

ALL WE KNOW

by

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Note: The numbers at right correspond to the months of a pregnancy. The illustrations could follow one woman through the entire pregnancy, or—to represent greater diversity—several women (perhaps neighbors and/or in the same birth-preparation class?). The timing of things is based on a northeastern U.S. location, not far from the coast.

A cloud knows how to rain. *(1) April*

The thunder, how to boom.

A bulb knows when it's time to sleep,

And when it's time to bloom.

A seed knows how to sprout. *(2) May*

A lamb knows how to bleat.

A bee knows where the nectar is to make the honey sweet.

The fox knows how to make a home *(3) June*

inside a cozy log.

And no one taught the tadpole

how to be a frog.

A crab knows how to crawl. *(4) July*

A seagull, how to soar.

A wave knows how to rise up tall and tumble to the shore.

A squirrel can leap from tree to tree.

(5) August

A mole can dig a hole.

And beans don't need a lesson in how to climb a pole.

A pup knows how to wag.

(6) September

A kitten, how to play.

Swallows fly to winter homes and never lose their way.

The oak knows when to sprout new leaves—

(7) October

And when to let them go.

The pumpkin knows exactly how

to grow . . .

and grow . . .

and grow.

A bear knows when to wander,

(8) November

and when it's time to doze.

The hare knows when it's best to wear

its whiter winter clothes.

The moon knows how to wax and wane,

(9) December

And when to rise each night.

And *you* knew how to tell me

when the time was finally right.

The stars know how to shine,

The earth knows how to turn.

The sun knows when to rise each day –

It didn't need to learn.

Time knows how to march along
No matter what we do.

And I know how to love you.

No one taught me.

I just knew.