

Columbia Heights Academy ~ The Keely Family Homeschool Curriculum Notes: Grade 1 (age 4±)

Plan: [Well-Trained Mind](#) classical education, taught secularly with strong math/science component

Objectives: Learn the items listed at [Worldbook Curriculum ~ grade 1](#) and included in [What Your First Grader Needs to Know: Fundamentals of a Good First-Grade Education \(The Core Knowledge Series\)](#).

Post: Weekly Learning Posters with some math, science, history, and/or grammar facts and a poem to read and perhaps memorize

- Daily schedule: (about 1½ hours per day 6 days per week)
 - MATH: 20 min structured [Saxon 1](#) worksheet w/ manipulatives, plus 20 min math games/activities (measurement, time, money, etc) plus sometimes for fun: Singapore Math 1B, Mindbenders Warm-up
 - GRAMMAR: 10 min 3x/week [First Language Lessons for TWTM](#)
 - LANGUAGE ARTS and PENMANSHIP/WRITING" alternate each 10 min 3x/week
[Spelling Workout B](#) (grade 2, about 1-2 pages per day)
[Handwriting Without Tears "My Printing Book"](#)
plus copy work
plus write letters to family (1x/wk)
 - SPELLING: 5 min [Sequential Spelling 1](#) (15-25 words per day)
We do activity based spelling like "spelling slide", "tumble spelling", "animal spelling game", etc, all made-up games to make daily spelling lists fun.
 - INDEPENDENT READING: 20 min (by age 4.5 Cam was reading 2+ hours a day)
age 3: [Study Dog 2-3](#), level 1 readers (Dick & Jane, Little Bear)
age 4-4.25: level 2 readers (Frog & Toad, Henry & Mudge)
age 4.25-4.5: level 3 readers (DK Science, and tons more!)
4.5-4.75: classics like Stuart Little, Charlottes Web, \; mysteries like the Nancy Drew series
memory work: memorizing 4-8 poems/yr, work toward recite in public
Magazines: [Click magazine](#) and [Chirp magazine](#)
- Three times per week: (about 1-1¼ hours per day total 6x/wk)
 - SCIENCE: 45-60 min 3x/week [REAL Life Science 1](#) + lots of observation
Tues read the "my notebook" page, do lab/activity one
Thur do lab/activity two
Sat additional reading (encyclopedias, lib bks), nature journal, drawing, explore websites, additional experiments
([Mudpies to Magnets](#), [Backyard Scientist](#))
(NB: terms w/ definitions, experimentation page w/ 4 questions, narration page - encyclopedias, lib bks, colouring pages)

- HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY: 45 min 3x/wk [Story of Our World 1](#)
 Mon one sect, narration, map/globe work
 Wed one sect, narration, coloring, memory work
 Fri additional reading (encyclopedias, lib bks), explore websites,
 related art project or activity
 (NB: list of bios read, narrations, scrapbook of projects)
- LITERATURE: 30 min 3x/wk read aloud great books
 suggestions from [TWTM](#) / [HLYBY](#) / [AO](#) book lists
 1st grade included Aesop's Fables, Stuart Little, Charlottes Web,
 Wind in the Willows, Burgess Mammal Book, ...
 (NB: book list, narrate "my fav bks" 2x/wk)
- Weekly activities:
 - ART: [Draw Write Now vol. 1-2](#); art appreciation; SOTW activities
 - MUSIC: Play Lap Harp; [Instant Piano Fun 1-2](#); music appreciation
 - FOR LANGUAGE: Sign Lang signing Phrases (related to weekly studies)
 - SOCIAL SCI: Field Trip (museums; nature study; occupational ed)
 - PE + HEALTH: Swimming class, Tumbling class, outdoor play,
 - Play with friends! (HS Park days, Hopping House, Jungle Gym)

* NB = notebook. We keep one each for language arts, science, and history.