



NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR FIRST GRADE:

- ▶ Notice when a story has a message or lesson for its readers. For example, understand when an author uses a character's actions to show why being kind is important.
- ▶ Respond directly to what other people say in a conversation. For example, when a classmate says "I like this book," ask "Why do you like it?"
- ▶ Choose and use words in speech and writing to show whether something happened in the past (like *I ate*), is happening now (like *I am eating*), or will happen in the future (like *I will eat*).
- ▶ Have a clear ending when writing about something. For example, end a story with "It was a fun day" or end an explanation with "That is how to brush your teeth."



BY THE END OF FIRST GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:

- ▶ Explain the differences between common types of stories (like folk tales and fairy tales).
- ▶ Understand who is telling a story: for example, an author or a character in the story.
- ▶ Stop and read a sentence again if it does not make sense the first time.
- ▶ Use clues like headings and a table of contents to find information in a text.
- ▶ Break words into syllables. For example, *helping* has two syllables: *help* and *ing*.
- ▶ Understand that the same word can take different forms: for example, *look*, *looks*, *looking*.
- ▶ Understand that numbers (like 2) can also be written with words (like *two*).
- ▶ End written sentences with a period (.), question mark (?), or exclamation point (!).
- ▶ Capitalize the names of months (like January) and people (like Martin Luther King, Jr.).
- ▶ Describe people, places, things, and events clearly in both speech and writing.



QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ Can you tell me what happened in this story?
- ▶ What information does this picture give you?
- ▶ How did you decide to use that word?



TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ Books and authors to look for at the library
- ▶ Types of writing your child is working on

