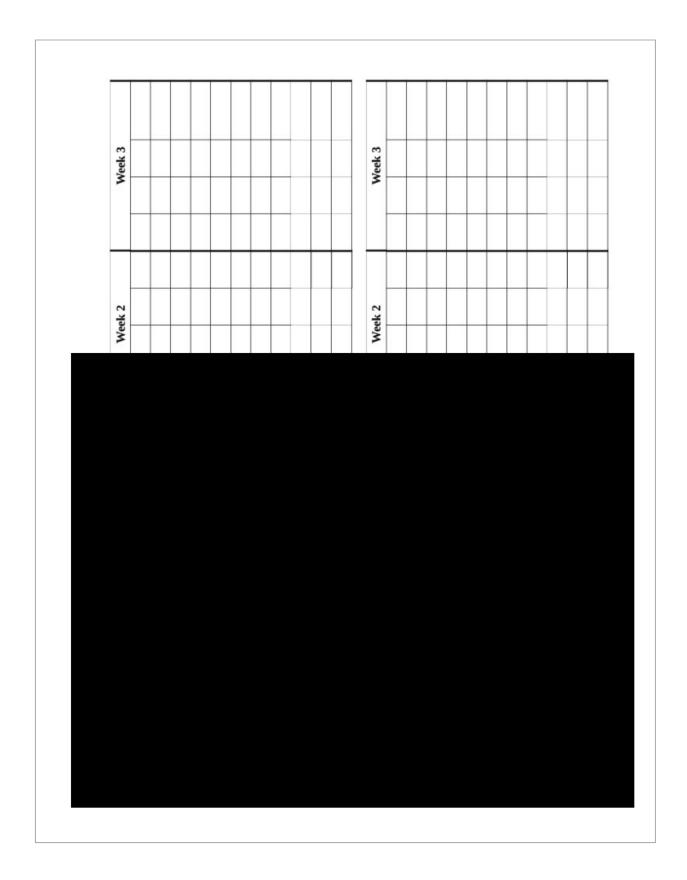
APPENDIX B PLANNING TEMPLATES



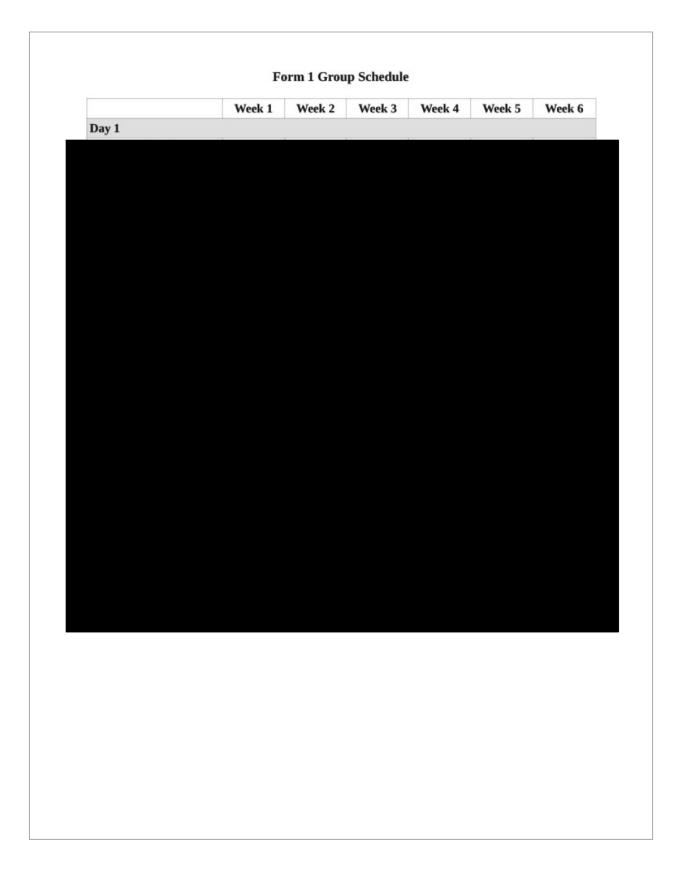
SCHOOL YEAR PLAN - FORM 1 TEMPLATE



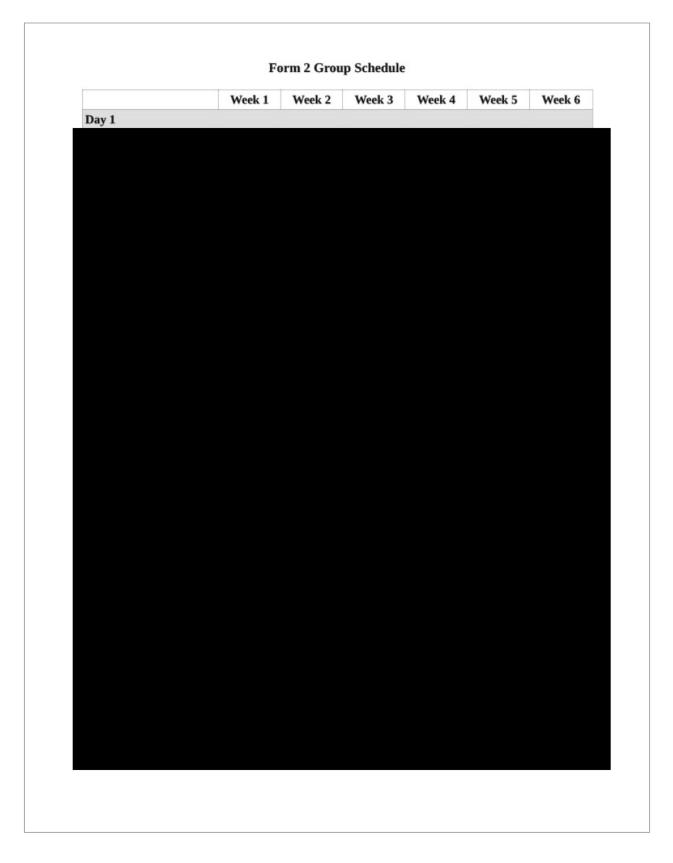
SCHOOL YEAR PLAN - FORM 2 TEMPLATE



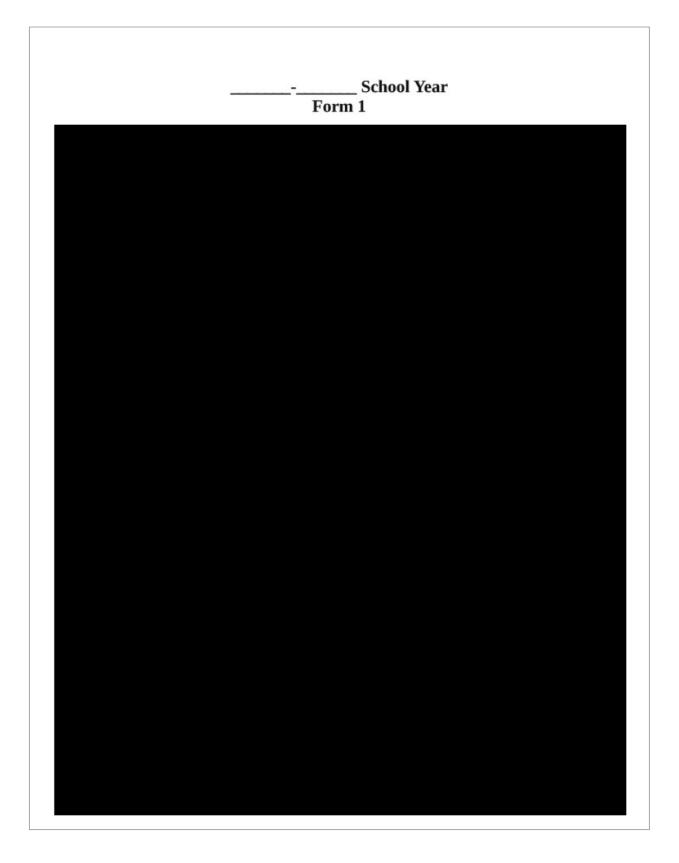
INDIVIDUAL WORK SCHEDULE - FORM 1 TEMPLATE



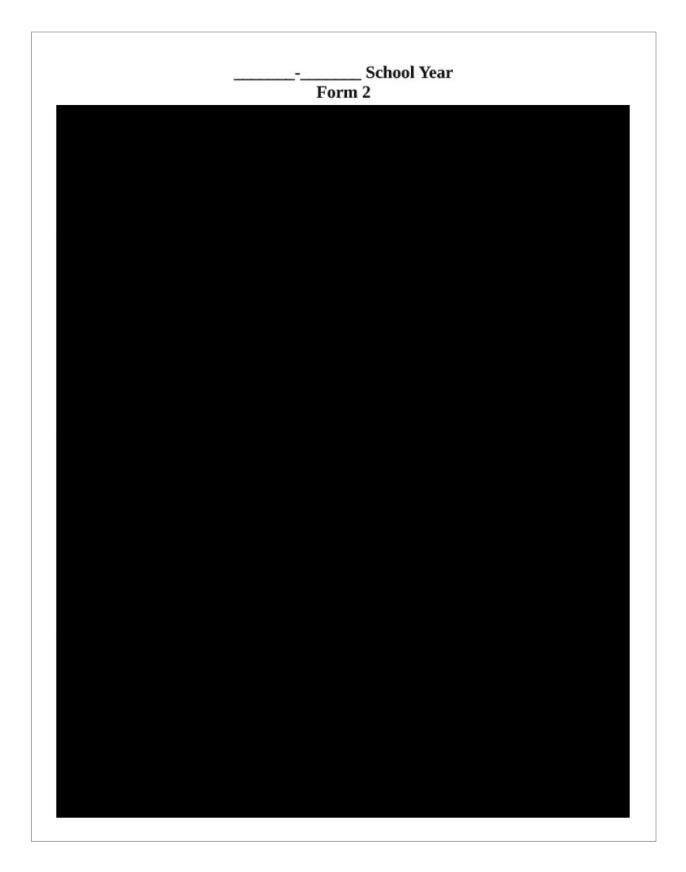
INDIVIDUAL WORK SCHEDULE - FORM 2 TEMPLATE



GROUP WORK SCHEDULE - FORM 1 TEMPLATE



GROUP WORK SCHEDULE - FORM 2 TEMPLATE



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hi! I'm AMY BODKIN, owner of AMY BODKIN CONSULTING.

I uniquely understand your special needs family. I've been where you are. In fact, I'm still "there!" I'm an Autistic adult with autistic kids.

I also have multiple degrees in Psychology and have been consulting privately with Special Needs families for more than 15 years.



I bring my experience as a School Psychologist and parent of two Autistic kids to the homeschool community in hopes of helping more families find joy in their educational journey.

My credentials include the following:

- Educational Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Neuropsychology
- Master's in Educational Psychology
- Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology
- Minor in Mathematics
- Former School Psychologist
- Autistic adult with Dyslexia and Auditory Processing Disorder
- Homeschooling mom to two Autistic kiddos

Professionally, personally, and as a parent, I have a significant amount of experience with Autism and all the many processing and learning disabilities that can go with Autism. All of these different angles of experience give me a very unique perspective and insight into homeschooling students with varying needs.

It's really all about advocating for children, whether it's through my podcast, "Special Needs Kids Are People Too!," speaking events, in our online membership community, or through one-on-one consultations.

I make it my business to see each child as an individual and not as a diagnosis... and to bring that message and philosophy to others.

For a complete list of resources, or for more info about homeschooling with special needs, please see the ABC website at:

AMYBODKIN.COM

OTHER RESOURCES FROM ABC

THE SPECIAL NEEDS MEMBERSHIP

Find encouragement and support in the Special Needs Membership... it's like a virtual group hug!

ALLY

Subscribe to the podcast, Special Needs Kids are People Too!

BOOST

Get a boost with our educational resources.

CONNECT

Connect with other special needs families through our Special Needs Membership and Consultations.

For a complete list of resources, or for more info about homeschooling with special needs, please see the ABC website at:

AMYBODKIN.COM

Amy Bodkin Consulting

seeing the possibilities from a neurodivergent lens because Special Needs Kids Are People Too!



Need Help with Homeschooling?

Get a Boost with Educational Resources from ABC

Get help from someone who's been where you are! Amy Bodkin is an Autistic Adult, a Consultant, Speaker, and a homeschooling mom. She advocates for children through her podcast, her website, and through speaking engagements.

She helps special needs families through her work as a consultant, products like this, and through her Special Needs Membership.

Amy Bodkin, EdS

Special Needs Consultant

- Autistic adult with Dyslexia and Auditory Processing Disorder
- Educational Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in Neuropsychology
- Master's in Educational Psychology
- · Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology
- · Former School Psychologist
- Author and Speaker
- Homeschooling mom to two Autistic kiddos

Homeschooling the Neurodivergent Way
AmyBodkin.com