

Kindergarten

Core Knowledge Language Arts Skills

Organization Guide

IMPORTANT NOTES

CK Language Arts Listening & Learning vs. CK Language Arts Skills: The Core Knowledge Language Arts curriculum is split into two strands: Listening & Learning and Skills. Each strand has its own set of curriculum. Both strands are required for a full language arts curriculum. The organization information below is for the Skills strand.

1st vs. 2nd Edition: Please note, the support materials available from [HomeschoolWorkplans.com](https://www.HomeschoolWorkplans.com) are specific to the 1st edition Core Knowledge Language Arts and Core Knowledge Skills curriculums which are available to download for free on the Core Knowledge website. Core Knowledge's partner Amplify offers 2nd edition materials and homeschooling families can purchase hard copies of those 2nd edition materials from the Amplify website (there is no "free" option for the 2nd edition materials). If you choose to use the 2nd edition materials, you may need to make significant changes to the schedule and prep information provided by [HomeschoolWorkplans.com](https://www.HomeschoolWorkplans.com). There is no advantage to using the 2nd edition materials beyond the option to purchase preprinted copies online. We recommend using the 1st edition materials. We recommend using the 1st edition curriculum so you can take full advantage of these support materials.

FREE RESOURCES

How-to Videos: Watch the videos to learn to use the CKLA Skills curriculum to homeschool: <https://bit.ly/3qGSfRQ>

Unit-Specific Prep Document: Includes notes for each unit of the curriculum including which supplemental pages to print, library books that may be needed, required advanced preparation broken out by lesson, as well as a list of additional unit-specific supplies. Click here to download the Kindergarten CKLA Skills Unit-Specific Prep Document: <https://bit.ly/3sLnpKJ>

Daily Schedule: A free daily schedule for homeschooling Kindergarten using the Core Knowledge and MEP Math curriculums is available here: <https://bit.ly/3JyjRkT>

PLACEMENT

You student should ideally have the following skills prior to starting this curriculum. If your student lacks any of these skills, you may need to provide extra support to them before or during the lessons:

- Sing the “Alphabet Song”
- Write their first name
- Recognize the written first names of family members
- Point to words as distinct units on a page of print
- Segment a spoken sentence into separate, distinct words
- Blend multiple syllables together to say a whole word (spoken, not written)
- Given a sound and a choice between two words, identify which word begins with the given sound
- Give the beginning sound for a spoken word
- Identify the number of syllables in a word
- Identify at least 10 letters of the alphabet and give the sounds of at least 3 letters
- Given a word, provide a rhyming word
- Be able to hold a pencil properly
- Trace and then draw independently basic geometric figures

PRIMARY MATERIALS

Units: There are 10 units in the Kindergarten CKLA Skills curriculum. All students start with Unit 1 and progress through the units in order. All 10 units, including the daily lesson assigned, are listed on the Kindergarten daily schedule. You will download each unit separately from the CK website. Each unit will be downloaded as a file folder containing multiple files: The Teacher's Guide, a Workbook, and a Student Reader (Units 6-10 only).

Teacher's Guide: This will be primary resource you use each school day. When you are ready to start a lesson with your student, you will simply open the PDF file for the Teacher's Guide on your tablet or laptop and navigate to the lesson indicated on the daily schedule and work through the instructions in the Teacher's Guide for that lesson.

Student Reader: The student reader is a file included in the folder of files you downloaded from CK for the unit. When you reach the point in a lesson that calls for using the student reader, simply open the PDF file on your child's tablet or laptop and navigate to the story scheduled for that day. *Please note, Units 1-5 do not have a student reader.*

Student Workbook: The student workbook file is included in the folder of files you downloaded from CK for the unit. Whenever possible, please print the whole student workbook prior to beginning the unit. This will save you time each school day. The workbook can be printed as a double-sided document. Once printed you can choose to:

- Keep the loose workbook pages in a file folder or other safe place so you can access the appropriate work page each day.
- Three-hole punch the worksheets and store them in a three-ring binder.
- Have your local office supply store coil-bind or comb-bind the pages into a bound book (typically about \$4-\$5). Please note, you may be able to print several workbooks and bind them together to save money on binding cost.

The workbook answer key is always located in the back of the Teacher's Guide.

Big Book: This file is included in the Units 4-8 folders. You will only be using it for Units 4 and 5. Once you reach Unit 6, you will use the Student Reader instead.

Assessment and Remediation Guide (ASG): This guide is designed to assist teachers and families with teaching children whose reading and spelling skills are significantly behind grade level or who have a learning challenge which would benefit from a different type of instruction and more reinforcement of concepts. The lessons in this file are not scheduled as part of the daily workplans. You can find this file in folder of files you downloaded for each unit from the CK website.

Ancillary Components: You will need to download the CKLA Kindergarten Ancillary Components from the CK website. These resources are downloaded as a single file folder containing multiple files. These files will be used throughout the school year (not unit specific):

- **Small Letter Cards and Large Letter Cards:** These are two separate files. The teacher guide will let you know when to use these cards. Please note, these cards can be accessed as a PDF file on your child's tablet when needed. Or you may wish to print the files and bind them into a booklet that can be easily accessed and flipped through as needed.
- **Sounds Cards:** The teacher guide will let you know when to use these cards. Please note, these cards can be accessed as a PDF file on your child's tablet when needed. While you can print this file, it is not necessary to do so.
- **Sound Poster:** The teacher guide will let you know when to use these posters. While it is possible to use these cards by opening the PDF file on your child's tablet, ideally you would print this file and hang the sound posters on the walls around your school area.
- **Blending Picture Cards:** The teacher guide will let you know when to use these cards. Please note, these cards can be accessed as a PDF file on your child's tablet when needed. While you can print this file, it is not necessary to do so.
- **Chaining Folder:** The teacher's guide will let you know when to use this file.

GETTING ORGANIZED

Pausing Point: Each unit ends with a Pausing Point and they are included in the schedule. The Pausing Point section in the Teacher’s Guide will list additional exercises you can use to further practice or reinforce a particularly spelling skill or concept. Pausing Point activities can also be used throughout the unit (there are notes in the side column of the Teacher’s Guide when an activity might be useful). Keep in mind though that if you use a PP activity prior to the end of the unit, you may need to help your child with any words in the activity that they haven’t yet learned to decode.

Tracking Documents: There are a number of documents in the Teacher’s Guides for tracking the academic progress of a classroom of students. As a homeschooling parent, you can ignore these.

IMPORTANT TIPS

Phonics vs. Whole Language: If you are new to Core Knowledge, please read pg. 78-87 in the Unit 1 CKLA Skills Teacher’s Guide for an important overview of how phonics instruction differs from a whole language approach (typically used by public schools) and how the Skills curriculum is set up.

Disclosure: This document contains affiliate links. This means if you click on a link and purchase an item, we will receive a small affiliate commission at no extra cost to you. These small commissions help offset the costs of producing and hosting this content.

Core Knowledge, CKLA, CKHG, and CKSci are registered trademarks of the Core Knowledge Foundation. Amplify is a registered trademark of Amplify Education, Inc.

© 2021-2022, 42 Development LLC, All Rights Reserved