

2022–23 Schoolyear Report, May 31, 2023

Know & Grow Learning Depot, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the laws of Florida on January 23, 2019. The organization helps children learn. We collaborate with Title One public school teachers at Dinsmore Elementary to provide tutoring, kid-sized materials, and early learning teaching tools to get the students caught up to grade level. Since the gap is easier to close the younger the child, we focus on kindergarten and first grade. Getting caught up in kindergarten and first grade is considered a “basic need.”

Know & Grow Tutoring Program

Our flagship project is the Know & Grow Tutoring Program. While receiving online tutoring in the classroom, the child learns to navigate the learning software on an iPad – the very iPad they will be allowed to take home at the end of each school day and, if still not caught up, over the summer. The children feel confident and empowered when they earn the right to take the iPad home. It is gratifying to see the children want to take the iPads home. They want to learn!

The 2022–23 schoolyear is the first year we are serving all kindergarten classrooms – and for an entire schoolyear. Armed with iPads, our volunteers go into the classrooms to lead group sessions using the award-winning Khan Academy Kids software. Whether these children are ones who did not attend pre-school or simply did not grasp what was being taught quickly enough, the letters of the alphabet and/or other concepts passed them by. We are working to help these little learners fill in the gaps and get caught up!

The Learning Path – led by Kodi the bear – is perfect for home use as it personalizes each child’s learning experience. Students are presented with activities, books, educational videos, and creative lessons that allow them to learn each skill at the appropriate level and at their own pace. Parents who are not tech savvy do not need to worry about anything. The Internet connection is cellular and does not require WI-FI. Everything except the learning software has been removed from the iPad. Even though we sent instructions and a helpline phone number home for the parent, the kids learn quickly to smooch around the iPad and are self-sufficient. Our Know & Grow Tutoring Program can be done at the family’s convenience and does not cost parents anything – not even gas money!

We started in January 2022 with four iPads. We now have 32!

Assets at year-end: Tutoring Program Equipment \$14,784
Program expense for the 2022-23 schoolyear: \$8,149

Kid-Sized Materials

We collaborate with kindergarten and first-grade teachers to create kid-sized materials that align directly with their classroom curriculums. The teachers use these materials in the classroom and allow the children to take them home. Kids love owning their own learning materials.

We thank our paper sponsor, Walmart River City Marketplace, and our cadre of volunteers who cut and assemble the materials. They make this all possible!

Dot-to-Dot Pads

To date, 13 dot-to-dot pads are in production. In the past, kindergarten and first-grade teachers have been purchasing dot-to-dots with their own money and said they never had enough. We created our own quality (even if we do say so ourselves) dot-to-dots and bind them according to the level of difficulty. That way, teachers can select just the right skill level for each child. While the kids think the puzzles are only for fun, they are improving fine motor skills needed for writing and learning number order (or mastering the alphabet).

This schoolyear

In total, 2,130 pads were assembled using 11,715 sheets of paper.

Volunteer hours attributed to assembling dot-to-dots:

4 hours for the 6 books delivered only to kindergarten

8 hours for each of 7 books delivered to kindergarten and first grade

= 80 hours

Assets at year-end: \$16,132

Spelling Pads

New for the 2022-23 schoolyear! Every first-grader received 30 spelling pads during the schoolyear. Each pad features the ten words the children are learning that week. Simple sentences show how the words are used. The pads also include manuscript lines and fill in the blanks to help students spell and write.

This schoolyear

In total, 3,300 pads were assembled using 27,335 sheets of paper.

Volunteer hours attributed to assembling the spelling pads:

4 hours for assembly of each of the 23 spelling pads
192 hours to create the spelling pads (specialized skills)
12 hours to sort and distribute the spelling pads
= 296 hours

Assets at year-end: \$0, as the words could change any schoolyear

Kindergarten Wordbooks

Know & Grow Wordbooks measure 5½" x 4¼" – just the right size for small hands. Each book contains only the newest sight words the children are introduced to that week. Children enjoy writing their names on their books, copying each of the sight words, coloring the sight words, and seeing each of the 174 words in the context of a sentence. The kindergarteners can practice reading the books over and over again. Teachers report sight word retention has improved with these little books!

This schoolyear

In total, 2,950 colorful booklets were assembled using 8,725 sheets of paper. Wordbooks were not created for the first three weeks of this schoolyear as there was a new kindergarten curriculum.

Volunteer hours attributed to assembling the wordbooks:

4 hours for assembly of each of the 28 spelling pads
= 112 hours

Assets at year-end: \$0, as the words could change any schoolyear

Word Searches

Our newest product! Each quarter-of-a-page word search features the ten weekly words first-graders are learning to spell. Children enjoy word searches and solving the puzzles makes them better spellers. These are ideal for small moments of time as they can easily be stopped and started.

This schoolyear

All 30 puzzles (3,300 count) were delivered to the teachers using a total of 825 sheets of paper.

Volunteer hours attributed to the word searches:

4 hours for assembly and packaging of all the puzzles
32 hours to create the word searches (specialized skills)
16 hours to proof the newly created word searches
= 52 hours

Assets at year-end: \$0, as the words could change any schoolyear

Assets at year-end: Dot-to-Dot Pads \$16,132

Kid-Sized Materials Contribution

Volunteer hours sum 540

Total Contribution \$17,687 includes the cost of the paper, supplies, volunteer specialized skills, etc. Regular volunteer hours listed above were not assigned any dollar figure.

Classroom Supplies

Headphones

It seems the teachers never have enough working headphones for every student. Earbuds do not work well for kindergartners and first-graders; little ears need over the ear headphones. We knew we needed to help when one kindergarten teacher spent \$400 of her own money so all her kids would be equipped.

Expensed when purchased

Supply Refurbishment System

Colorful supply bins filled with supplies in each kindergarten classroom:

- . cut down on classroom interruptions by allowing teachers to direct students to needed supplies,
- . dress up the classroom, and
- . make it possible for volunteers to refurbish needed supplies.

Cost to establish this supply refurbishment system and provide other needed classroom supplies: Over \$1,000

Quiet Feet

Tennis balls on chair legs reduce the noise level in the classroom! They also make it possible for little people to slide chairs around, as needed.

Donated tennis balls.

Only volunteer hours.

Under-chair Baskets

Under-chair baskets are an inexpensive item. However, installing them takes time! It is as if you need to be an engineer to install the baskets where little feet will not inadvertently break them. Thankfully summer volunteers handle the installations.

Expensed when purchased

Many volunteer hours.

Backpacks with supplies for K-5

Thanks to Vicky and her team at Optum RX, over 40 children had backpacks and supplies to start the new schoolyear! This is the third consecutive schoolyear Vicky

and her Optum RX team have helped our students. Thanks for your continued support!

Estimated value of donation of products \$775

Classroom Supplies expense for the 2022-23 schoolyear: \$4,064

Early Learning Teaching Tools

Every child should feel confident in his/her ability to learn! These teaching tools were requested/inspired by the classroom teachers and can be used for years to come.

Etch-A-Sketch Freestyle

Forget the two white buttons – that is now retro. The Freestyle Etch-A-Sketch comes with a handy stylus that's easy to grip and move. Each kindergartener and first-grader can write/draw, shake to erase, and write/draw again. Teachers report this is an engaging way for kids to learn to hone their fine motor skills while learning their alphabet and spelling.

Every kindergartener and first-grader can now practice writing, easily erase, and practice again.

Asset at year-end: \$3,421

Bananagrams Letter Tiles

We converted the My First Bananagrams game into bananas for classroom use. We included just the right number of letters for first-graders to tile their spelling words. With the bananas less full, the kids do not spill them all over the classroom. But it wasn't just a matter of removing tiles as we didn't have enough of some letters. Tiles that come attached for game purposes had to be cut to have enough single letters. Every first-grader can now practice spelling with their own banana.

100 My First Bananagrams

Asset at year-end: \$989

Math Manipulatives

All kindergarten and first-grade classrooms now have colorful, easy-to-interlock cubes! Each child has a set of ten colorful cubes to help them see and solve math problems. The teachers wanted – and received – the same two colors for all students in their classroom. 200 sets of math cubes

Asset at year-end: \$910

3-D Geometric Solids

Every first-grader now has three-dimensional shapes they can hold and explore when they learn about cubes, cylinders, cones, pyramids and prisms. Geometry is part of their math curriculum. Being able to hold and compare the shapes develops spatial sense. 100 Sets of 3-D Geometric solids

Asset at year-end: \$600

Generation Genius Science Videos

All first-grade classrooms have access to science video lessons. Generation Genius videos were made in partnership with the National Science Teachers Association to engage, educate, and inspire kids in science. We are proud we could fund this subscription teachers were paying out-of-pocket.

Subscription expense \$180

Assets at year-end: Early learning teaching tools: \$5,920

Early learning teaching tool expense for the 2022-23 schoolyear: \$2,846

Science Enrichment

Science is important in Jacksonville – especially with the Mayo Clinic constantly growing and new industries coming to town. Before children finish elementary school, we make it our mission to inspire them to pursue further science education. We want all fifth-graders to have a blast (pun intended!) in science.

Our home, Dinsmore Elementary, is a science magnet. While the school is not a dedicated science magnet, science is emphasized by, among other things, having a full-time fifth grade science teacher.

This teacher understands the needs of her students. She was a student at Dinsmore Elementary and has returned to teach and inspire. Her roots go deep in understanding the community as her mother also attended this same elementary school.

We've focused our fifth-grade science efforts on teaching tools. Science is better understood with experiments and classroom displays.

We thank our sponsors for providing teaching tools that will inspire students for years to come!

New additions this schoolyear include:

Sun, Earth, Moon Systems Model

Our kids get the sun, the earth, and the moon!

Ms. Zortea will use this new model to demonstrate the Earth orbiting the Sun, the Moon orbiting Earth, and Earth spinning on its axis – all correctly geared to show each month! Using a light, which represents the sun, the model will also teach fifth-graders night and day, the seasons, and eclipses.

Cost \$341

Giant Inflatable Solar System

Cost \$41

MagMover ClikMagnets (100) & Pole

Estimated value of donation of products \$300

Classroom tools to study light, lenses, and safety

Thanks to a grant by William and Helen Thomas Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee, our 5th-graders will be superbly equipped to study light, lenses, and safety. The grant funded:

- Diffraction glasses with 3D prism effect
- Spectroscope tubes
- Glass prisms
- Glass lenses
- And, for science experiments, safety goggles

The glasses, tubes, and prisms help demonstrate how light can be reflected, refracted, and absorbed as it goes through different materials. The lenses help our 5th-graders understand the lenses of their own eyes, eyeglass assistance, and the optic nerve sending images to the brain for interpretation.

Cost \$1,000

Assets at year-end: All science teaching tools to date: \$5,806

Science teaching tool expense for the 2022-23 schoolyear: \$276

Classroom Equipment

Did you know teachers (on average across the U.S.) spend about \$750* a year of their own money on classroom equipment and supplies? One of our goals has been to provide the items needed to make learning time more effective – and to build confidence in our young learners!

Aussie Pouches

Chair seat pockets not only “dress up” the classrooms, they make lesson-to-lesson transitions more efficient. Students store their folders, pencils, etc. in pockets on

the back of their chairs. All seven kindergarten and first-grade classrooms needing seat pockets were furnished Aussie Pouches. Made of denim, these seat backs have multiple pockets, are washable, and will serve our young students for years to come!
Assets at year-end: \$3,121

Big Book Displays

Did you know kindergarten teachers read very BIG books to their students? Every kindergarten classroom now has a Big Book Display. The displays are the perfect height for the teachers to turn the pages as they read aloud to the kindergarteners. The base has drawers for horizontal storage of the big paperback books. As an added bonus, the small dry-erase board can be rolled around the classroom for use in small-group learning.
Assets at year-end: \$2,560

Kindergarten Print Station

Kindergarten classrooms now have a print station! Prints and copies can be made in black/white and color. The ability to make a spur-of-the-moment print/copy will help our kindergarten teachers help our little students.
Asset at year-end: \$600

Colorful Plastic Bins for Headphones

It seems the book bins rarely store books. Instead, they are used mostly to store headphones and loose papers. Most classrooms desire a row of colorful, interlocking bins. Summer volunteers label the bins with student names.
Expensed when purchased

Assets at year-end: Classroom Equipment \$6,281
Classroom Equipment expense for the 2022-23 schoolyear: Included in Classroom Supplies

June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023

Total assets reported above: \$48,923

Total expenses reported above: \$33,022

Does not include any calculation for regular volunteer hours