Welcome to KINDERGARTEN!

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sets expectations, or standards, for what *every* student will know and be able to do in school. This guide is designed to help you understand those standards and partner with teachers to support your child's learning during kindergarten. If you have questions about this information or your child needs extra help, please talk to your child's teacher.

To talk to your child about school, you can ask:

- Can you tell me about something you **read** today?
- How could you use the **math** you learned today?
- Can you tell me about the **science** you're learning?
- How did someone help you learn today?

If your child is also learning English, you can ask:

- How does your teacher help you when you don't understand?
- When did you use English at school today?





TO LEARN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY at every grade, your child will:

- Read various texts, like books, poems, letters, news articles, and Internet pages.
- Speak and listen in formal and informal ways, like presentations and conversations.
- Communicate opinions, information, and experiences in writing for various readers.
- Use knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary in both speech and writing.



TO LEARN MATHEMATICS at every grade, your child will:

- Use math to represent and solve real-world problems.
- Use math to make arguments about why something is true or false.
- Use tools, like rulers and calculators, to show mathematical relationships.
- Use patterns and the structures of numbers to think about math.



TO LEARN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING at every grade, your child will:

- Ask scientific questions about the natural world and things humans design.
- Learn through various experiences, like observations and experiments.
- Solve problems using the skills and tools of engineers and scientists.
- Share solutions and communicate explanations of how the world works.

The next three pages focus more specifically on the Massachusetts learning standards for **KINDERGARTEN.**

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY



NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN:

- Understand how stories and poems are the same and different. For example, read a story and a poem with the teacher, then explain how to tell that only the second one was a poem.
- Separate the first, middle, and last sounds of simple words: for example, *cat* (c-a-t), *map* (m-a-p), *hit* (h-i-t).
- Continue a conversation by listening to other people's ideas and asking questions to learn more about what they think.
- With help from an adult, use written words and drawings to express an opinion or give information about something.

BY THE END OF KINDERGARTEN, STUDENTS CAN:

- Listen to a story read aloud. Understand where and when the story takes place.
- Compare what the same characters (like Henry and Mudge) do in different stories.
- Explain how to find out who wrote a book (the author) or drew its pictures (the illustrator).
- Talk about the main idea of a text. Tell facts they learned from a text.
- Recognize all uppercase (capital) and lowercase letters in the alphabet.
- Recognize and understand some very common words: for example, *the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do,* and *does*.
- Write uppercase (capital) and lowercase letters. Capitalize the first word in a sentence.
- Recognize punctuation marks used at the end of sentences: for example, period (.), question mark (?).

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Who is the story about? What happened in the story?
- Can you use the pictures to "read" this book to me (tell me what happens in the book)?
- Would you rather have ___ or ___? Why?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Books and authors to look for at the library
- Experiences that can help build your child's vocabulary

FOCUS AREAS FOR KINDERGARTEN:

- Use numbers to count and group objects, compare how many objects are in different groups, and add and subtract. For example, use subtraction to find out how many carrot sticks are left after some are eaten.
- Use language to describe, sort, name, and compare two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. For example, sort cups or plates by shape, count how many are in each group, and explain which group has the most.

BY THE END OF KINDERGARTEN, STUDENTS CAN:

- Count to 100 by ones or tens, starting from any number.
- Recognize, name, and write numerals 0–20.
- Count up to 20 objects, saying a number aloud for each object.
- Compare up to 10 items in different groups using objects or written numerals. For example, tell whether a package of three pens or a package of five pens has more pens.
- Fluently (quickly and correctly) add and subtract with numbers up to five.
- Use objects, drawings, or numerals to add and subtract with numbers up to 10.
- Break numbers into smaller numbers: for example, 5 is made of 2 and 3 or 4 and 1.
- Find the number that makes 10 for any number 1–9. For example, 6 needs 4 to make 10.
- Explain that numbers in the "teens" (11–19) are made of a ten and some ones.
- Describe and compare objects by measuring their length, weight, or capacity (how much they can hold).
- Name, describe, analyze, and compare shapes like squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- You have 5 stickers and I have 2. How many stickers do we have together?
- We made 3 pancakes. How many more should we make to have 10?
- What do we have in the house that is shaped like a cylinder?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Which addition and subtraction strategies work best for your child
- Games that can help your child practice math at home



MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING





FOCUS AREAS FOR KINDERGARTEN:

- Observe the world by counting and measuring. For example, describe weather patterns by counting the sunny, cloudy, and rainy days in a month.
- Think about the reasons things change. For example, notice that liquid water turns to solid ice when it gets cold.
- Explain how plants and animals are the same and different. For example, all plants and animals need food, water, and air, but only plants can make their own food.
- Explore how objects move when pushed or pulled: for example, how a ball rolls down a ramp when it is pushed and when it is not pushed.

BY THE END OF KINDERGARTEN, STUDENTS CAN:

- Understand that all plants and animals grow and change over time.
- Explain how plants and animals can change their environments: for example, how tree roots grow and break sidewalks.
- Understand that the sun warms the Earth. Observe differences between warmer and cooler materials like rocks, sand, and water.
- Describe how people can build things to protect themselves and their homes from the sun's heat.
- Get information from weather forecasts and use it to prepare for local weather (like rain coming the next day).
- Explain how people can use fewer natural resources: for example, by recycling cans or reusing pieces of paper instead of throwing them away.
- Study how things change depending on temperature: for example, how a crayon or glue stick melts in heat.
- Compare what happens when objects are pushed or pulled in different ways: for example, when a book is pushed straight down on a table and when it is pushed sideways.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- How can we prepare for the weather tomorrow?
- How can we stay cool outside on a hot, sunny day?
- What are natural resources we use at home?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life
- Places in the community that can help your child learn science