



Core Knowledge UK for Parents

How can you access a better education for your child? Learn how best to support your child's learning at home and give your child a world of new opportunities by exploring the Core Knowledge UK resource books and taking part in enriching, low-cost activities with your child.

The Core Knowledge UK curriculum used in the classroom seeks to foster stronger and more productive relations between schools and parents. This curriculum operates within the overarching framework of the [Core Knowledge Sequence UK](#). A series of resource books for parents and teachers flesh out this framework, providing you with a meaningful opportunity to become involved with your child's schoolwork. Take a look at the first of these books, [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#). Parents of children at Core Knowledge UK schools can be confident that they and their child's teacher are on the same page, in many cases literally.

A Core Knowledge UK education is not just for those children who attend a Core Knowledge UK school. [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#) and subsequent titles, one for each year group, provide beautifully illustrated, engaging introductions to the essential knowledge that should be shared by all in society. These books can be used independently of your child's school curriculum to establish a coherent, knowledge-rich foundation for their education.

Using these books will assure you that you are supporting your child's learning while you participate in engaging educational activities during your quality time together. Each book contains suggested activities for you and your child, along with advice on further resources to enrich learning at home. Many [grandparents](#) and other family members have also found using Core Knowledge UK resource books helpful, and fun!

You can find out more about the [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#) resource book and [purchase it](#). You can also [register for our newsletter](#) to receive updates on the publication of subsequent volumes and new Core Knowledge UK activities for you and your child.

For using Core Knowledge UK as the basis of a homeschool education, visit our [home education page](#).

Benefits for Parents

Using Core Knowledge UK resources with your child:

- Helps you access a well-rounded, coherent education for your child.
- Supplements what your child is learning in school to help them access a better education.
- Helps you to become involved in your child's learning.
- Flexibly accommodates the specific interests and needs of your child.
- Enriches the quality time you spend with your child.
- Opens a world of new opportunities for your child by providing you with ideas for exploring free and low-cost activities together, both at home and in your local community.
- Provides you with a guide to what young people should be learning in each year group.
- Helps you decide on the school best suited to your child.
- Promotes social cohesion by enabling your child to share a core foundation of knowledge with their peers and with us all.
- Promotes discipline and respect within communities.

Involved Grandparents

Are you looking for quality, enriching activities to enjoy with your grandchild? Core Knowledge UK resources help you to support your grandchild's education by introducing them to a world of knowledge and opportunities while taking part in fun and low-cost educational activities during the quality time you spend together.

Core Knowledge UK resources enable you to become more involved in your grandchild's learning, and in their life. In addition, these educational materials promote discipline and respect within communities, and they help develop social cohesion within our society.

[What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#) and subsequent titles, one for each year group, provide beautifully illustrated, engaging introductions to the knowledge that should be shared by all in society. Read familiar and favourite stories and poems, talk about traditional sayings that impart wisdom, teach your grandchild about British history and geography, participate in visual arts and music activities together, practise maths with everyday objects found in your home and explore the wonders of nature together.

Core Knowledge UK resource books establish a coherent, knowledge-rich foundation for your grandchild's education. Using these books will assure you that you are supporting your grandchild's education while you participate in meaningful activities together. Each book contains suggested activities, along with advice on further resources to enrich your grandchild's learning at home and in your community. One grandparent commented about using *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know* with her granddaughter:

'Can we do the book?' asks my granddaughter when I pick her up from school. I have found it provides fascinating sessions with her that are obviously interesting and enjoyable for us both. So far we have sorted all my socks into various groups, stripes, colours, spots; are growing some pumpkin seeds; have made a weather vane; played with lots of shapes and sizes of cut out card; done some measuring; looked at continents and points of the compass and read lots of stories and poems. The book is very well arranged into subject topics and there are excellent instructions for preparing what one needs. I look forward to using the next book in the series.

You can find out more about the [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#) resource book and [purchase it](#). You can also [register for our newsletter](#) to receive updates on the publication of subsequent volumes and new Core Knowledge UK activities for you and your grandchild.

Resource Book

How do you know who this is?

Make sure your child is familiar with our patron saint of England by reading the story of St. George and the Dragon and looking at colourful and widely acknowledged masterpieces of art depicting this tall tale. Talk to your child about the significance of flags and, in particular, how the Union Jack unites England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Find these countries on a map and enjoy travelling back in time to learn about the people and events that influenced the world as we know it today.



[What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#) is the first in a series of six books—one for each primary school year—for parents, teachers and children to enjoy. It is filled with age-appropriate readings and activities that stimulate thinking in various subjects:

- **Language**—increase your child's cultural literacy by talking about the meaning behind familiar sayings and phrases that impart traditional wisdom, such as 'Where there's a will there's a way' and 'Better safe than sorry.' Try a [cultural literacy activity](#) and [read guidance](#) on teaching your child to read and write.
- **Literature**—read familiar and favourite poems, fairy tales, fables and multicultural folktales. Enjoy these beautifully illustrated works of literature from British, African, Indian and Irish traditions. [Try poetry activities from the book.](#)
- **Geography**—a friendly introduction to our world, complete with colourful maps and simple questions. [Try a geography activity.](#)
- **History**—read about significant figures and events in British history. [Try a history reading.](#)
- **Visual arts**—painting, drawing, cutting and pasting go hand-in-hand with learning about colour and helping your child look at and talk about art. [Try a visual arts activity.](#)
- **Music**—many musical experiences for parents and children to participate in, along with dozens of songs to sing and dance to. [Try a musical rhythm activity.](#)
- **Mathematics**—learn about a variety of mathematical concepts including numbers, patterns, classifications, computation, measurement and more. [Try a classification and sorting activity.](#)
- **Science**—activities that let children observe, experience and get their hands dirty while exploring the wonders of nature and learning about foundational figures in science. [Read a science biography.](#)

[Visit our online bookshop](#) to purchase *What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know* and [register for our newsletter](#) to receive updates on the publication of subsequent resource books and new Core Knowledge UK activities for you and your child.

Testimonies

Reviews of the Resource Book [What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know](#)

An excellent read which finds the middle ground in the English Education system between fact-based learning and critical thinking-skills. Once started you never want to put it down and may be tempted to take it wherever you go with your child! It is full of activities which complement what the child learns at school in year 1 and require few or no resources—except the book! Fabulous pictures, stories, poems and information texts to look at with your child; easy to find something which fits in with the busy before-and-after school schedule or can even be done in the car, and most activities can be also enjoyed by older and younger children too. A great resource for a busy parent who wants to help their child progress at school but is not sure where to start. Also ideal for a teacher just starting with a year 1 class or a nanny or would be especially good for home-schoolers.

—Primary Teacher and Parent, UK

As a parent, I was always interested to know what my child had been learning at school. As a teacher, I was able to share my knowledge to the children in my class. The ideas and information provided in What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know do both. With clear explanations, examples and illustrations, this book can help any parent with their child's education. This book has helped me ensure that the children in my year 1 class have access to old and new ideas, stories and philosophies. I look forward to introducing it further to the pupils at my school and their parents.

—Primary Teacher and Parent, UK

This book is an extremely useful resource for parents who are interested in encouraging their child's learning. It covers a very broad curriculum of subjects—English, History, Geography, Art, Music, Maths and Science... The sections on Maths and Science in particular include some brilliant ideas for activities to do, which are simple and easy enough to do at home. Additionally, the book is written so that no prior knowledge by the parent is required, so for example sections such as Music or History, can be used without the parent needing to be an expert in that area. All in all, for a parent who is enthusiastic about enriching their child's education, this thoroughly does the job.

—Parent, UK

'Can we do the book?' asks my granddaughter when I pick her up from school. I have found it provides fascinating sessions with her that are obviously interesting and enjoyable for us both. So far we have sorted all my socks into various groups, stripes, colours, spots; are growing some pumpkin seeds; have made a weather vane; played with lots of shapes and sizes of cut out card; done some measuring; looked at continents and points of the compass and read lots of stories and poems. The book is very well arranged into subject topics and there are excellent instructions for preparing what one needs. I look forward to using the next book in the series.

—Grandparent, Surrey, UK

Effectiveness of Core Knowledge

Importance of Core Knowledge UK

Read a press release about Core Knowledge UK:

[Core Knowledge and Civitas Announce U.K. Partnership](#) (Aug., 2011)

Read a piece by David Green, the director of Civitas, published by *The Sun*:

[Our Kids Need Learning Not League Tables](#) (Oct., 2011)

Read an article published by Parenting.co.uk:

[What Your Year 1 Child Needs to Know: How do you know what this is?](#) (Aug., 2011)

Research showing the effectiveness of Core Knowledge in the US

We are currently pioneering Core Knowledge in the UK, and it has already proven to be effective in the US. The quotations below are from published research highlighting students' gains using Core Knowledge in the US.

[US] Schools that implemented the Core Knowledge curriculum consistently exceeded the national averages across six content areas, regardless of the ethnic profile, economic profile, or school size. Not only is there a performance gap favoring Core Knowledge schools over their national counterparts, the gap widens over time suggesting the performance gains may be long-term and sustainable provided the schools continue to implement the Core Knowledge curriculum.

From the [Core Knowledge Curriculum and School Performance: A National Study](#) (Sept., 2004)

According to the report, implementing Core Knowledge "consistently contributed to making instruction more interesting and content rich for students, provided coherence to the curriculum, and contributed to increased teacher collaboration and professionalism. Core Knowledge was also associated with more hands-on, activity-based instruction, and... was associated with greater academic engaged time in schools."

From the [Three-Year National Study Confirms Effectiveness of Core Knowledge Sequence](#) (Winter, 1999)

The analyses showed that Core Knowledge [US] schools excelled the other schools in achievement progress in eight of ten comparisons of reading and mathematics in the five grade levels available for analysis.

From the [Walberg study: The Effects of Core Knowledge on State Test Achievement in North Carolina](#) (April 2004)