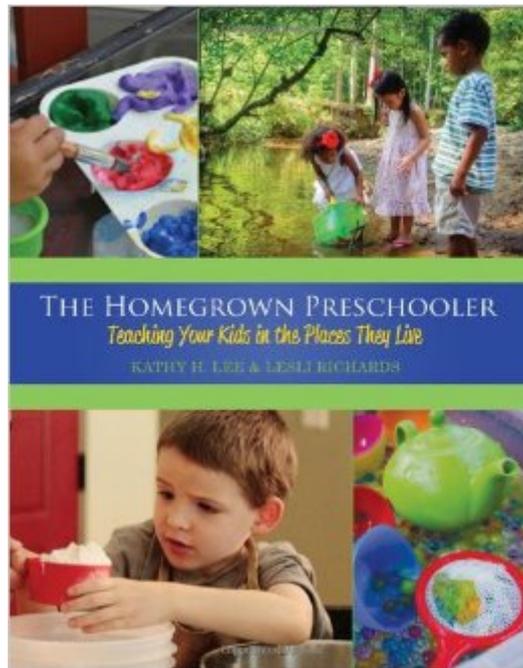


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# The Homegrown Preschooler: Teaching Your Kids In The Places They Live



## Synopsis

With organizational tips, recipes, and more than 200 easy-to-pull-together activities, homeschool educators will have everything they need to offer a well-rounded preschool education rivaling the best classroom experience. Convenient charts and checklists to document children's growth ensure that there are no gaps in educational, social, or physical development.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

We recently received for review a book called *The Homegrown Preschooler: Teaching Your Kids in the Places They Live* published by Gryphon House. Let me just start this review by telling you that I think this the single best book on teaching preschoolers that I've ever read. That is a heavy thing for me to say as I have an entire library of books on the subject that I collected over the last 17 years from college, through graduate school and during my tenure in the teaching profession. Teaching preschoolers was once the sole reason for my existence each day. It is still a subject near and dear to my heart. The book was created by two moms, Kathy H. Lee and Lesli M. Richards. Both are homeschooling mothers and they wrote this book from that perspective. To me this makes the book unique as your typical what to teach a preschooler books isn't written from the perspective of the child learning at home, but in some sort of institutional school setting. The book itself is just gorgeous. It full of beautiful glossy photos of real children engaging in and learning through play in the world in which they live. It's a sturdy book that will hold up to lots of handling. I've already flipped through mine more times that I can count and you surely will too. The book is just overflowing with

wonderful information about why learning at home is so beneficial for our littlest children. How they benefit from a rich and comfortable family environment. They cover child development and explain how children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive domains grow so richly in a fruitful and playful environment. Every topic is covered from Communication and Emergent Literacy Skills to Mathematics.

If I could give it 4.5 stars I would. Here's why: As a certified early childhood education teacher who is homeschooling my own preschooler, this book did not profoundly change how I was teaching. It did, however, tweak it enough so that this book is an invaluable resource to me. It reminded me what a good education program in the preschool years looks like. I can absolutely vouch that what the authors teach in this book is quality preschool instruction that teachers are being taught to teach with. It even read like an education textbook back from my college days (a great compliment, as education textbooks are generally clearly laid out, visually appealing, and make excellent reads). Changes in my homeschool instruction that I specifically made were to incorporate more open-ended activities that allow my preschooler to explore materials, rather than formulate a correct response in a close-ended task. I incorporated more sensory materials. I utilized countless ideas from the book for activities and lessons. Overall, I am very happy to own this book, as I know it will be a "desk reference" that I consult regularly. I even LOVE the yummy and easy recipe ideas in the margins of some pages. These homeschooling mamas know what us other mamas need! Do I think it is worth the purchase (even at its high cost)? A definite YES! So why would I rate it 4.5 stars? Well, for one thing, there is a very nifty and free resource available to us all that steals thunder from books like this. It is called Pinterest. Some of the very same activities I saw in the book I would also come across on Pinterest (not all, so still worth the purchase). Also, as if this book isn't expensive enough, prepare to spend much more on putting together activities from this book.

The Homegrown Preschooler is a delightful, full color, glossy guide to giving your preschooler a rich and fulfilling education from home. The book is written by two homeschooling moms and is full of child-friendly recipes, encouragement, tips and pages and pages and pages of activities, crafts and explorations to do with little ones. The first part of the book is more of a guide on the process of learning and includes topics such as: Learning Through Play, Organization, and Special Circumstances such as helping your child with special needs. I was already highlighting material by the 3rd page! I feel like these lines very much represent what this book is about: "...you might buy desks and a flag in an attempt to bring school home, only to abandon those props in favor of a life of

reading great books on the couch, finger painting on the windows and spending lots of time outdoors. We quickly realized that life was school."The second half of the book (69 pages!) is chock full of activities. I've been referring to this portion as "Pinterest on Steroids!" What's cool is that most of the ideas aren't things I've seen or heard of before. There are activities for: Home Life: Ways to include kiddos in the kitchen, bathroom, garden and in cleaning. Science: Chemistry, Nature, Colors Gross Motor: yoga, obstacles courses, make your own balance beam and more. Fine Motor: Wikki sticks, keys and locks, toe pick up. Math: A couple ideas include mom's store and a lemonade stand. Language and Emergent Literacy: 21 Classic Children's book recommendations with activities. Art and Sensory: Recipes for fingerpaint, puffy paint, cloud dough, clean mud, play dough, sand dough.

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