



A Parent's Guide to the Essential Learnings

Grade 1

This document is not a complete or comprehensive representation of the entire curriculum. It is intended to provide parents with an overview of essential learnings in all subject areas. For additional information, consult your child's teacher.

Mathematics

- Reads, writes, and orders numbers to 500
- Counts by 2s, 5s, 10s and 100s
- Counts by 1s beginning at any number up to 1000
- Counts backwards from 100
- Identifies place value to hundreds
- Divides sets into equal parts
- Observes and explains the concept of fractions using physical materials
- Compares numbers up to 100 using the language of estimation (e.g., greater than, less than, or equal to)
- Recognizes number patterns on the hundreds chart
- Adds and subtracts numbers up to 10 automatically
- Represents addition and subtraction problems to 18 using physical materials
- Understands the attributes of length and weight in everyday situations
- Measures length to the nearest inch and centimeter
- Tells time to the nearest hour using phrases such as “a little before” and “a little after”
- Names, draws, classifies, and compares two-dimensional shapes
- Constructs, displays, analyzes, reads, and interprets graphs
- Solves open sentences involving addition and subtraction of whole numbers (e.g., $2 + \square = 7$)
- Creates, recognizes, duplicates and extends patterns
- Summarizes mathematical learning through writing and speaking
- Explains the processes used to solve problems
- Uses a variety of strategies to solve problems related to mathematics in real life (e.g., draw pictures, look for patterns, use trial and error, make tables)
- Makes reasonable predictions about answers for addition and subtraction problems
- Identifies and counts pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters

Reading

- Identifies and names all letters of the alphabet
- Uses word identification strategies to decode (e.g., initial and final consonants; vowel sounds; blends; beginning, middle, and ending sounds)
- Reads words with a variety of suffixes (e.g., -s, -ed, -ing, -er, -est)
- Uses patterns of language to predict text (e.g., rhyme, repetition of sounds, words, phrases)
- Uses picture cues and context to check understanding of meaning
- Uses a variety of strategies to understand text (e.g., makes predictions, self-corrects, re-reads, reads-on, slows down)
- Builds vocabulary by verbalizing picture cues, listening to and responding to literature
- Expands sight words recognition
- Reads silently for 10-15 minutes
- Identifies elements of literary devices (e.g., alliteration, rhyme, and patterns)
- Recognizes elements of literature (e.g., characters, setting, beginning, middle, end)
- Interprets and uses functional text (e.g., charts, calendars, labels)
- Recalls details from a story
- Makes predictions and inferences based on text and pictures
- Retells a story of three or four events in correct sequence
- Finds similarities and differences in stories
- Reads and follows simple written directions
- Participates in reading of fiction and nonfiction literature (e.g., rhymes, songs, narratives, question and answer)
- Listens to and reads literature representing different cultures
- Sees self as a reader; recognizes growth as a reader

Writing

- Writes two or more sentences that focus on a topic
- Uses drawings that show attention to detail
- Writes to tell a story, to narrate an event, to give information, and to describe something
- Orally identifies beginning, middle, and end of a familiar story
- Develops connected ideas with words and pictures
- Contributes descriptive words to group writing
- Writes complete sentences
- Draws, makes lists, responds to stories, and brainstorms to generate ideas and questions
- Gets ideas on paper by using drawing, conventional spelling, and invented spelling
- Develops a bank of correctly spelled words
- Edits for spelling, punctuation, and capitalization explicitly taught
- Identifies own growth in writing over time, with teacher help
- Listens to the feedback of others

Capitalization, Punctuation, and Grammar

- Capitalizes first letter of months, days, holidays, familiar names, first letter of first word in a sentence, and the pronoun "I"
- Uses periods, question marks, and exclamation marks

Spelling

- Uses knowledge of phonics to spell words
- Spells sight words correctly

Handwriting

- Holds a pencil correctly
- Writes upper and lower case manuscript letters correctly
- Prints legibly
- Spaces appropriately between words
- Writes on lined paper

Communication ☺

- Uses active listening skills (e.g., looks at speaker, quiet while speaker is talking)
- Listens for a purpose (e.g., stories, directions, information)
- Recognizes nonverbal communication (e.g., gestures, facial expression)
- Retells main event
- Follows simple oral directions
- Asks questions to gain information and to clarify meaning
- Tells about self and interests
- Tells story with beginning and end
- Speaks with enough volume to be heard
- Tells stories with expression
- Makes meaning clear to listener
- Speaks to take care of own needs
- Expresses own ideas, opinions, and feelings
- Offers positive feedback
- Identifies forms of mass communication

Science ☆

- Makes estimations based on standardized and non-standardized form of measurement
- Orders living things into a food chain
- Understands and explains what plants need to stay alive
- Discusses data collected in a simple investigation (e.g., flight, plant growth)
- Understands the parts and functions of a system (e.g., seed, roots, stem, leaves)
- Observes and describes air resistance and lift (e.g., kite)
- Use properties to distinguish between living and non-living
- Use characteristics of plants and animals to organize living things into groups
- Plans and conducts a science investigation (e.g., air movement, air pressure)

Social Studies

The social studies themes for the primary grades are:

- K - Self
- 1 - Family
- 2 - Neighborhood
- 3 - Community

History

- Discusses how people rely on each other in families, schools, and communities
- Explains ways to gather information about their past
- Describes reasons why people immigrated to America
- Organizes and records information on charts and graphs
- Understands categories of time (month, year, day, week)

Economics

- Contrasts needs and wants
- Identifies how people earn money; understand that income is money earned through work

Geography

- Locates mountain, rivers, lakes, and poles on a map or globe
- Lists ways of transporting people, animals, and goods
- Explains possible reasons for people moving
- Identifies how human needs are met within the family: food, clothing, and shelter
- Uses key to interpret map symbols and cardinal directions (N,S,E,W)
- Identifies the earth's natural resources
- Compares and contrasts his/her family culture with those of other families

Civics

- Describes the democratic process of voting and elections
- Recognizes that people make, apply, and enforce laws to follow at home, in the classroom, and in society
- Describes the role of local leaders and public service providers