



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO **First Grade**



Sun Prairie Area
School District



Child Development

WE KNOW...

“Stages of growth and development follow a reasonably predictable pattern. Children and adolescents do not proceed through each stage at the same pace. Children and adolescents progress through the various aspects of development at their own rate. Growth is uneven.”

Source: *Yardsticks: Child and Adolescent Development Ages 4-14*, by Chip Wood



Physical Development

- First graders often prefer to stand while doing work, even at their desks.
- At this age, they often have new teeth coming in, so they may chew on pencils, fingernails, and other objects.
- As they begin to read, their visual tracking from left to right and to the next line is normative.
- They are more interested in the process of writing, not staying on the line and being aware of space.
- They work a short duration of time and tire easily.
- It is not uncommon to have frequent illness or absences.

Social and Emotional Development

- First graders enjoy playing and working in groups. They may engage in dramatic and cooperative play.
- They like doing things for themselves and don't always want to ask for help.
- They need clear boundaries and limits.
- They often tattle, tease, have tantrums, and complain as means to understanding relationships with peers and adults.
- They rely on adults for constant reassurance and understanding.

First-Grade Experience

First graders will ...

ART	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore uses of materials and apply basic art concepts to their artwork • Use art vocabulary to describe artistic choices and share preferences • Engage in The Studio Habits of Mind, a set of thinking dispositions utilized throughout the creative process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that people from different places and times have made art for a variety of purposes • Demonstrate safe procedures for using and cleaning art tools, equipment, and studio spaces • 1st grade media includes drawing, painting, collage, fiber, printmaking, ceramics, and 3D sculpture
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an example of when assistance is needed to make a health-related decision • Define health needs and personal wants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate knowledge of healthy and unhealthy behaviors to family members, trusted adults, or friends
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate mature movements while traveling throughout space at different levels/speeds • Participate cooperatively and safely for the enjoyment of movement • Performs fundamental motor skills while participating in vigorous physical activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate the physical skills necessary to perform class activities • Demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical activity settings • Demonstrate understanding and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings
MUSIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sing with “head voice” in a tuneful and healthy way • Remember short songs and sing them alone or with others • Demonstrate steady beat and various rhythms (and melodies) with their body and on various instruments • Identify classroom instruments by sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move expressively in response to different styles of music • Describe music using appropriate vocabulary, such as <i>piano</i>, <i>forte</i>, <i>largo</i>, <i>presto</i> • Learn to be a quiet audience member • Read simple rhythms
GUIDANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen, focus, and pay attention (attention skills) • Be a friend, cooperate, not bully others (social skills) • Identify feelings and emotions • Begin to regulate emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop mindfulness • Develop a growth mindset • Identify ways to prevent bullying • Continue career exploration

End-of-Year Expectations

First graders will know how to ...

Family Learning Activities

Practice these strategies at home in your family's native language as well as in English.

	READING	WRITING	
LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask and answer questions about important details in a text • Identify characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details • Select a non-fiction topic and identify facts to share • Read orally with accuracy, fluency, and expression, and self-correct any errors • Recognize and read high-frequency words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure • Write narratives in which they recount two or more appropriately sequenced events, include some details regarding what happened, use sequence words to signal event order, and provide some sense of closure • Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to your child read. • Encourage your child to retell stories. Ask questions about the stories to support your child's comprehension. • Help your child be responsible for any homework, reading logs, or projects. • Write stories, letters, cards, and poems with your child. • Play word games together. • Read books with your child. Have your child take on the voice and actions of a character, while you play the part of the narrator or another character.
MATH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solve addition and subtraction word problems for numbers 1-20, using pictures, objects, and drawings • Use strategies to add and subtract • Read and write numbers up to 120 • Use <i>greater than</i>, <i>less than</i>, and <i>equal to</i> symbols to compare two numbers • Use standard units to measure • Tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks • Ask and answer questions about data • Construct and draw shapes when given defining attributes (e.g., Draw a shape that has three equal sides and three angles.) • Create new shapes using 2- and/or 3-dimensional shapes 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play games with your child and create simple addition and subtraction problems using real-life situations. • Cook with your child. • Build things with blocks or other building materials. As you build, have your child count the pieces by tens, add and subtract pieces, and pay attention to the different shapes you use. • Have your child ask family members questions and make graphs with the results.
SCIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in activities, discussions, and investigations • Demonstrate understanding of key unit concepts 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to observe the world and to draw what they see. • Try the Science extensions with your child.
SOCIAL STUDIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how the past affects the present and the future (History) • Understand the role of government and citizenship in various communities (Civics) • Describe resources that are important or useful to self, family, community, and country (Economics) • Develop curiosity about other people's lives and experiences and identify similarities and differences to their own (Culture) • Compare and contrast different modes of transportation and communication used by families in work and daily life (Geography) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss wants and needs with your child. • When traveling, show your child a map of where you are going and discuss the different ways of travelling. • Talk about current events in family, community, and country. • Ask what your child notices about other people.



WE **welcome** OUR FAMILIES.

WE **honor** WHAT YOU BRING TO OUR LEARNING COMMUNITY.

WE WANT TO **partner** WITH YOU IN WAYS THAT HELP YOUR CHILD.

501 South Bird Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590
Telephone: 608-834-6500 • Fax: 608-834-6592

sunprairieschools.org

