



What Your Preschooler Needs to Know: Read-Alouds to Get Ready for Kindergarten

E.D. Hirsch Jr. (Editor) , Linda Bevilacqua

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Prepare your child for a lifetime of learning and wonder.

Designed for parents to enjoy with children, filled with opportunities for reading aloud and fostering curiosity, this beautifully illustrated read-aloud anthology offers preschoolers the fundamentals they need to prepare for a happy, productive time in school—and for the rest of their lives. Millions 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 to parents, including 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.

Discover:

Favorite Poems and Rhymes—all beautifully illustrated. Read and recite together— from Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "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—read aloud from stories like "The Three Little Pigs" and the African folktale "Why Flies Buzz" —and open whole new worlds of learning and discovery.

Visual Arts—help your child appreciate and talk about art. Beautiful full-color reproductions of great works of art will 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 "move around" songs like "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 the wonder of animals to exploring physical properties of light, air, and water—fun activities that will let children observe, experience, and enjoy the natural world

What Your Preschooler Needs to Know: Read-Alouds to Get Ready for Kindergarten Details

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From Reader Review What Your Preschooler Needs to Know: Read-Alouds to Get Ready for Kindergarten for online ebook

Jessica Madsen says

Useful book with stories and activities for littles.

Mary Ann says

The book has quality paper and nice pictures. I have read through the whole book, and am excited to get into it with my boys. My oldest is not yet 2.5, so he is on the younger side, but I have started some of the songs and rhymes that I had forgotten about with him. I can't wait until we can start really delving into history and science together. I did feel like the author pushed also getting kids into a preschool program, which I am not sure I totally agree with. I think kids can get social experiences without being enrolled in a school, and I fully support homeschooling (although I am not certain it will be the best situation for us once my kids reach elementary age, I think homeschooling is an awesome thing).

Timber says

As a homeschool teacher, I love the Core Knowledge series. I especially like the history and literature sections of this book, and I love how the series builds on itself as the grades progress.

Karianne says

This series is an excellent resource for parents who are serious about their childrens' education. The authors developed a school curriculum that standardize what children learn in school, starting in pre-school and going through 12th grade. The "what your___-grader need to know" series are a supplement meant to be used by parents at home to make sure their children are getting the "core of knowledge" they need in order to be successful. The books are in read-aloud format, with sections divided by school subject.

jacky says

This book wasn't quite what I was looking for, but worked well all the same. I was interested in content I should start exposing Natalie to before preschool and this gives a lot, though i did not need it in read aloud fashion. I much prefer real picture books instead of their versions of the fairy tales. I also wondered how they decided which rhymes and songs were core. What makes "do you know the muffin man?" so important? I was glad to see the history and science sections. I thought the content there was very reasonable. But the art section was a bit of a joke. Ilm well educated, but only knew one of the selections.

Alyse says

A quick scan of this book is helpful but it seems like it's missing things & more resources for parents would be useful.

Dorothy Oneil says

Fiona (almost 5) loves this book. But she is not the only one, Brigid, 11, loves to read the fairy tales and poetry to her. Terence, 9, likes to read the science portion and Aine, 7, will sing the songs and finger plays with her because it reminds her of her "preschool with Sr. Isabella". It, of course, is not at one time read but a book you share with your child over and over.

We've had to make several trips to the dr. this winter and taking this book along for all to share and read together seems to make things go smoother and faster too.

I believe I like the stories, poems and songs because they remind me of my childhood. Many are the ones my grandparents would tell or sing to me, orally. I miss the days when they would share with me their stories and wisdom and this book brought some of that back.

Jill says

While I was browsing in the bookstore at our local mall that is going out of business this book jumped out at me. I already have two children in school and prior to being a stay at home mom I taught first and second grade for a number of years. I know what we were expecting for children to be ready for those grades and feel like I have a pretty good idea of what is expected to enter kindergarten, but I thought this might be a handy reference guide for fun activities to do with my three year old. I read through it last night and for the most part I like it. It has some fun poems and songs, most of which are familiar, with pictures and fingerplays to go with them. My three year old is love with the idea of school, but doesn't start going to preschool until the fall so we have been doing "school" at home. He asks to do "school" all the time so I thought having a few more ideas of would help me when I can't think of something. My daughter came home yesterday saying that they learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. at school and we flipped to the history section of the book to read what it said about him and discussed his life a little more. We have other books on our shelf about his life, but this was easier to find and flip through than searching for the other picture books. Especially for parents who aren't sure what schools are looking for in terms of readiness I can see this being a good guide. It has companion workbooks but I didn't buy those, I may go back to see if they still have any but it isn't really a priority right now. I like that we can sing a silly song or read a poem and work on rhyming and motions and I can see my son having fun while learning some of the skills he will need to be a reader.

Sonia Trujillo Martinez says

We found this book useful as a supplemental guide while my kid attended PreK 2 days per week. I focused mostly on the science part, and my kids found it so entertaining! Definitely not a boring tool to teach little ones!

mindy says

some good stories, history and science lessons, but I really don't think that Annabelle knew any of this before starting Kindergarten, and she was definitely one of the more prepared students in her class.

useful and good for the kids, but not (in my opinion) "core knowledge". i would think core knowledge for Kindergarten would be more along the lines of writing names, how to ask for help, colors and abc's and basic communication skills.

this was full of songs and poems and a few stories that I as a 28 year old woman, have never heard of.

James Carter says

What Your Preschooler Needs to Know is the beginning of the child's education.

As a professional educator, I've found everything contained in the book to be sound, simple, and straightforward. I think it would have been nice to have some math in it such as counting numbers. Why not have science and math-related stories? The science stories seem to be too scientific; try to be more playful about it just like the stories about George Washington, Betsy Ross, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ditto for the art section. The paintings shown in the book are mostly boring and relatively unknown. Why not have real-life stories about the famous artists such Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Norman Rockwell, Winslow Homer, Vincent Van Gogh, Jackson Pollock, Pablo Picasso, Diego Rivera, Salvador Dali, Andy Warhol, etc., with inclusions of some of their most famous works?

All in all, you can't go wrong with *What Your Preschooler Needs to Know*, but I think it can use more.

Erin says

When it came out that my son didn't know Row Row Row Your Boat, I realized there were a few holes in his knowledge and did an impulse checkout of this title at the library. We are not homeschoolers and I'm not using this as any kind of formal curriculum so I can't review based on that, but I have renewed it three times so that's my ringing endorsement.

It's broken into sections: poems, songs, stories, history, science, and art, and each section has its own color on the upper right so it's easy to flip through. This is handy because my 4 year old can sit down and find the songs section on his own before making a request. I think that's what we both really enjoy about this book: it's highly browsable and so large and varied that we sit down for just a song or two and end up going through two stories, 5 poems, 3 songs and a history lesson. It feels very natural and unscripted which is the level of engagement I think he needs right now. I like that there's lots of notes to parents suggesting questions they can pose to help everyone engage a little more deeply with the text. I also appreciate the mini explanations on the art pages that my son is inexplicably drawn to, because there's no other way I'm going to be able to interpret a modern painting with him.

This is one that we are both enjoying so much I may end up purchasing a copy when I can no longer renew it.

Rakisha says

A good read-aloud collection for parents who want to introduce their preschoolers to literature, art, science, and history. It includes such classics as The Three Little Pigs, an introduction to the life cycle of a flower, and cute finger plays & rhymes. Definitely an excellent resource for a preschool teacher/librarian, a parent who needs help giving their child a solid start, and homeschooling parents. There is also a helpful chapter on how to make sure that your child is understanding what you're reading to him him, and to make sure he is prepared for Kindergarten.

Allison says

I finally have the time to sit down and completely read this series. The first thing that hit me as I got into it was a huge sense of regret that I did not read these books when my children were preschoolers. They, and I, would have benefited from them.

I know folks in the education field today and there are many complaints about the state of things today and about ever sort of system of learning out there - including the Common Core concept this series promotes. Personally, I know that I do not have the answer. I also believe there is not ONE blanket answer for the entire Nation.

What I do know it this - this system as a whole isn't working and most desperately needs to be fixed (along with so many other parts of the way America runs). We cannot give up. Every ounce of energy we spend trying to improve our world is worth it. Every minute we spend trying to help our children learn and become self-sufficient is an investment in our future, their future, and the future of the very planet.

Googie DEsigns says

Not bad

There's many interesting things in this book but it seems like there's a lot of stuff they expect toddlers and preschoolers to know before entering kindergarten. Seems like there's pressure from the beginning. I want my child to learn what she can but I'm not going to stress too much. I'll put the info to use but I won't go ape if my kid doesn't know everything the book expects her to by the time she goes to school.
