

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of kindergarten in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. This guide is based on the new Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by more than 45 states. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 1st grade.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.



A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in Kindergarten





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Counting objects to tell how many there are
Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater
Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them

Adding with a sum of 10 or less; subtracting from a number 10 or less; and solving addition and subtraction word problems
Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g., $3 + 1$)
Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square)

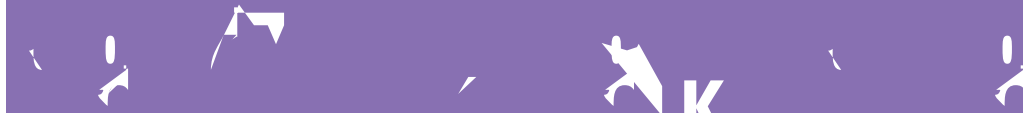


TALKING TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

KEEPING THE CONVERSATION FOCUSED.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In kindergarten, these include:

- Counting to tell the number of objects (this will not be written work; ask the teacher for his or her observations of your child's progress in this area)
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems



Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas. To find more books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf.
Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school.
Have your child describe the picture to you.

Mathematics

Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, “How many books do you have about wild animals?”
Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. “Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?” (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer.)

For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandards.org.