

SCHOOL STICKS

Helping Kids
Stay Sharp at
Home



FREEBIE

2 Weeks of School Sticks
Grades 3 - 6

by: Adriannne Meldrum

THANK YOU

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A Little Background:

As I am sure you can relate, the chore situation at my house was getting out of hand. It always seemed to be that I was doing all the work and my children somehow always managed to get out of doing their share.

I was feeling desperate one day for a solution and had remembered a pin I saw on Pinterest. DeeDee at Whatever DeeDee Wants had made these amazing (super cute) [chore sticks](#). Each day children draw out a chore stick and complete the task.

We made some right away! It has worked out beautifully. When my children come home from school, they know to grab a chore stick and get it done. Homework and piano practice is also required

Am I perfect at it everyday? Well, honestly no! Most days we get it done and it's saved me from feeling overwhelmed.

School Sticks:

I love summer! It always seems that I make these big plans to keep my children brushed up on all they learned the previous year. We fall short like many of you I am sure.

I was brainstorming about what to do when I remembered how well chore sticks were working for us. I decided to make School Sticks and add them to our daily routine.

I've discovered many uses for School Sticks. If you're a teacher, use them for those early finisher students. If you're a parent concerned about your child not being challenged enough, use School Sticks to enrich.

Children don't need thick books of work to keep them sharp during the summer. All they really need is a little brush up and time for reading each day. Children forget when they spend a whole summer zoned out in front of electronics. Spend time with your children and read with them.

Get on board with me at keeping our children sharp this summer. I've made it super easy. There are three categories. Reading, Writing, and Math.

School Sticks have been designed for students 3 – 6 grade. I tutor students and have discovered most of the time, older students just don't have the basics down. Practicing things like multiplication even when you are a sixth grader is beneficial.

All of the math has been aligned with Common Core Standards for Math. Visit their [website](#) to see if your state has adopted these new guidelines for math.

I've made enough for two weeks worth. If you would like enough for the 2 months (108 sticks), please go to my blog, [The Tutor House](#) and pick some up for a small fee. I have an entire page dedicated to [summer skills](#)! There you'll find videos and other suggestions for younger children.

On the next page, you'll find directions for making and using these School Sticks. If you have any questions for me, don't hesitate to email me.

thetutorhouse@hotmail.com

[Blog Store](#)



Fonts provided by:

[Kevin and Amanda](#)

[Urban Fonts](#)

Materials:

Jumbo Craft sticks (6 in. by 3/4 in.)	White cardstock
Mod Podge	Scissors
Foam brush	Cup or can
White paper	Binger ring
Paper Trimmer	

Directions:

The Sticks

Print stick pages out in color on white paper. Get a paper trimmer and cut the rectangle apart. This can be super time consuming, I recommend recruiting your children to help or get some movie watching going at the same time.

After you get the stick papers all trimmed, you'll need to adhere the paper to the sticks using Mod Podge. Simply paint a thick coat on the stick and place School Stick paper on top. Allow to dry. Do this to all the sticks. Trim the excess paper around the stick. Then do another layer of Mod Podge over the top of the paper. This seals it all in. For more tips, visit [DeeDee's blog](#) for a better description with pictures.

The Math Cards

Print math cards out in color on white cardstock. Trim on the dotted lines with your paper trimmer. Punch a hole in the corner of each card and loop them onto a binder ring.

Suggested Use of School Sticks:

Now that you've got it all made, put all the sticks into a can or cup that is the designated School Stick cup. Use the label I've made if you would like.

Monday through Friday, children will be expected to read 30 minutes (doesn't have to be all at once) and do 2-3 school sticks. The amount of school sticks is your choice. For your children to be successful, I recommend making a small box with all the materials they would need to do most of the School Sticks. Inside you'll need to put, paper, pencils, pens, crayons, two decks of playing cards, and math cards you've made here.

When your child pulls a math stick. They need to read the math problem number and then use the Math Cards. They do the problem and it would be good if you could get them to write a little of the math they do.

One last thought, for this to be successful, you as the parent need to be excited and interested in what they are doing. If you are at work during the day, ask your child about their School Sticks they did and look at the items they worked on. Be Excited!



School Box Tip

A teal banner with a ribbon-like border and a central rectangular box containing the text 'School Box Tip' in a red, cursive font.

I heart Organizing has a great tutorial on making a [school box](#). All I would change to work with School Sticks is use the file folder to keep the paper your children use to write on in one place. At the end of the summer, you can look back at all your children's hard work.



Writing

Write a letter to a friend or parent.

Writing

Write a poem about a dog with purple spots.

Writing

Make a list of everything you would like to do this summer.

Writing

Write directions for making a Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich. Then try following your directions.

Writing

Write your own comic book story.

Writing

Write a page about the book you are reading now. Who is it about? What's happening? Do you like it?

Writing

Make your own Mad Libs® story and have a sibling or parent fill in the blanks.

Writing

Create a cover for a book about a talking cat.

Writing

Describe how you would use robot.

Writing

Make a poster that tries to get people to buy an old banana.

Writing

Describe a day full of mishaps with a turtle.

Writing

Write five questions you would ask a pencil if it could talk.

Reading

Find all the long /a/ sounds on the cereal box.
(ai, ay, ei, ey)

Reading

Find all the long /e/ sounds on one page out of a magazine. (ee,ea,ie,ey)

Reading

Find all the long /o/ sounds on a page out of a book of your choice.
(oa, ow, old, oll, ost)

Reading

Find all the long /a/ sounds on the cereal box.
(ai, ay, ei, ey)

Reading

Find all the words with /oo/ in them from a newspaper.
(oo, ew, ou, ui)

Reading

Get 10 toys and name them. Identify how many syllables are in each toy word. Write them down.

Reading

Read the back of 5 food boxes in your house out loud in a silly voice.

Reading

Visit the library and choose a book to read out of the science fiction area.

Reading

Read five pages to your sibling or pet.

Reading

Read your book for 15 minutes outside.

Reading

Read a page in a book with a robot voice.

Reading

Pick a sight word like “the” and read a story out loud. Every time you hear “the”, everyone listening yells out “THE!”

Math

Math Problem 1

Math

Math Problem 2

Math

Math Problem 3

Math

Math Problem 4

Math

Math Problem 5

Math

Math Problem 6

Math

Math Problem 7

Math

Math Problem 8

Math

Math Problem 9

Math

Math Problem 10

Math

Math Problem 11

Math

Math Problem 12

Math

Math Problem 2

Find a small food snack like peanuts, marshmallows, raisins, or cereal and count out 48 pieces.

Using these 48 pieces, show at least 5 different ways to divide the groups up equally.

On a piece of paper, write the quotient.

For example:

$$48 \div 12 = 4$$

Now make a new amount of treats like 50 and find all the ways you can equally divide the groups.

Now you may eat your treat!

Math

Math Problem 1

Get yourself a deck of playing cards. Remove all Jacks, Queens, and Kings. Ace is the same as one.

Draw two cards and multiply them.

Two Player: Multiplication War

Get two decks of cards, remove Jacks, Queens, and Kings. Ace is the same as one.

Each player lays down two cards and multiplies. The player with the highest product wins all the cards. If you get the same product, you will have a card war.

Each player lays down two more cards and multiplies. Player with largest sums wins all cards. The player with the most cards in the end, wins.

Math

Math Problem 3

Find a deck of playing cards. Take out the Jacks, Queens, and Kings. Ace is the same as one.

Lay out five cards. This make a big number! Write the number on a sheet of paper. Now round that number to each of the following place values. Write each number that is rounded on the paper.

- Tens
- Hundreds
- Thousands

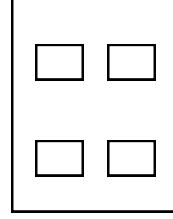
Continue making big numbers until you go through the deck of cards.

Math

Math Problem 4

Get yourself a deck of playing cards. Remove all Jacks, Queens, and Kings. Ace is the same as one.

Draw four cards and place them on the table like this:



These cards make fractions. Compare the fractions and decide if the fraction on the left is greater than, less than or equal to.

Work through the entire deck of cards.

Math

Math Problem 5

You decide to throw a summer pool party with your friends. Your Mom gives you a budget of \$50.00 to spend. A pizza that feeds 8 people costs \$5.00. If all of your friends get one slice of pizza, how many friends can you invite to this party without spending all of your money?

After talking with your Mom, she tells you can spend \$2.00 per friend on candy and a soda. How much do you spend on candy and soda?

Math

Math Problem 6

Get permission from your parents to be outside. Go out in your front yard. Decide on something you would like to count. For example:

- The amount of cars
- The amount of trucks
- The amount of trees with leafs
- The amount of trees with needles

Now track your data by using tally marks. After 20 minutes of counting, now draw a bar graph of your findings.

Which bar had more? By how much? What conclusions can you draw about this data?

Math

Math Problem 7

Time yourself!

Get a stop watch and a deck of playing cards. Remove all the Jacks, Queens, and Kings. If you want, you may remove all numbers higher than five.

Using a stop watch, press start and start by flipping a card over. Now quickly flip a second one and multiply. Flip another card and multiply the card that was on bottom by the card on top.

Go through the entire deck of cards and write down your time. Do it again after shuffling and time yourself again. Try to beat your original time.

As you get better and better, try adding in higher numbers. Jacks= 11, Queens= 12, and Kings=13. Good Luck!

Math

Math Problem 8

Get permission from your parents to go outside. Using your shoe, measure the distance (perimeter) around your house.

Draw a picture and label the length and width.

Now find the area of your house. Area = length times width.

Repeat measuring around the house with a different object like a pencil, ruler, yard stick, even a cereal box!

Math

Math Problem 9

Find the missing numbers of the following problems:

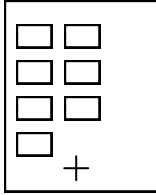
- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| $8 \times ? = 56$ | $6 \times ? = 18$ |
| $4 \times ? = 144$ | $3 \times ? = 27$ |
| $? \times 5 = 25$ | $8 \times ? = 16$ |
| $6 \times ? = 24$ | $8 \times ? = 64$ |
| $? \times 11 = 121$ | $? \times 9 = 32$ |
| $9 \times ? = 27$ | $11 \times ? = 33$ |
| $9 \times ? = 81$ | $? \times 11 = 55$ |
| $3 \times ? = 81$ | $2 \times ? = 6$ |
| $? \times 3 = 24$ | $3 \times ? = 6$ |
| $7 \times ? = 14$ | $4 \times ? = 88$ |

Math Problem 10

Math

Get a deck of playing cards. Pull out the Jacks, Queens, and Kings. Ace is the same as one.

Place four cards on the table and three below it. Look at the example.



Now add the numbers. After you have gone through the deck of cards, shuffle them and do the same layout. This round you will subtract the numbers.

Math

Math Problem 11

Let's sharpen your estimation skills. Go into your room and look at your closet. Estimate how many clothes you have hanging up. Now go open two drawers and estimate how much clothing is in there,

Add the three estimates in your head. Does that seem about right? Count the clothes in closet. Were you close? Count just one of your drawers. Were you close?

Find a box of food and estimate how much is left. Now take one handful out and count it. Using your hand on the outside of the box count how many handfuls would fit up to the line where the food is inside,

Multiply the handful amounts by the amount you counted earlier. Is your original estimation close to this more measured estimation?

Math

Math Problem 12

Find each problems match. The first one is done for you.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| $3 \times 4 \times 2 =$ | $7 \times 11 =$ |
| $(3 \times 5) + (6 \times 2) =$ | $6 \times (8) =$ |
| $7 \times 11 =$ | $40 + 16 =$ |
| $6 \times 4 \times 2 =$ | $15 + 12 =$ |
| $(8 \times 5) + (8 \times 2) =$ | $(2 \times 5) \times 5 =$ |
| $5 \times (10) =$ | $4 \times 2 \times 3 =$ |

ENJOY SUMMER!

If you enjoyed this free resource, you may like the other amazing items I have over at [The Tutor House!](#) It's a blog for tutors which also means it's for parents too.

Come by and visit my [Summer Helps](#) page to see more Chore Sticks, videos, resources, and how to's.

