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GRADES: KINDERGARTEN-HIGH SCHOOL

Parents' Guide to Student Success

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES

- An overview of some of the key things your child will learn in English/Literacy and Math in Kindergarten through High School
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her academic progress

Parents' Guide to Student Success

KINDERGARTEN

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of kindergarten in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. This guide is based on the new Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by more than 45 states. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 1st grade.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in Kindergarten

- Naming upper-and lower-case letters, matching those letters with their sounds, and printing them
- Comparing the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories, such as fairy tales and folktales
- Retelling familiar stories and talking about stories read to them using details from the text
- Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to describe an event, including his or her reaction to what happened
- Stating an opinion or preference about a topic or book in writing (e.g., *My favorite book is . . .*)
- Taking part in classroom conversations and following rules for discussions (e.g., learning to listen to others and taking turns when speaking)
- Speaking clearly to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas, including descriptions of familiar people, places, things, and events
- Asking and answering questions about key details in stories or other information read aloud
- Understanding and using question words (e.g., *who, what, where, when, why, how*) in discussions
- Learning to recognize, spell, and properly use those little grammatical words that hold the language together (e.g., *a, the, to, of, from, I, is, are*)



Talking to Your Child's Teacher

Keeping the conversation focused.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In kindergarten, these include:

- Using knowledge of letters and letter-sound correspondences to figure out how to spell words as they sound
- Reading and understanding a story designed for early readers
- Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in Kindergarten

- Counting objects to tell how many there are
- Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them
- Adding with a sum of 10 or less; subtracting from a number 10 or less; and solving addition and subtraction word problems
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., $3 + 1$)
- Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square)



Talking to Your Child's Teacher

Keeping the conversation focused.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In kindergarten, these include:

- Counting to tell the number of objects (this will not be written work; ask the teacher for his or her observations of your child's progress in this area)
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas. To find more books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school
- Have your child describe the picture to you

Mathematics

- Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, “Do many children have more than 20 books about wild animals?”
- Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. “Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?” (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer)

For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandards.org

Parents' Guide to Student Success

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 1st grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. This guide is based on the new Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by more than 45 states. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 2nd grade.

1ST GRADE

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Getting facts and information from different writings
- Writing about a topic, supplying some facts, and providing some sense of opening and closing
- Taking part in conversations about topics and texts being studied by responding to the comments of others and asking questions to clear up any confusion
- Producing and expanding complete simple and compound statements, questions, commands, and exclamations
- Identifying the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on the sentence or paragraph in which the word is used (e.g., deciding whether the word *bat* means a flying mammal or a club used in baseball)
- Learning to think about finer distinctions in the meanings of near-synonyms (e.g., *marching, prancing, strutting, strolling, walking*)



Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 1st grade, these include:

- Reading grade-level text with understanding and fluency
- Learning from, enjoying, and getting facts from books he or she reads and listens to

Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 1st Grade

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: “Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?”)
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g., $2 + 5$, $7 - 5$)
- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (*place value*)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g., $38 + 5$, $29 + 20$, $64 + 27$, $80 - 50$)
- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths



Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 1st grade, these include:

- Adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less (this will not be written work; ask the teacher for his or her observations of your child's progress in this area)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Encourage your child to read to you books such as *Little Bear* by Else Holmelund Minarik. Help him or her sound out difficult words. To find more books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf
- Pick a “word of the day” each day starting with a different letter
- Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter

Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 1st grade examples might include:

- If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left
- Play the “I’m thinking of a number” game. For example, “I’m thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is my number?”

For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandards.org

Parents' Guide to Student Success

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 2nd grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 3rd grade.

2ND GRADE

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Paying close attention to details, including illustrations and graphics, in stories and books to answer *who, what, where, when, why, and how* questions
- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales
- Using text features (e.g., captions, bold print, indexes) to locate key facts or information efficiently
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials to support that opinion
- Writing stories that include a short sequence of events and include a clear beginning, middle, and end
- Taking part in conversations by linking his or her comments to the remarks of others and asking and answering questions to gather additional information or deepen understanding of the topic
- Retelling key information or ideas from media or books read aloud
- Producing, expanding, and rearranging sentences (e.g., “The boy watched the movie”; “The little boy watched the movie”; “The action movie was watched by the little boy”)
- Determining the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word (happy/unhappy; pain/painful/less)



Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 2nd grade, these include:

- Reading grade-level books and stories with understanding and fluency
- Building a foundation of knowledge through reading and listening to books in history/social studies, science, and other subjects

Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 2nd Grade

- Solving challenging addition and subtraction word problems with one or two steps (e.g., a “one-step” problem would be: “Lucy has 23 fewer apples than Julie. Julie has 47 apples. How many apples does Lucy have?”)
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 20 or less (e.g., $11 + 8$); quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 20 or less (e.g., $16 - 9$); and knowing all sums of one-digit numbers from memory by the end of the year
- Understanding what the digits mean in three-digit numbers (*place value*)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers (e.g., $811 - 367$); adding and subtracting two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., $77 - 28$)
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems involving length (e.g., “The pen is 2 cm longer than the pencil. If the pencil is 7 cm long, how long is the pen?”)
- Building, drawing, and analyzing 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume, and geometry in later grades



Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 2nd grade, these include:

- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract
- Solving more challenging addition and subtraction word problems
- Measuring lengths, and solving word problems involving addition and subtraction of lengths

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Read at home every day and assist your child by reading every other paragraph. To find recommendations of books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends

Mathematics

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 2nd grade examples might include:

- When saving for a purchase, compare the cost of the item to the amount of money you have; then ask your child to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy the item
- Play “draw the shape.” For example, ask your child to draw a hexagon with one side longer than the others, or ask him or her to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.

For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandard