

Educational Excellence and Equity for All Children

Is part of a growing network of schools across the country—public, charter, and private—preschool, elementary, and middle school—that use the *Core Knowledge Sequence* and are finding great success as measured both by standardized tests and by the students' enjoyment of learning.

Resources to Help You Better Understand Core Knowledge

The Core Knowledge Sequence: Content and Skill Guidelines for Preschool—Grade 8

What Your Preschooler Needs to Know through What Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know

Core Classics®

Illustrated classics abridged for young readers by faithful in style and substance to the original works.

Books by E. D. Hirsch, Jr.

- *Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know*
- *The Dictionary of Cultural Literacy*, Edited by E. D. Hirsch, Jr., Joseph Keett, and James Trefil
- *The First Dictionary of Cultural Literacy* (for elementary students)
- *The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them*
- *The Knowledge Deficit*

Learn more at www.coreknowledge.org



Core Knowledge®

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Uses Core Knowledge®!

At our school your child will be offered a quality education using the *Core Knowledge Sequence*. The *Sequence* is based on the work and ideas of E. D. Hirsch, Jr., author of the well-known books:

Cultural Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know, *The Schools We Need and Why We Don't Have Them*, and *The Making of Americans*.

The idea behind Core Knowledge is simple and powerful: knowledge builds on knowledge. The more you know, the more you are able to learn. This insight, well-established by cognitive science, has profound implications for teaching and learning. Nearly all of our most important goals for education—greater reading comprehension, the ability to think critically and solve problems, even higher test scores—are a function of the depth and breadth of our knowledge.

The Core Knowledge Sequence outlines the precise content that every child should learn in language arts and literature, history and geography, mathematics, science, music, and the visual arts.

The content is presented grade-by-grade, year-by-year, in a coherent, age-appropriate sequence—eliminating gaps and repetition that often characterize a curriculum in which textbooks and programs are selected independently for each grade.

The Core Knowledge Sequence—Coherent, Cumulative, Content-Specific



The *Core Knowledge Sequence* presents a detailed outline of the content to be taught from preschool through grade eight. We have selected programs and materials to

complement and develop the curriculum. Music and art are prominently included in the *Sequence* and integrated whenever possible with history and literature. Even programs not included in the *Sequence*, such as physical education, can be related to various elements of classroom study. We describe the Sequence as **coherent, cumulative, and content-specific**.

Coherent

What children are able to learn at any given moment depends on what they already know—and, equally important, that what they know is a function of previous experience and teaching. Although current events and technology are constantly changing, there is a body of lasting knowledge and skills that form the core of a strong preschool—Grade 8 curriculum.

Cumulative

Core Knowledge provides a clear outline of content to be learned grade by grade so that knowledge, language, and skills build cumulatively from year to year. This sequential building of knowledge not only helps ensure that children enter each new grade ready to learn, it also helps prevent the repetitions and gaps that so often characterize current education.

Here's how one subject, science, builds from year to year in a cumulative way:

Preschool

Observation and exploration with magnets and what “sticks” to them.

Kindergarten

Magnetism—the idea of forces we cannot see, classification of materials according to whether they are attracted to a magnet.

First Grade

Basic concept of atoms— names and common examples of the three states of matter, water as an example of changing states of matter in a single substance; Properties of matter— measurement

Second Grade

Lodestone— naturally occurring magnets, magnetic poles and fields, law of attraction

Fourth Grade

Atoms— matter made up of particles too small to see, atoms made up of even smaller particles: protons, neutrons, and electrons, concept of electrical charge; Properties of matter: mass, volume and density. The elements: basic kinds of matter.

Fifth Grade

Atoms in constant motion, electrons, the nucleus, paths called shells (or energy levels), atoms, molecules, and compounds, The Periodic Table

Eighth Grade

Earth's magnetism— connection between electricity and magnetism, electro-magnetic radiation and light.

Content-Specific

The Core Knowledge Sequence is distinguished by its specificity. By clearly specifying important knowledge in language arts, history, geography, math, science, and the fine arts, the Core Knowledge Sequence presents a practical answer to the question, “What do our children need to know?”

The following sample will give you an idea of the specific content requirements across grades and subject areas:

Preschool, Autonomy and Social Skills

Sense of self, personal responsibility, and working in a group setting

First Grade, World History

Early civilization; Ancient Egypt—the Nile River, pharaohs, pyramids, mummies, and hieroglyphics

Third Grade, Math

Fractions to one-tenth, numerator and denominator, mixed numbers, equivalent fractions; introduction to geometrical concepts; area and perimeter

Fifth Grade, American History and Geography

Westward exploration and expansion, Daniel Boone, the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis and Clark, Sacagawea, land and water routes, major rivers, American Indian resistance, Manifest Destiny

Seventh Grade, Music

Classical music, romantics, and nationalists (Brahms, Berlioz, Liszt, Wagner, et al.); American musical traditions—blues and jazz

Support your child's Core Knowledge® education with the *What Your — Grader Needs to Know* series, designed exclusively for parents.

Find out more at books.coreknowledge.org

