

# Tips for Using Kumon Books

## Planning Ahead

- Make sure you choose a book that is an appropriate level for your child. The Parents & Educators page on our website has sample pages and Scope and Sequence charts that show the skills and concepts covered. Keep in mind that your child should do work according to their current ability, rather than their age or grade level.
- It's a good idea to set the number of pages your child will complete in a day. This will give them a feeling of accomplishment when they complete a section. The right amount will vary based on your child, and may be two or four pages a day. The important thing to remember is that the practice should come to an end when your child is tired, when they still want to do a little more. This encourages their motivation to learn.

## Keeping Your Child Motivated

- At Kumon, we believe that children learn best by doing, which is why we provide children with a careful progression of tasks that grow incrementally more difficult. If your child initially struggles with a step, try giving helpful hints and encouragement to allow them to figure it on their own.
- If you must intervene, model a simple example on another piece of paper and then ask them to rephrase it using their own words. After that, you can have them return to the book and continue.
- Be sure to offer your child lots of praise, especially when they complete particularly difficult tasks. Consider writing encouraging words or adding stickers to the pages they complete.
- Have your child check their answers, and allow them to review their errors to see where they made a mistake.

## Tips for Using Basic Workbooks

- If your child has difficulty holding a pencil, a crayon may be a good substitute in the beginning. A shorter chubbier pencil is also easier to hold, and a soft pencil, such as a #1 pencil, makes a smoother, darker line.
- One way to teach your child to hold a pencil is to have them make an L shape with their thumb and forefinger. Place the pencil against the top of the bent middle finger and on the thumb joint. Then have them squeeze the pencil with their thumb and forefinger.
- Our books use high-quality paper that can stand up to rough drawing and easy erasing. So don't be afraid to let your child erase and try again!

### Math Strategies

- Many children find math to be overwhelming. Be sure to break their practice sessions into a manageable amount of time. If they struggle with a certain section in the book, allow them to do extra practice until they master the skill.
- Encourage your child to restate problems in their own words and explain their problem-solving process as they work.

### Reading Strategies

- Our reading books contain vocabulary words that are defined on the page. If your child is unfamiliar with any other words in the passage, have them guess the word's meaning based on context or word parts. Then demonstrate how to use a dictionary to look up the word. Have them restate the meaning in their own words and compare it to the definition they guessed.
- If your child is struggling with a specific skill, such as identifying theme, you can have them practice with a familiar example such as a children's story or even their favorite movie.

### Writing Strategies

- If your child struggles with a grammatical concept, have them examine a model text to find examples. Keep in mind that some literary texts may not be a suitable model, as authors sometimes break conventions to achieve a purpose. Non-fiction texts may be more suitable.
- Consider having your child record the skills they learn in a checklist that they can refer back to when they are drafting. Encourage them to add items to their checklist as they move through the book.