

Common Core State Standards

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade
K

A resource to help you support your child's learning

In kindergarten, students will learn the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words. They will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes. These important skills will enable your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple books and stories. Students will also learn to write and share information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others and speaking aloud. Activities in these areas will include:

- Naming and writing upper- and lowercase letters
- Matching letters to sounds and using other methods to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Learning and using new words
- Identifying words that rhyme
- Reading common words such as *the*, *of*, *you*, *are*, *she*, and *my*
- Asking and answering questions about a story the teacher reads out loud
- Identifying characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Recognizing the person, place, thing, or idea that an illustration shows
- Participating in discussions by listening and taking turns speaking
- Using a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion
- Taking part in shared reading, writing, and research projects
- Expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly

In kindergarten, students will read stories and poems. They will read to learn about history, the world, science and other areas. Here are examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

Reading Literature

Kindergarten Reading	Grade One Reading	Grade Two Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students retell stories, including key details.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students retell stories, including key details, and show that they understand the lesson or moral of a story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students retell stories and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice when reading aloud.

Reading for Information

Kindergarten Reading	Grade One Reading	Grade Two Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students ask and answer such questions as <i>who</i>, <i>what</i>, <i>where</i>, <i>when</i>, <i>why</i>, and <i>how</i> to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With help from the teacher, students identify what person, place, thing, or idea a picture shows.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students use the illustrations and details in a text to describe key ideas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students explain how images or illustrations (such as how a machine works) are useful.

Writing

Writing tasks in kindergarten may include short compositions that tell a story. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Kindergarten Writing	Grade One Writing	Grade Two Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing, students name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students name a topic and supply some facts about the topic.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students introduce a topic and use facts and definitions to develop points.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students provide some sense of closure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students provide a concluding statement or section.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Read to your child and have him or her read to you every day for at least 15 minutes. Pick out words that might be new to your child or words that have multiple or complex meanings. Discuss those words and how they add to what the writer is saying.
2. Ask your child to retell a story in his or her own words by telling what happened first, second, third, etc.
3. Ask your child to think about what the message of a story may be or what he or she learned from an informational book or article.
4. Look for opportunities in everyday places to build your child's vocabulary.
5. Help your child get a library card. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun.
6. Use websites to read books or articles online. Libraries also have computers students can use.

Partnering with your child's teacher

Ask your child's teacher questions like:

- Is my child learning to read and write?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English go to <http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy> or <http://www.commoncoreworks.org>.

Adapted from Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core State Standards, Council of Great City Schools, www.cgcs.org