

# 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 1st grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy, in an easy-to-understand format.

**1st  
GRADE**

## 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"><li>• <i>Students ask and answer questions about a text to show they understand key details.</i></li><li>• <i>Students retell stories and determine the central message.</i></li><li>• <i>Students identify the main topic of nonfiction paragraphs/passages.</i></li><li>• <i>Students describe characters, settings, and major events in a story.</i></li><li>• <i>Students make connections between ideas in a text</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Students determine the meaning of key words.</i></li><li>• <i>Students explain differences between fiction and nonfiction.</i></li><li>• <i>Students use text structure to find key information. (Table of Contents, Headings, Glossary, etc.</i></li><li>• <i>Students identify who is telling the story.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Students use illustrations and details in order to explain a story.</i></li><li>• <i>Students identify the reasons an author gives to make a point that supports the main idea.</i></li><li>• <i>Students compare and contrast stories/texts on the same topic.</i></li></ul>

**Talking to  
your child's  
teacher**

When talking with your child's teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 1st grade, these include:

- ★ Reading grade-level books and stories with understanding and fluency
- ★ Learning from, enjoying, and getting facts from books he or she reads and listens to

# Mathematics

## Operations & Algebraic Thinking

- *Students use strategies to add and subtract within 20.*
- *Students solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of 3 numbers within 20.*
- *Students apply the relationship between addition and subtraction facts to find the unknown number in an equation.*

## Number & Operations in Base Ten

- *Students count, represent, read, and write numbers to 120.*
- *Students compare two two-digit numbers using  $<$ ,  $>$ , and  $=$  signs.*
- *Students identify 2-digit numbers as a combination of ones and tens.*
- *Students use models and strategies to add and subtract with 100.*

## Measurement & Data

- *Students compare, estimate, and measure the length of objects.*
- *Students tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks.*
- *Students organize, represent, compare, ask, and answer questions about data.*

## Geometry

- *Students identify, categorize, and draw shapes based on description and characteristics.*
- *Students partition or divide shapes equally into halves, thirds, and quarters.*

### Prioritized topics in 1st grade Mathematics include:

- Adding with a sum of 20 or less and subtracting from a number 20 or less
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract
- Solving addition and subtraction word problems

Talking  
to your  
child's  
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## 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 at home every day and assist your child by reading every other paragraph. To find recommendations of books for your child to read, visit [www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix\\_B.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf).
- Pick a "word of the day" each day starting with a different letter
- Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter

### Mathematics

Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 1st grade examples might include:

- If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left
- Play the "I'm thinking of a number" game. For example, "I'm thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is my number?"