



LITERACY

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 1st grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

Learning to read and write:

- Matching letters and sounds to sound out and write simple words. (This may include **inventive spelling** for writing). Students should be able to accurately decode and write all words with short vowel sounds, final -e, and common long vowel spellings.
- Recognizing, spelling, and properly using those little grammatical words that hold the language together (for example, "a", "the", "to", "of", "from", "I", "is", "are").
- Reading and rereading **decodable** words and sentences so that the reading is smooth.
- Writing neatly and legibly, with spacing between words and in complete sentences.

Learning about the world through text:^{*}

- Accurately asking and answering questions about stories and texts read aloud. Retelling what happened and explaining key ideas.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context, glossaries, etc. (Children may need support with pronunciation.)
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters, or sentences on the page.
- Using a combination of drawing and writing to describe an event in a text. Children should include a title, an introductory sentence, examples, and a conclusion sentence.

^{*}The texts used for this purpose are often read aloud, since they are more complex than the child could read alone. But texts children can read for themselves (with support as needed) may also be used.



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Read aloud to your child for 20 minutes each day. Talk about what is happening in the text. Ask what they are learning.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Listen to your child read and reread **decodable** text. Do they move from decoding sound by sound to reading that is smooth and clear? Don't have your child simply look at pictures and guess. Be sure they are working to sound out words that contain sounds and spellings that they know.
- Support your child to practice writing each day, including helping with real-world writing. This can include grocery lists, reminder notes, chores, etc. Be sure your child can sound out the words and write the letters they've learned represent the sounds.



MATHEMATICS

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 1st grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems starting within 10 and progressing to within 20. (For example, "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")
- Adding with a **sum** of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less. A common strategy for these problems is based on the number 10. (For example, to add $9 + 4$, a student might first add 1 to 9, making 10, then add the remaining 3 to 10, making 13.) When subtracting, a student may use their addition knowledge. (For example, to solve $12 - 8$, if a student knows that $8 + 4 = 12$, then taking 8 away from 12 would mean 4 remain.)
- Mentally adding with a **sum** of 10 or less ($2 + 5$). Mentally subtracting with a **sum** of 10 or less ($8 - 4$). Students may also come to know some of these **sums** and differences from memory.
- Understanding what the **digits** mean in two-**digit** numbers (the number 42 refers to 4 tens and 2 ones).
- Understanding and practicing adding two, two-**digit** numbers by adding tens and tens and ones and ones. ($41 + 27 = 60 + 8 = 68$).
- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length. (For example, "How many pencils long is this table leg?")



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- As children engage with their world, ask addition and subtraction problems within 10. For example:
 - "You have three pencils in your bag, and I have six pencils in my bag. How many pencils do we have altogether?"
 - "There are six birds on the sidewalk. Some flew away. Now there are only four birds. How many birds flew away?"
 - "There are seven cookies in the green package and four cookies in the blue package. Which package has more cookies? How many more cookies does that package have?"
- Practice addition. Add ones and ones and add tens and tens for problems like $39 + 14$. Do the same thing for problems like $38 + 25$ that require making a ten using the ones. (Since $8 + 5$ is 13, the problem is the same as $30 + 20 + 13$.)
- Read books that include measurement as a topic or theme (<https://earlymath.erikson.edu/4-childrens-books-explore-measurement-concepts/>). Have your child lay objects down to compare their length. (For example, "One edge of the paper is longer than the other edge. If I place paper clips end to end along the one edge I have (this many) paper clips. That is more than when I place paper clips along the other edge. Then I need only (this many) paper clips.")