

A Guide to Standards-Based Instruction for Parents & Guardians



This guide provides a family-friendly overview of what your child will learn by the end of Kindergarten in mathematics and English language arts/literacy, in an easy-to-understand format.

KINDERGARTEN

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students are prepared for success after high school. The standards provide an important first step — establish a clear, consistent roadmap for what every student should know and be able to do in Math and English language arts from Kindergarten through 12th grade. 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 them for college and careers.

English Language Arts & Literacy

Key Ideas & Details	Craft & Structure	Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.</i>• <i>Students retell stories/texts with key details.</i>• <i>Students identify characters, settings, and major events in a text.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.</i>• <i>Students recognize common types of texts (story, poem, etc.).</i>• <i>Students identify parts of a book (front cover, back cover, and title page).</i>• <i>Students identify the author and illustrator of a text and explain their roles.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students describe the relationship between the illustrations and the text.</i>• <i>Students identify an author's reasons in a text.</i>• <i>Students compare and contrast elements of similar stories.</i>



When talking with your child's teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In Kindergarten, these include:

- ★ Using knowledge of letters and letter-sound correspondences to figure out how to spell words as they sound
- ★ Reading and understanding a story designed for early readers
- ★ Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

Mathematics

Counting & Cardinality	Operations & Algebraic Thinking	Number & Operations in Base Ten	Measurement & Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students count to 100 by ones and tens</i>• <i>Students write numbers 0-20.</i>• <i>Students count objects to answer "how many?".</i>• <i>Students compare objects to determine less than, greater than, and equal to.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students use strategies to solve addition problems up to 10</i>• <i>Students use strategies to solve subtraction problems within 5</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students recognize numbers 11-19 as a combination of tens and ones.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students compare attributes (length, weight, etc.).</i>• <i>Students classify objects into categories.</i>
Geometry			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students identify and describe shapes.</i>• <i>Students compare and create shapes.</i>			

Prioritized topics in Kindergarten Mathematics 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**

Talking to your child's teacher

Helping Your Child at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day for your child to 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.)