



# **Elementary Curriculum Guide**

# Welcome to Journey Homeschool Academy!

We're excited to have your family join us on a learning adventure!

In the elementary years, children exhibit a voracious appetite for new knowledge — they constantly question “why” and “how?” They have a seemingly endless capacity for memorizing new facts!



Our elementary curriculum is designed to introduce your kids to new concepts and get them *excited* about learning—specifically in the sciences. Our desire is to ignite their imagination and feed their appetite for new knowledge, so we can help set the stage for success in the sciences later on.

More important than just “teaching new facts,” our focus is on helping children experience science physically —through their bodies. At every step, they’re encouraged to use their eyes, ears, fingers, minds, and hearts to explore scientific topics. We prioritize tying scientific principles to other things in the world around your children, that they can see and touch.

Since young children are also growing their capacity to both memorize and imagine, we help them build a strong foundation for future learning through living books, videos, hands-on activities, copywork, and—yes—quizzes.

Our goal in Level A is to harness your child’s natural curiosity and inspire a love of learning that will serve them into adulthood.

We look forward to partnering with you this year in your homeschool as your students begin their journey into science!

Luke & Trisha Gilkerson

# Getting Started

## Where to Begin

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One of the most important things you'll need to know is how to **log in to your course**. It's very easy, but let us know if you have any problems. [You can log in by clicking here](#). You'll want to be sure to bookmark this page so you can come back to it when needed!

1. Log in at [JourneyHomeschoolAcademy.com](http://JourneyHomeschoolAcademy.com).
2. Click on Course Access.
3. Click on the lit icon of the course you have purchased.

Good news! You have unlimited access to your Journey Homeschool Academy elementary course, so that means you can get started *whenever you want*. You can start right away, or you can wait and get started a month, or two, or even a year from now.

# How the Course Works

## Weekly Schedule

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We designed our elementary courses to be flexible and fit your family's schedule. There are 30 lessons in Journey Homeschool Academy elementary courses. While most families choose to complete the course in one school year, you can complete the course as quickly or take as much time as you need to since you have lifetime access to the course.

Think of the lesson videos as the “hub” of the course and the other elements as the spokes. The lesson videos should be the main thing your student focuses on, and then you can use as many or as few of the other elements as you wish for continued learning. You can spread out the weekly assignments to as few or many days as you'd like—or skip the parts your family doesn't need.

Here is a possible daily plan based on a 5-day schedule:

- Monday: Watch the lesson video + complete the lesson quiz
- Tuesday: Watch the memory video + review memory facts
- Wednesday: Read one or more books from the recommended reading list + review memory facts
- Thursday: Complete the hands-on activity + review memory facts
- Friday: Complete copywork + review memory fact

Here is a possible daily plan based on a 3-day schedule:

- Monday: Watch the lesson video + complete the lesson quiz + review memory facts
- Wednesday: Read one or more books from the recommended reading list + watch the memory video + review memory facts
- Friday: Complete the hands-on activity + copywork + review memory facts

## Video Lessons

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Each video lesson is about 15-20 minutes long and covers one main science concept. Lessons end with a quick review of important concepts to remember from the lesson. These would be good items to write on a posterboard or marker board and talk about after each lesson. Ask your student(s) details about each point they found interesting.

## Recommended Reading

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Every lesson has recommended reading. Most people don't buy these books but get them from a public library, so now would be a good time to look ahead to the next couple of lessons and see what books you need to pick up.

You do *not* need to get all of the recommended books. Choose the books that make the most sense for *your* family. Depending on the age of your child, some will work well as independent reading and others will be good as read-alouds. The books we chose are designed to help reinforce what students are learning in the videos.

If you want to buy any of these books or plan out what books you'll pick up from the library, here are lists with links to purchase from online retailers:

- [Experience Astronomy Elementary](#)
- [Experience Biology Elementary](#)
- [Earth Science Explored Elementary](#)

## Hands-On Activities

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Each lesson has a *hands-on activity* associated with it. While most lessons only require supplies from around the house or easily found at your local store, you should look ahead to make sure you have the supplies you'll need for the activities you'd like to incorporate.

The links below will provide you with a list of supplies needed for each lesson along with links to purchase any specialty supplies that might be needed.

- [Experience Astronomy Elementary](#)
- [Experience Biology Elementary](#)
- [Earth Science Explored Elementary](#)

## Copywork: Handwriting Practice

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Every lesson comes with handwriting practice pages in both cursive and ball-and-stick. These pages feature Bible verses and quotes from famous scientists on the topic being studied in that lesson.

## Quizzes

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Each lesson includes a multiple-choice quiz. The goal of these quizzes is to help you get a sense of how your child's comprehending the material, not just giving them a grade. If your child gets 4 or more wrong in a lesson, consider having them watch the lesson again to review the information.

Keep in mind, just like *all* the supplemental features of the course (copywork, memory work, hands-on activities, and recommended reading), the quizzes are optional.

## Memory Work

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Our Elementary courses place a strong emphasis on memory work. By the end of each course, students could have between 50-80 scientific facts memorized along with several Bible verses.

One of the best disciplines to start in the elementary years is having students memorize key facts. To help you with this, you have two resources...

1. **Memory Videos** – With every lesson, there’s a short memory video with a simple explanation of what the students should memorize.
2. **Memory Cards** – Download flashcards with each lesson and use them to drill the memory facts or purchase a physical copy of the [full-color cards](#).

## The Student Adventure Guide & Lesson Cards

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All the supplemental activities are included as a downloadable PDF in each lesson, or from the course dashboard under “Resources” you can download the complete Student Adventure Guide.

But if you’d like your students to have everything in a convenient, colorful, spiral-bound book, the printed Student Adventure Guide is for you! You can find these in [our online bookstore](#).