

FAQ: Homeschool

Core Knowledge is used by many homeschooling families.

Core Knowledge offers **suggested content** to be taught at each grade level and materials aligned with each content area, around which you can build your own lessons and units. Consider starting with our **Core Knowledge Curriculum Series**, which is a growing set of comprehensive materials for language arts, science, history, and geography content as specified by the *Core Knowledge Sequence*. Also, our **archives of teacher-created lesson plans** include a collection of units and lessons presented at past Core Knowledge National Conferences. These lesson plans can provide support as you create additional lessons to teach all of the **Core Knowledge content**.

For more information on homeschooling with Core Knowledge, please see the frequently asked questions below:

I really like the Core Knowledge curriculum. What do you have to offer to a homeschooling environment?

Almost all of our products are appropriate for use in a homeschool situation. The content and skill guidelines for preschool and prekindergarten (children three- to five-years-old) are provided in ***The Preschool Sequence and Teacher Handbook***.

The content and skill guidelines for kindergarten through grade eight are provided in the ***Core Knowledge Sequence***. Teacher handbooks are also available for kindergarten through grade five.

The Core Knowledge ***What Your—Grader Needs to Know*** series was created specifically for parents. In one convenient volume per grade—from *What Your Preschooler Needs to Know* through *What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know*—this eight-volume series provides parents, teachers, and children with an engaging, illustrated introduction to the important knowledge outlined in the *Preschool Sequence* and the *Sequence*.

Additional resources for specific content areas are available in our **store** as well as within our **Free Download Manager**. These publications form the foundation of the curriculum, guiding the content you will teach.

These materials can also be augmented with materials from your public library or local bookstore.

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What reading programs do you recommend to homeschoolers?

Although the *Core Knowledge Sequence* provides skills and content for each grade level, you may be more successful augmenting this guidance with specific lesson plans designed by curriculum specialists. The [Core Knowledge Language Arts \(CKLA\)](#) program is a comprehensive English language arts curriculum for grades Preschool–5. It is also available for [free download!](#)

Reading requires two abilities — the ability to turn print into language (decoding) and the ability to understand what the language says. Achieving the first ability — decoding — requires a sequential program, structured to provide guided practice in various formats and frequent review throughout the year. Decoding programs that are premised on scientifically-based research are: [Core Knowledge Language Arts](#), Jolly Phonics and Jolly Grammar (Jolly Learning), Open Court (SRA/McGraw-Hill), Read Well (Sporis West), Reading Mastery Signature Edition (SRA/McGraw-Hill).

In addition to teaching decoding skills, a good language arts program will include coherent and interesting readings in the subject areas that enhance comprehension ability. No language arts program currently offers such coherent, substantive material. Therefore, in addition to teaching the language topics in the *Sequence*, Core Knowledge teachers are encouraged to substitute solid, interesting non-fictional readings in history and science for many of the short, fragmented stories in the basals, which unfortunately do not effectively enhance reading comprehension.

What mathematics programs do you recommend to homeschoolers?

It is important to establish sequential program in mathematics, structured to provide guided practice in various formats and frequent review throughout the year. Mathematics programs that follow sound cognitive principles and, therefore, lead to greater student mastery are: Singapore Math (distributed by Marshall Cavendish) and Saxon Math (Saxon Math / Harcourt Achieve).

Where can I find materials to support the Core Knowledge curriculum?

The [Core Knowledge Store](#) and our [Free Download Manager](#) are two good places to start. We carry a variety of materials to supplement the content and skill guidelines of the *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence and Teacher Handbook* and the *Core Knowledge Sequence* for grades K through 8.

The [Curriculum](#) page of our website will provide links to unit and lesson plans and a variety of other helpful resources.

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How can homeschoolers network?

You can communicate with other Core Knowledge homeschoolers through an online discussion list setup by Core Knowledge homeschoolers for Core Knowledge homeschoolers. To subscribe to this list, send a blank e-mail to: ckhomeschoolers-subscribe@yahogroups.com

Contact ckhomeschoolers-owner@yahogroups.com with any questions, concerns, or comments.

Also available is the Core-Net Discussion List. This is a discussion group for those schools, both private and public, and individuals who are implementing the *Core Knowledge Sequence* in their curriculum. Areas covered include, but are not limited to, resources and teaching methods. To subscribe to the Core-Net Discussion List, send a blank e-mail to Core-Net-subscribe@yahogroups.com.

Contact Morgan Willemse at tmwillemse@a1solidedu.com with questions about this group.