

Level 0 (Kindergarten) Second Edition

Language Arts and Reading

- Listening to stories, and narrating back parts of them orally
- Processing ideas in stories orally through journal prompts
- Letter sounds
- Letter formation
- Placing upper and lower case letters in order
- Matching upper and lower case letters to each other
- Playing with CVC (consonant - vowel - consonant) word building
- Introduction to CVC word families (such as “-an” and “-ig”)
- Syllables
- The sounds of: “sh,” “ch,” “st,” “qu,” “ee,” and “ay.”
- Beginning to read simple sentences

Integrated Math and Science

- Health, nutrition, and fitness
- Living vs. non-living things / requirements for life
- The sun and its effect on living things
- Earth, and how it supports life
- The phases of our moon
- The planets of our solar system
- Counting up to 20
- Counting down from 10 to 1
- The concepts of greater / fewer / more than / less than / equal to
- Positional terms
- Sequencing and patterns
- Quantities and numerals
- Measurement
- Number lines
- Basic shapes
- Calendar and dates
- Introduction to addition and subtraction
- Charts and graphs
- Pairs

Nature Study

- Nature lore
- Observing nature with our senses
- Predators and prey animals
- Animal families
- Animal behavior
- Food chains and webs
- Observing how a tree changes during the course of a year
- Observing how a seed grows
- Seeds and Eggs
- Pollinators
- Life cycle of a frog

History and Geography

- Your child's personal history
- The history of your child's family
- Your child's geography, from their room to their country
- People who inspire us (contemporary and historical, selected by your family)
- Thinking about the future and the impact your child would like to make

The Arts

- The life and works of Claude Monet, Ruth Asawa, Marc Chagall, Elizabeth Catlett, Diego Rivera, Louise Nevelson, Faith Ringgold, El Anatsui, and Maria Martinez
- Exploring artistic expression through weekly art prompts, using a variety of materials
- Mindful attention when looking at works of art
- Discussing observations of works of art
- The life and music of Errollyn Wallen, Scott Joplin, Frédéric Chopin, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Joanne Shenandoah, Unsuk Chin, Undine Smith Moore, Anna Thorvaldsdottir, and Leonard Bernstein
- Listening to a variety of music
- Introduction to a variety of musical concepts, such as tempo, vocal and instrumental music, dynamics, instruments of the orchestra, ballets, operas, nocturnes, mazurkas, mood, pitch, etc.

Please see the attached pages for the Level 0 (kindergarten) book lists. These lists include only the required books or highly recommended spines*. Your purchase would include additional lists of optional, suggested supplemental books as well.

Book Lists Are in the Following Order:




- Language Arts
- Science
- Nature Study

*Spines are books used frequently throughout the year.

Required Book List: Kindergarten Language Arts






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To Buy or to Borrow: Many of the books are used for one week, which would make them ideal for borrowing from the library, if possible. There are a few exceptions, but even these could be borrowed from the library, depending on how long you are permitted to keep your books. Exceptions include: *My Father's Dragon* (used for 5 weeks), *Winnie the Pooh* or *Heartwood Hotel: A True Home* (used for five weeks), *Little Bear* (used for four weeks), *The Bears on Hemlock Mountain* (used for two weeks), *Pig and Pug* (used for two weeks) and **Frog and Toad are Friends** and **Frog and Toad All Year** (which are both used throughout the whole year.) Many (but not all) selections should be easy to find used, if you wish to purchase. Many are also available as ebooks or audiobooks and several books can be found on YouTube as read-alouds in a pinch, though we ask that you find one with publisher and / or author permission. If needed, you may also substitute one of our selections for another book of your choosing. You may need to adjust or adapt the journal prompt and suggested activity accordingly.

Week	Required Book(s)
1	We will be focusing on names. Choose one (or several) of the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Alma and How She Got Her Name</i> by Juana Martinez-Neal • <i>Your Name is a Song</i> by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow • <i>The Name Jar</i> by Yangsook Choi • <i>Chrysanthemum</i> by Kevin Henkes
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Stone Soup</i> by Jon J. Muth (this is the recommended version, but you are welcome to use another version of <i>Stone Soup</i> if you like)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We are Grateful / Otsaliheliga</i> by Traci Sorell
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Corner" from <i>Frog and Toad All Year</i> by Arnold Lobel 
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Ice Cream" from <i>Frog and Toad All Year</i> by Arnold Lobel 
6 - 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Father's Dragon</i> by Ruth Stiles Gannett
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Sick Day for Amos McGee</i> by Phillip C. Stead 
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Letter" from <i>Frog and Toad are Friends</i> by Arnold Lobel
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Islandborn</i> by Junot Díaz
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Abuela</i> by Arthur Dorros OR <i>A Different Pond</i> by Bao Phi

Required Book List: Kindergarten Language Arts, cont.

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Week	Required Book(s)
15 - 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Winnie the Pooh</i> by A.A. Milne (5 selected stories with an option to extend this unit and read all 10 stories) OR • <i>Heartwood Hotel: A True Home</i> by Kallie George (offered as a more contemporary option)
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Down the Hill" from <i>Frog and Toad All Year</i> by Arnold Lobel 
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Surprise" from <i>Frog and Toad All Year</i> by Arnold Lobel 
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story</i> by Aya Khalil OR • <i>Leila in Saffron</i> by Rukhsanna Guidroz
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story</i> by Kevin Noble Maillard
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bread and Jam for Frances</i> by Russell Hoban
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jabari Jumps</i> by Gaia Cornwall AND • <i>Penny and Her Marble</i> by Kevin Henkes
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> by Margery Williams (any version) AND • <i>Fox the Tiger</i> by Corey R. Tabor
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Spring" from <i>Frog and Toad are Friends</i> by Arnold Lobel 
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "The Story" from <i>Frog and Toad are Friends</i> by Arnold Lobel 
29 - 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Little Bear</i> by Else Holmelund Minarik
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yasmin the Superhero</i> by Saadia Faruqi
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "A Lost Button" from <i>Frog and Toad are Friends</i> by Arnold Lobel 

Required Book List: Kindergarten Language Arts, cont.

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Week	Required Book(s)
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A Swim" from <i>Frog and Toad are Friends</i> by Arnold Lobel
35 – 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Bears on Hemlock Mountain</i> by Alice Dalgliesh AND <i>Pig and Pug</i> by Laura Marchesani and Zenaides A. Medina, Jr.



Choose **One**

Choose **One**

Choose **One**

Choose **One**

Book List: Highly Recommended

Required Books:

There are no required books for this curriculum. Theoretically, you could complete this curriculum without using any books at all, simply by using the focus points, the suggested websites, video links, etc. However, we do have several books which are highly recommended (see below) to help truly bring each topic to life in a visual way for your child. The books on this list are used over multiple weeks throughout the year. You are welcome to use more than one book from the list below, if you like.

Highly Recommended Spine* Books (Optional, Choose One or Several):

Week(s)	Book
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DK Find Out! Solar System</i> by Sarah Cruddas (A good, inexpensive option with an appropriate amount of information for the kindergarten level if you don't want to juggle one of the bigger DK books.)
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Space For Kids Who Really Love Space</i> by Sarah Powell (Appropriate amount of information for the kindergarten level if you want a <i>very light</i> option.)
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>What We See in the Stars: An Illustrated Tour of the Night Sky</i> by Kelsey Oseid (This would be a good choice for slightly older or more advanced learners, as the language is targeted to an elementary audience.)
Several	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Professor Astro Cat's Solar System</i> by Dr. Dominic Walliman and Ben Newman (Best for <i>very young</i> learners. Simple with <i>very little</i> information. If you're working with children under 3 in tow, this might be a good one for them.)
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Professor Astro Cat's Frontiers of Space</i> by Dr. Dominic Walliman and Ben Newman (This is a good fit for learners 5 - 7, if you prefer cartoon-like illustrations over photographs / more realistic images of the planets. It's fun, with a good amount of information for the kindergarten level.)
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DK Smithsonian Space!</i> (A hefty, information-packed option that would be great for an older or advanced learner, or a space-enthusiast that needs more than the typical kindergarten-level content. This is the spine for our Level 5 astronomy curriculum as well.)
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DK Smithsonian Super Space Encyclopedia</i> (Lots of great photos, more information than the typical kindergarten-level books but less than <i>DK Smithsonian Space!</i> has. If you want tons of great photos, this would be a good option.)
Most	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DK The Mysteries of the Universe</i> by Will Gater (A beautiful option with lots of information for kindergarteners wanting more, or for older / more advanced learners.)
Several	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DK Find Out! Human Body</i> (A good "spine" to use for the anatomy topics we touch on in this curriculum.)

*A spine is a book that is used for several lessons throughout the curriculum.

Book list: Nature Lore

The two nature lore selections that are used throughout the year are listed below. Please note that the Burgess selection is available for **free** in PDF format from Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2441>) and in audio format from Librivox (<https://librivox.org/the-burgess-animal-book-for-children-by-thornton-w-burgess/>.) *Seed Babies* is available for **free** in PDF format from the Hathi Trust Digital Library (<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.hn3ja6&view=lup&seq=10>) and in audio format from Librivox (<https://librivox.org/seed-babies-by-margaret-warner-morley/>.) These links are included in the clickable links at the back of this guide.

- ***The Burgess Animal Book for Children* by Thornton W. Burgess**
- ***Seed Babies* by Margaret W. Morley**

A note on language: Some of the language used in the above selections is a bit dated, and will not be appropriate for every family. Please always screen ahead before reading out loud to your child, and adapt as needed before sharing with your child.

Book list: Supplemental

The following list contains all of the books that can be found in the sections called "Optional Pages from the Spines*" and "Optional Supplemental Books" in each lesson. **These books are NOT required, and it is not necessary for you to provide all of them if you are trying to take a literature-based approach for your child.** Ideally, you will combine interest, available resources at your local library, budget, etc. to choose the titles for each unit that you would like to include. To locate specific units that each book applies to, please refer to "Optional Pages from the Spines*" and "Optional Supplemental Books" in each lesson. Many books are recommended for more than one unit, so be sure to review the full list below when choosing your books, especially if you're using the library.

Spines (Completely Optional):

Several Weeks: The following books could be used over several weeks of the curriculum.

- DK's *An Anthology of Intriguing Animals* (could be used several times during Weeks 1 - 25)
- DK Smithsonian *The Animal Book* (could be used several times during Weeks 1 - 25)
- DK Smithsonian *Animal!* (could be used several times during Weeks 1 - 25)
- DK Smithsonian *Trees, Leaves, Flowers, and Seeds* (could be used several times during Weeks 26 - 36)
- *Nature Anatomy: The Curious Parts and Pieces of the Natural World* by Julia Rothman (used for many weeks 2 - 33, but these are mostly simple illustrations with little tidbits of information, so you'll find pages in the supplemental section of any relevant lesson, rather than in the spines)

Please note that the three animal spines* are not used as frequently during weeks 1 - 11. Their usage is a bit sporadic during those first lessons on rabbits, hares, and rodents. Please also note that all of these spines* could be used in later years of Blossom and Root science curriculum. The three animal spines could be used for Level 3 science and the plant spine could be used for Level 2 science.

*A "spine" is a book that is used for several lessons during the year.