

Columbia Heights Academy ~ The Keely Family Homeschool Curriculum Notes: The Preschool Years (PreK – K)

This page includes some brief notes about our preschool through kindergarten "curriculum".

Age 2.0-2.5: The only formal learning we did was learning letters and their sounds (thanks Leapfrog Letter Factory games and DVDs!), counting to 100, and lots of science experiments from the internet and [Magnets to Mudpies \(and More\)](#). Of course we read books and poems for at least an hour a day and continued to learn new signs (sign language started at 7-months).

Age 2.5-3.5: We basically followed [Brightly Beaming Letter of the Week](#) by Katrina Lybbert. Well done free preschool curriculum! We loved our monthly [Brighter Vision](#) packages. We did lots of arts and crafts and play and reading good literature (at least an hour a day). She listened to unabridged versions of classics at bedtime. We made sure to learn all the items listed at [Worldbook Curriculum ~ grade Pre-K](#).

Age 3.5-3.75: We created our own (delight-directed unschooling) curriculum which was hands on science and math based with tons of reading classical literature and poems, nature studies, arts/crafts, and literally hundreds of library visits :) We enjoyed our [LadyBug magazine](#). This led to an early reader, reading Dick and Jane and the Little Bear books independently by age 3.5. We were lucky enough to spend a glorious month car-schooling in California!! Just about the only curriculum book we took with us was the wonderful "What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know" by E.D. Hirsch. Upon our return we started some formal education: Saxon math 1 and Spectrum Spelling 1, both very easy for her. That's my little mathematician ... breezing through first grade math at age 3 :) We made sure to learn all the items listed at [Worldbook Curriculum ~ grade K](#) and included in [What Your Kindergartner Needs to Know: Preparing Your Child for a Lifetime of Learning \(Core Knowledge Series\)](#).

Much of these pre-school years were spent learning what works and what doesn't for our child and our family. We considered [unschooling](#), but wanted more structure, especially as full-time working parents. We enjoyed unit studies in these early years, but they are too much work to prepare when trying to include several subjects well. We considered [Ambleside Online](#), a wonderful Charlotte Mason type literature based curriculum, but C.J. is so math-science oriented that we would need to supplement. Then I read [The Well-Trained Mind](#) by Susan Wise Bauer and that was just a natural fit for us :)

Kindergarten: We skipped this grade and went right into grade 1 at age 3.75.