

LITERACY

First Grade



The Indiana Academic Standards define what students should know, understand, and be able to do at grade level beginning in kindergarten and progressing through grade twelve. These standards serve as the foundation to our curriculum in Noblesville Schools but are not a curriculum on their own. The Indiana Academic Standards are supported through grade-level curriculum maps and a selection of core curriculum materials to support these maps. These curriculum maps and materials are aligned to the Indiana Academic standards while also meeting the needs of all learners. Therefore, the Noblesville Schools' curriculum is constantly undergoing periodic and systematic analysis and revision. Noblesville Schools last engaged in an English Language Arts program review in grades K-12 during the 2024-2025 school year.

In first grade, instructional time is focused on the key components of literacy, which are embedded across the school day. The first grade Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts serve as the foundation of our curriculum. These first grade standards are supported in Noblesville Schools through core curriculum materials for literacy instruction, including [Amplify CKLA, 3rd Edition \(2025\)](#), which is a recommended core curriculum material on the Indiana Department of Education's High-Quality Curricular Materials Advisory List. You can learn more about *Amplify CKLA, 3rd Edition* and its components in grades K-5 in this [CKLA, 3rd Edition Overview Video](#).

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CKLA Skills Units (3rd Edition)

Amplify's Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), (3rd Edition) serves as the primary core curriculum material for all first grade learners and provides alignment with the Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts.

Table 1: First Grade CKLA Skills Units

CKLA Skills Units	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Skills Units Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 1	Start of School - Mid-September	Identify five short vowel sounds and twenty-five consonant/consonant digraph sounds. Spell words with double-letter spellings. Identify Tricky Spellings: 'th' > /th/, /th/, 's' pronounced /s/ or /z/. Decode and spell consonant digraphs: 'ch', 'sh', 'th', 'ng'. Identify Tricky Words from the CKLA Kindergarten curriculum. Read stories in the decodable Reader. Answer story questions.
Unit 2	Mid-September - End of October	Read and write long vowel sounds, including separated vowel digraphs (e.g., CVCe words). Identify and use common and proper nouns. Identify and spell Tricky Words: he, she, be, me, we, they, their, my, by, you, your. Spell dictated words.
Unit 3	Early November - Early December	Read and write words with vowel sounds: /oo/, /oo/, /ou/, /oi/, /aw/. Distinguish between similar vowel sounds: /ue/, /oo/, /oo/, /u/. Identify and spell Tricky Words: should, could, would, down, because. Spell grade-level words correctly during weekly spelling tests. Identify and use verbs and verb tenses. Use the writing process to compose a narrative.

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CKLA Skills Units	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Skills Units Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 4	Early December - Early February	Read and write words with /r/-controlled vowels. Review long vowel spellings, including digraphs. Identify and use contractions. Spell grade-level words correctly. Divide multisyllabic words into parts. Read and spell Tricky Words: today, yesterday, tomorrow. Read and write past tense verbs ending in –ed. Compose descriptive writing pieces.
Unit 5	Early February- Early March	Segment and blend two-syllable words. Read and write spelling alternatives for /ch/, /j/, /v/, and /r/. Review single- and double-letter consonants. Form plural nouns by adding –s and –es. Write words with suffixes –ed and –ing. Spell grade-level words correctly. Identify and write different sentence types. Use the writing process to compose a letter expressing an opinion.
Unit 6	Early March - End of April	Segment and blend two-syllable words. Read and write spelling alternatives for /s/, /n/, /ng/, and /w/. Spell grade-level words correctly. Use past, present, and future verb tenses. Build phrases and expand sentences using adjectives. Match pronouns to their antecedents. Use the writing process to compose a personal narrative.
Unit 7	End of April - End of May	Segment and blend two-syllable words. Read and write spelling alternatives for /ae/ and /oe/. Spell grade-level words correctly. Identify and use plural nouns. Identify and use correct noun-verb agreement. Write sentences using conjunctions. Use the writing process to compose instructional writing.

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CKLA Knowledge Units (3rd Edition)

Amplify’s Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), (3rd Edition) serves as the primary core curriculum material for all first grade learners and provides alignment with the Indiana Academic Standards for English Language Arts.

Table 2: First Grade CKLA Knowledge Units

CKLA Knowledge Units/Domains	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Knowledge Units/Domains Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 1: The Moral of the Story: Fables and Tales	Start of School - End of August	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Deepen comprehension of stories by using the “Somebody Wanted But So Then” strategy. Identify a purpose for listening. Understand the meaning of certain sayings and phrases. Begin to explore the genre of narrative writing.
Unit 2: From Nose to Toes: How Your Body Works	End of August - Mid-September	Describe the human body as a network of systems. Identify and distinguish between the five systems of the human body. Explain the effects of germs and the importance of vaccines. Describe ways to stay healthy. Identify the food groups in a well-balanced diet. Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Identify the elements of a narrative. Use a graphic organizer to plan and draft writing. Plan, draft, and revise a group narrative about solving a problem.

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CKLA Knowledge Units/Domains	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Knowledge Units/Domains Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 3: Common Threads: Different Lands, Similar Stories	End of September - End of October	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Identify a purpose for listening. Make text-to-text connections. Retell stories using domain-specific vocabulary and correct sequencing. Compare and contrast diverse fairy tales and folktales. Plan, draft, and revise a narrative retelling of a fairy tale.
Unit 4: Reach for the Stars: Astronomy	End of October - Mid-November	Identify Earth, the sun, the moon, other planets, and stars. Describe how Earth moves. Explain what causes day and night. Identify major constellations and discoveries by astronomers. Distinguish between inner and outer planets in the solar system. Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Explore parts of an opinion paragraph by stating an opinion and supplying reasons to support it. Write an opinion paragraph.

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CKLA Knowledge Units/Domains	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Knowledge Units/Domains Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 5: Charting the World: Geography	End of November - Mid-December	Compare and contrast the characteristics of globes, maps, and atlases. Use cardinal directions to locate and label various places on a map. Describe time zones and how the relationship between the sun and the earth affects the seasons. Locate and label major landforms using a legend on a world map. Understand that some countries are organized into states and provinces. Identify geographical characteristics of urban, rural, and suburban areas in the United States. Locate and label urban, rural, and suburban areas on a map. Identify major cities on a world map. Write an opinion statement about the type of community (urban, suburban, or rural) that students would prefer to live in. Create a map, and write an opinion text about a favorite place in students' neighborhoods.
Unit 6: A World of Homes: Animals and Habitats	Early January - End of January	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Set a purpose for listening. Identify important information in a text. Recognize that all living things have adapted to live in habitats to which they are particularly suited. Understand that each habitat has distinct characteristics. Explain that habitat destruction can lead to extinction. Generate informational writing by collecting and synthesizing information, then recording it in a journal and graphic organizers.



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CKLA Knowledge Units/Domains	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Knowledge Units/Domains Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 7: A New Nation: American Independence	Early February - End of February	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Set a purpose for listening. Deepen comprehension by using the Somebody Wanted But So Then strategy. Identify important information and sequence events from a text. Practice using action verbs in the past and present tense. Explore how action verbs and adjectives have shades of meaning. Write captions for pictures of important people and places connected to the story of how the thirteen colonies became an independent nation. Engage in informational writing by collecting and synthesizing information to plan and draft an informative paragraph.
Unit 8 (Choice Unit): Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales	Early March - End of March	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Deepen comprehension by identifying the elements of fairy tales before, during, and after Read-Alouds. Examine literary themes and elements. Explain which elements of a fairy tale are fantasy and which could happen in real life. Predict and describe the reasons for characters' actions. Explore and engage in the genre of informative writing.

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CKLA Knowledge Units/Domains	Approximate Month(s) Taught <i>Provides time for instruction, remediation/extension, and assessment.</i>	Knowledge Units/Domains Learning Outcomes Learners will...
Unit 9 (Choice Unit): Early Americas: Maya, Aztec, and Inca	Mid-April - Early May	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Set a purpose for listening. Identify important information in a text. Use a timeline to make connections and sequence information to deepen comprehension. Collect, synthesize, and record information from the text in charts. Identify and use object pronouns. Summarize information by writing phrases and sentences. Identify the parts of a letter. Analyze opinion writing and write an opinion paragraph.
Unit 10: Adventure Stories: Tales from the Edge	Early May - End of May	Demonstrate understanding of key vocabulary. Identify a purpose for listening. Deepen comprehension through the use of Venn diagrams. Recognize important information in a text. Identify the characteristics of an adventure story. Use the research process to collect and synthesize information, and record ideas in a graphic organizer. Write an informative paragraph.