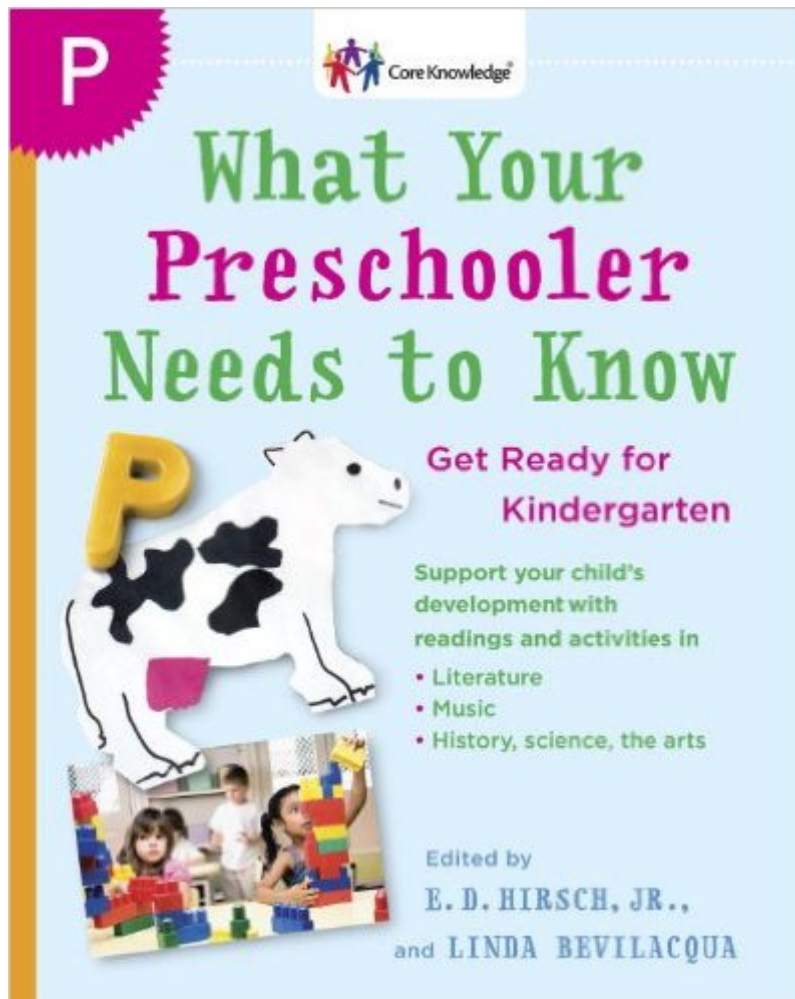


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# What Your Preschooler Needs To Know: Get Ready For Kindergarten (Core Knowledge Series)



## Synopsis

Give your child a smart start with *What Your Preschooler Needs to Know*! Designed for parents to enjoy with children, filled with opportunities for reading aloud and fostering curiosity, this beautifully illustrated anthology offers preschoolers the fundamentals they need to prepare for a happy, productive time in school—and for the rest of their lives. Hundreds of thousands of children have benefited from the acclaimed Core Knowledge Series, developed in consultation with parents, educators, and the most distinguished developmental psychologists. In addition to valuable advice for parents, such as what it means for a child to be ready for kindergarten, special sidebars throughout the book help parents make reading aloud fun and interactive, suggesting questions to ask, connections to make, and games to play to enrich their preschooler's learning experience. Inside you will discover:

- Favorite poems and rhymes—all beautifully illustrated, to be read and recited together, from Robert Louis Stevenson's "At the Seaside" to limericks by Edward Lear and tongue twisters by Jack Prelutsky, plus fun "clap along!" and "fingerplay" verses that parents and children can act out together
- Beloved stories and fables—stories such as "The Three Little Pigs" and the African folktale "Why Flies Buzz"—will open whole new worlds of learning and discovery
- Visual arts—beautiful full-color reproductions of classic works that foster early appreciation of art history while igniting discussions about shapes, colors, and different styles and media
- Music—dozens of songs to sing and dance to, including such "move around" songs as "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and "The Wheels on the Bus"
- History—a delightful introduction to American history, from the first Thanksgiving to Martin Luther King, Jr., with activities and stories parents and children can enjoy together
- Science—from exploring the wonder of animals to the physical properties of light, air, and water
- fun activities that will let children observe, experience, and enjoy the natural world

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

My daughter's not in preschool yet (we can't afford it, plus she's not potty trained yet) and I wanted a guide to help her learn while she's home with me (we read a lot, but can get in a rut). The book is nicely divided into sections for songs, poems, science, history, etc. and it's easy to segue into activities from many of the passages. She's learned a lot of songs and rhymes (that I had forgotten about)and it's inspired me to get more poetry and nursery rhymes from the library. A CD might be something to consider for later editions, because if you don't know the tune of the song, nursery rhyme or fingerplay you're kind of stuck. I'll probably buy the curriculum from the Core Knowledge Foundation that you can get to compliment this reader, because I'm also interested in knowing what skills she should be working on. I'm considering homeschooling, and so far, I like what I've seen of this "system".

I will start by saying that this series is excellent. I will add that purchasing this book alone will be little benefit without the activity books What Your Preschooler Needs to Know: Activity Book 1 for Ages 3-4What Your Preschooler Needs to Know: Activity Book 2 for Ages 4-5. I originally purchased just this book, but since I already read, sing and do poetry with my daughter, there wasn't much of an added benefit with this alone. I decided to purchase the activity book for 3-4 to start off and see if I liked it. I'm glad I did.As a stay-at-home, I sometimes run out of ideas on ways to teach my daughter to prepare her for school. This book has all the basic songs, rhymes and stories that we remember as kids. The activity books expound upon those items by asking your child to think harder about what he/she heard and make observations. Together the books teach pattern recognition, colors, shapes, and encourage imagination. They also are a great help for parents to identify some of the basic needs for children when it comes to education as well as giving various ways the activities can be utilized. My daughter and I have taken several of the activities and built new ones from them.This is an excellent learning series that I would recommend to anyone.

I received this book as a gift to use with my small children. My children ages 20 months and 3 years

thoroughly enjoy it. They like each section, especially the stories, the history and the science. It is presented in a simple format that helps children learn. The nursery rhymes and stories are great. I was even excited to be reminded of some fond childhood memories of certain nursery rhymes and songs, etc. I agree with the other reviewer, I wish that a CD (or even the sheet music) was included to help with the songs if you do not remember the tune. If you teach your children using units, this book can be a great resource. For instance, it helped me with a unit we were studying at home about the American Flag. When I ask my 3 year old who was the first to sew an American Flag, she responds "Betsy Ross". She will also tell you that there are 50 stars on the flag, each representing a state in the United States of America. She also has learned that George Washington was the first president of the United States. All of this knowledge is because of this book and because of reinforcing exercises that we do at home. I would recommend this book to anyone with small children who has the desire to help their children have a love of learning.

I have a copy of "What Your Kindergartener Needs to Know" so I was surprised and disappointed in the absence of math in the preschool edition. Math can be a major stumbling block for even the most able reader. Preschool math concepts are not even mentioned. It also was lacking an index.

If you already spend time reading to your child and talking to them about the world around them this book won't give you anything extra. I was also offended by the section that explains that home is not a school and that unless your child is attending a "school" then they will not get all of the education they need.

The notion of a compilation of rhymes and songs and stories and subjects is good, but I found the quality of material very mediocre. I'll address the various sections here. Regarding the stories section, this book tried too hard to be "educational" and had too many descriptions and "vocabulary" words that I felt took away from the meaning and beauty of the classic stories. They were tedious at times to read. Also mediocre was the material in the Science and other sections. If it would have described what subjects a child should know about, fine--but don't limit the knowledge you impart to what this book has to offer. It's barely even introductory; just brief. The songs were essentially poetry, with no readable sheet music by which to learn the actual notes to the songs if you do not already know. The only thing I appreciated was the poetry section, but you can get that in a nice little book of rhymes. I thought this was going to be an adult-oriented book helping me understand what knowledge my child should have to not be behind when he goes to Kindergarten; and while I

appreciated the attempt to provide the material they were by inclusion suggesting be covered, that material was, essentially, mediocre in quality.

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