



California 4-H Youth Development Program Resource Review Check-List

(Rev. 01/06)

Name of Curriculum: The Adventures of Sammy the Saver

Publisher The "It's a Habit" Company Sam X. Renick Company, Inc. 2238 Harwood Street, Los Angeles, CA 90031 Last Revised: _____

Brief Description of Curriculum: A combination literacy and financial literacy curriculum for early elementary aged children.

Mission

Globally provide children, and families, and organizations, with Strategic tools (educational and entertaining) that encourage the multiplication of good learning habits, especially saving money.

Objective

The objective of IAHC efforts is to make the American dream accessible to kids no mater who they are, where they come from, or what language they and their parents speak at home.

Cost: \$8.95 per book (2 now in print 3 in development)

Ordering Information (including publication number): For individual and small purchases (under 50 units) please visit one of the following sites:

- <http://www.familyvaluecreations.com/cart.htm>
- http://www.bydesignsolutions.org/educational_products_sammy_rabbit.html
- <http://www.moneycampstore.com/site/1396072/page/45031>

For volume purchases (50 or more units) and services email us at:

sammy@itsahabit.com or sxrenick@aol.com

Check all that apply:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Activity Guide | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teaching (Helper's) Guide | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reference Material |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

Identify the delivery mode: (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Club | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overnight Camp | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Enrichment |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Short-Term | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School-Aged Child Care | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Study |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project/ Club | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Home School | |

Appropriate for: (check all that apply)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Primary Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Juniors Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate Members |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Adults | |
- (Volunteers/Teachers/Parents/Staff)

Life Skills (refer to Iowa Life Skills Wheel)

	Strong Presence			Weak Presence		
Includes one or more life skills for targeted age group & subject matter:	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Head	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Heart	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Hands	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Activity Guide Review

Subject Matter

	Strong Presence			Weak Presence			N/A
Facts and terminology are current, accurate, research-based and used appropriately	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Varied experiences for varied learning styles	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developmentally appropriate (age, grade, level)	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supports state or national education content standards	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Presentation and Ease of Use

	Strong Presence			Weak Presence			N/A
Graphics are up-to-date	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sensitive towards and reflects diverse populations	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Well organized and easy to use	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Methodology

	Strong Presence			Weak Presence			N/A
Method of instruction is learner-centered	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provides:							
• Exploration	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sharing	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Processing	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Generalizing	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Applying	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth/adult partnership are included	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cross-age activities are included	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The types of questions are open-ended	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connections between the activity and real-world examples are made in the curriculum	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The audience is given a direct hands-on experience described in the curriculum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘
Varied experiences for varied learning styles	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Developmentally appropriate (age, grade, level)	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Evaluation

	Yes	No
Clearly stated outcomes, goals and objectives	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self-evaluation forms are included in curriculum	✘	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data is provided to show effectiveness	<input type="checkbox"/>	✘

Overall opinion of Curriculum: _____

✘ Excellent Very Good Good Fair Poor

Additional Comments:

This is a well thought out curricula for the primary learner (grades 2&3). Financial literacy in younger children is often ignored and this is exactly the time to start children thinking about money as more than something that comes from Mom and Dad. These 2 books, “It’s a Habit Sammy Rabbit” and “Will Sammy Ride the World’s First Space Coaster?” begin the conversation with the early elementary child about money and saving. There is also a music CD that can be purchased separately.

The illustrations are colorful, well designed, and integrated with the story. Sammy the rabbit is charmingly illustrated and has family, friends and relatives rendered as a supportive network to the themes of the books. The books have reading activities, writing activities, vocabulary and a word game. They are of a size adequate for small hands and have a laminated cover to take the extra abuse of younger children. More Sammy books are in the development stage at this time. The “It’s a Habit” web site www.itsahabit.com has leader/teacher information and more about the Sammy experience. The author and Sammy character also do public appearances.

Training and Resource Guide (For It’s a Habit, Sammy Rabbit!, Will Sammy Ride the World’s First Space Coaster?, Get in the Habit! Sammy’s Savings Songs)

This guide has everything step by step to teach and reinforce the central points of the curricula. The introduction is easy to follow for anyone, you do not need teaching or youth group leader experience to use this guide. I liked the warm up questions to introduce the leader/teacher to the children and the get an easy flow of questions and answers going. There are also additional topics added for those that wish to extend the learning session to fit a longer time frame. They use predicting the chapter titles within the books and in the guide to help children focus on what they see and read. They also use pre-reading skills to involve the children in the book before they even start reading. The guide has specific questions for each chapter as well as the before mentioned additional questions and activities.

In the future I would like to see this guide spiral bound and with laminated covers like the lesson plan book.

Lesson Plans for “It’s a Habit Sammy Rabbit”

Each lesson within all of the sections has the California Content Standard that the lesson corresponds to, a list of the materials you will need to complete the lesson, and lesson based questions.

“Are You Ready to Read?” This section contains three pre-reading activities to enhance the student’s understanding of the stories.

“On Your Mark, Get Set, Read” provides discussion opportunities to improve critical thinking skills.

- Seven (1-7) lessons are included in this section, the seven lessons are based on reading standards (1.3, 2.0, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, literary response & analysis 3.0, 3.4, 3.6, reading comprehension 2.5)
- The lessons also have four worksheets, Story Map, Character Web, Synonyms and Antonyms, and a Find the Book Parts.

“Get Ready Let’s Write” gives students a chance to improve their writing skills.

- Seven lessons (8-14) bases on writing standards (writing applications 2.1, 2.2, writing strategies 1.0, 1.1, covers the writing skills that can be discovered in the Sammy curricula.
- Worksheets include, Pre-Writing Outline, Writer’s Editing Checklist, and Sammy storybook cover for the student to copy.

“Are You Listening?” gives students an opportunity to strengthen their listening and speaking and citizenship skills, as well as develop self-esteem.

- Lessons 15- 17 are base on speaking application standards.
- No worksheets are included in this section.

“One, Two, Three!” This section provides students with an opportunity to practice applied math skills and is based on the curricula’s use of number sense standards.

- Three lessons (18-20) that address the number sense standards (2.0, 2.1, 2.2).
- The worksheets are Counting Carrots (a counting game with carrot cutouts) and the math word game worksheet “Who Am I?”

Good for You, Good for Me! This section allows students to better understand their community and the effect they can have upon it.

- Two lessons (21-22) based on the continuity and change standard (3.5 # 3).
- No worksheets.

ASSESSMENTS

A two page written assessment and a one page oral assessment is included at the end of the “It’s a Habit Sammy Rabbit” lesson plan section.

Lesson Plans for “Will Sammy Ride the World’s First Space Coaster?”

Each lesson within all of the sections has the California Content Standard that the lesson corresponds to, a list of the materials you will need to complete the lesson, and lesson based questions.

“Are You Ready to Read?” This section contains seven pre-reading activities to enhance the student’s understanding of the stories.

“On Your Mark, Get Set, Read” provides discussion opportunities to improve critical thinking skills.

- Seven (1-7) lessons are included in this section. All of these seven lessons are again based on California reading standards (reading 1.3, literary response and analysis 3.4, reading comprehension 2.0, & 2.5)
- Four worksheets, Story Map, Character Web, Can You Predict the Chapter Titles? (grades 3-5)? and Can you Predict the Chapter Titles? (grades K-2) All of these seven lessons are again based on California reading standards (reading 1.3, literary response and analysis 3.4, reading comprehension 2.0, & 2.5)

“Get Ready Let’s Write” gives students a chance to improve their writing skills.

- Six lessons (8-13) based on writing standards (writing applications 2.1& 2.2, writing strategies 1.0 & 1.1), covers the writing skills that can be discovered in the Sammy curricula.
- Worksheets include, Pre-Writing Outline, Writer’s Editing Checklist, and My Star.

“Are You Listening?” gives students an opportunity to strengthen their listening and speaking and citizenship skills, as well as develop self-esteem.

- Two lessons (14-15) are based on speaking application standards (2.0 & 2.2).
- No worksheets are included in this section.

“One, Two, Three!” This section provides students with an opportunity to apply learned math skills.

- Four lessons (16-19) to practice applied math skills, the skills are based on the curricula’s use of number sense standards (number sense 2.0 & 5.0 continuity and change 3.5 #3)
- The worksheets are Numbers in Space (a counting game with carrot cutouts) and the math word game worksheet “Who Am I?”

ASSESSMENTS

A three page written assessment and a one page oral assessment is included at the end of the “It’s a Habit Sammy Rabbit” lesson plan section.

It’s a Habit CD Music Lesson Plans and song sheets

Music CD

This CD covers the range, pop with “Get in the Habit” and “The Secret”, to reggae with “Rainy Day”, mild rock with “Turn Off the Lights” and “Superhero”, Salsa with “Again” (in Spanish and English). I can see a room full of 2nd and 3rd graders rocking out to these songs. The lyrics are included in the lesson plans and all are connected to the books. More music is coming with the addition of the new books.

“Listen and Learn” Music activities.

- Four lessons to be used with the music CD. The lessons cover speaking and writing standards. (listening and speaking strategies 1.0, writing strategies 1.0 and writing applications 1.0)

ASSESSMENTS

One two page written assessment worksheet and one oral assessment worksheet based on the music.

Coloring Book

This book is bilingual in Spanish/English and has eight pages of large outlined pictures of Sammy and his adventures to color or decorate.

Parent Help Guide (Additional Handout)

This twelve-page guide gives direction to parents on how to reinforce the reading and saving information given in the books and music. It is step-by-step and easy to follow and again it is written for those that are not teachers or youth leaders.