

# FAQ: Core Knowledge Language Arts Preschool

## Is CKLA Preschool aligned to the Common Core?

**Common Core State Standards have not yet been proposed for preschool.**

However, CKLA Preschool was designed to fully support the development of content knowledge and skills addressed by the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy for Kindergarten. CKLA Preschool is fully and explicitly aligned with the English Language Arts and Literacy standards of the New York State Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core, which are explicitly aligned with the K–12 Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy and similar to preschool standards in many other states.

## Is CKLA Preschool a comprehensive preschool curriculum?

**No. CKLA Preschool is a language arts curriculum that fully supports young children’s language and emergent literacy development.**

CKLA Preschool is designed to be implemented alongside curricula that support students’ development across additional domains of learning including mathematics, science, and the fine arts, as well as children’s social, emotional, and physical development.

## Are the CKLA Preschool materials really free?

**The comprehensive CKLA program for preschool is now available for [free download](#).**

Although the files are being made available for free, there are costs associated with printing the materials. The volume of program materials may exceed the capability of home or school printers. It is recommended that a school or district work with a professional print shop for printing. Printers may discount pricing based on volume, so schools and districts should thoughtfully consider how they might consolidate their needs to leverage the best pricing available.

## Are CKLA Preschool print materials available for purchase?

**Yes, CKLA Preschool kits are available for purchase in printed format from [Amplify Learning](#).**

CKLA Preschool Teacher Kits, which include the 18 trade books embedded in the program, and Student Activity Books are available for purchase. For pricing and to place your order, please visit [Amplify Learning](#).

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## What is the difference between the *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence* and CKLA Preschool? How are they related? Can I use both at the same time?

The *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence* is a detailed, comprehensive outline of specific content and skills to be taught to 3–5 year olds. CKLA Preschool is a language arts curriculum that fully supports young children’s language and emergent literacy development. Use of CKLA Preschool is highly compatible with concurrent use of the *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence*.

The *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence* addresses skills in the following areas:

- Movement and Coordination
- Autonomy and Social Skills
- Work Habits
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematical Reasoning and Number Sense
- Orientation in Time
- Orientation in Space
- Scientific Reasoning and the Physical World
- Music
- Visual Arts

The *Sequence* articulates a comprehensive and coherent progression of knowledge and skills in all developmental areas and integrates developmentally appropriate practices for both content and instruction.

CKLA Preschool is a language arts curriculum for 4–5 year olds that targets a subset of the content and skills outlined in the *Sequence*. Content and skills targeted in CKLA Preschool are drawn mainly from the Language and Literacy areas of the *Sequence*. Additional content from the areas of Orientation in Time (Important People in American History domain) and Scientific Reasoning (Animals, Plants, and Habitats domains), as well as other areas (e.g., Autonomy and Social Skills, Work Habits) are also part of CKLA Preschool.

Use of CKLA Preschool is highly compatible with concurrent use of the *Core Knowledge Preschool Sequence*.

## How do I design a daily schedule that accommodates CKLA-Preschool? What should I do if I have a half-day program?

**CKLA Preschool requires 45 minutes of dedicated daily instructional time (25 minutes of whole-group and 20 minutes of small group instruction).**

Additional learning opportunities are designed to be integrated into existing circle time and center time routines. Sample full-day and half-day schedules are given in the [Preschool General Overview](#).

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## How many adults are needed to support teaching CKLA Preschool?

**One adult for every ten students is needed to implement CKLA Preschool in a preschool classroom.**

Two adults are needed during small-group and learning center activities for classes with more than 10 students.

## How does the content taught in CKLA Preschool relate to the content taught in CKLA later grades? How does CKLA Preschool build background knowledge?

**CKLA Preschool content was carefully chosen and sequenced to support content taught in CKLA K–3 and, more broadly, content outlined by the Core Knowledge Sequence for the elementary grades.**

An underlying principle of Core Knowledge is that we acquire new knowledge by building on what we already know. Core Knowledge advocates a curriculum that is explicitly designed to present a coherent sequence of skills and knowledge that build cumulatively year by year. The skills and knowledge of the CKLA Preschool provide a solid foundation for the content that children will encounter in any kindergarten program. Those children who transition from a Core Knowledge preschool class to a content-rich kindergarten class, like the ones found in Core Knowledge programs, have the greatest advantage as far as future academic success.

## How does CKLA Preschool approach teaching the letters of the alphabet and letter sounds in preschool? How does this approach align with CKLA K–3?

**CKLA Preschool teaches both letter names and letter sounds.**

Research on literacy development during the preschool period and beyond indicates that knowledge of the alphabet (i.e., letter names and letter sounds) is strongly correlated with students' later success in learning to read. Therefore, CKLA Preschool provides instruction in both letter names and letter sounds throughout the school day. Every morning, as they take attendance, teachers help students learn the names of the letters in the students' own names. At the beginning of the school year, students focus on learning the first letter of their own names. By the end of the year, students are expected to be able to say the name of each letter in their first names. Teachers create opportunities for students to review letter names throughout the school day when they use letter flash cards to transition students from one activity to another. Teachers and students also spend a significant amount of time focusing on letter sounds during morning circle and small-group time. At the beginning of the year, students practice rhyming, listening for words in sentences, and listening for sounds in words. Students then begin to learn that sounds in words can be written down as letters (i.e., "sound pictures"). By the end of the school year, students have had the opportunity to learn eight sounds and their sound pictures. Knowledge of both sounds and letters prepares students for Kindergarten-level reading instruction, regardless of the method of instruction used in their future classrooms.

## Does CKLA Preschool include handwriting instruction?

**Yes. CKLA Preschool instruction includes activities designed to develop handwriting skills through an intentional sequence of developmentally-appropriate activities.**

Students progress from practicing fine motor skills to learning a series of 'writing strokes' that are the basis of letter formation to finally forming lowercase letters.