

# WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN FIRST GRADE?

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### READING

#### 1. Understanding and Using New Words

First graders understand and use many new words when reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

##### EXAMPLES:

- Words that have more than one meaning (a bat can be a flying mammal or a club used to hit a baseball)
- Words that are used to show shades of meaning (look, peek, stare)
- Words that are used to show different levels of intensity (mad, furious; large, gigantic; tired, exhausted)
- Vocabulary related to science (grow, liquid, material, etc.) and math (subtract, total, compare, etc.)

#### 2. Reading Words by Sight

First graders quickly read words that appear frequently in texts “by sight.” These are words like that, when, were, because, said, and where. Some words are used so often in print that they must be recognized easily and quickly. Your child’s teachers will have lists of these “high frequency words” that your child can practice.

#### 3. Read Unfamiliar Words with Phonics

First graders use phonics (matching letters and sounds) and other reading skills to read unfamiliar words.

##### EXAMPLES:

- Identify sounds at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of a spoken or a written three-letter, one-syllable word: “What sound is at the beginning of the word ‘mop’?” “What sound is at the end of the word ‘pet’?” “What sound is in the middle of the word ‘dig’?” Be able to identify the letters that make those sounds.
- Combine, or blend, the sounds of the first, middle, and ending letters of common three-letter, consonant-vowel-consonant, words to read and understand them – for example: combining or “blending” the sounds made by the letters C-A-T makes the word cat.
- Use word patterns (“If I can read ‘like,’ I know how to read ‘hike.’”) and context (“What word would make sense in this sentence?”) to figure out unknown words.
- Know the sounds made by the most common pairs of consonants in which the sounds of both letters can be heard – for example: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fl, fr, gl, gr, pl, pr, sc/sk, sl, sm, sn, sp, spl, spr, st, str, tr, tw. Identify words that start with these consonant pairs – for example, black, crayon, play, etc.

#### 4. Read with Purpose and Understanding

First graders read 1st-grade level text with purpose and understanding.

## 5. Asking and Answering Questions

First graders ask and answer questions about the main characters, major events, and the setting of a story, using key details from the text and illustrations.

### EXAMPLES:

- What or who is this story about? Where does the story take place? What is the problem in the story? How is that problem solved?
- What words in the story tell you how the main character is feeling?
- How are these two characters alike? What in the story makes you think so?
- What does this illustration tell us about this character? Why do you think so?

## 6. Retelling a Story

First graders retell a story, including key details, and explain its central message or lesson.

## 7. Identifying Main Topic and Key Details

First graders identify the main topic and key details of informational texts (articles, books about science or social studies topics, etc.).

### EXAMPLE:

- What is this book about? What is the writer trying to explain? How does the writer explain that? What facts and examples does the writer give?

## WRITING

## 8. Using Basic Rules of English

First graders use basic rules of English capitalization and punctuation.

### EXAMPLES:

- Capitalizing the first word in a sentence, the pronoun "I," and the names of people, days, and months
- Ending sentences with a period, question mark, or exclamation point

## 9. Printing and Spelling

First graders print letters of the alphabet, upper case (capital letters) and lower case. They spell unfamiliar words phonetically (by sound).

## 10. Writing a Story

First graders write a real or imagined story putting events in order, including details and some sense of closure.

## 11. Writing Informational Pieces

First graders write a short informational piece on a topic, stating a main idea, including some facts and a closing.

## 12. Writing to Share an Opinion

First graders write to share an opinion about a topic or a text, clearly stating the opinion and a reason for it.

### 13. Gathering Facts and Information

First graders work with others to gather facts and information on a topic.

## LISTENING & EXPRESSION

### 14. Clear Expression

First graders practice expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly and in complete sentences using basic rules of spoken English.

### 15. Participating in Conversations

First graders participate in conversations about topics and texts being studied, following agreed upon rules (listening to others, speaking one at a time), responding to the comments of others, and asking questions to clear up any confusion.

### 16. Reading Aloud and Shared Reading

First graders actively engage with rich and challenging texts through read-alouds and shared reading.

#### EXAMPLES:

- "Mix a Pancake" by Christina G. Rossetti
- Mr. Popper's Penguins by Richard Atwater
- Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel
- Hi! Fly Guy by Tedd Arnold
- A Tree is a Plant by Clyde Robert Bulla
- Starfish by Edith Thacher Hurd
- From Seed to Pumpkin by Wendy Pfeffer

## NUMBERS

### 1. Reading and Writing Larger Numbers

First graders read and write numbers from 20 through 120.

### 2. Counting Forward

First graders count forward between 1 and 120, starting at any number.

## ADDITION & SUBTRACTION

### 3. Counting and Addition Together

First graders understand addition as "putting together" and "adding to." They understand subtraction as "taking apart" and "taking away from." First graders also understand comparing situations (e.g., "How many more tickets does Elsa have?"), and they solve all of these situations with any of the three quantities as the unknown number.

### 4. Multiples of Ten

First graders quickly and accurately add numbers that total ten or less and subtract from numbers up to 10.

## 5. The Relationship

First graders understand the relationship of addition and subtraction.

EXAMPLE:

$8 + 4 = 12$ , which means that  $12 - 4 = 8$ , and that  $12 - 8 = 4$

## 6. Ways of Adding or Subtracting

First graders, using objects and drawings, solve numeral and words problems that involve adding or subtracting numbers through 20. They use strategies like the ones in the example below to solve the problem.

EXAMPLE:

- Counting on:  $6 + 3$  is 6 ... 7, 8, 9
- Making a ten:  $8 + 6$  is the same as  $8 + 2 = 10$  and then  $10 + 4 = 14$
- Using related problems:  $6 + 7 = 13$  is the same as  $6 + 6 + 1 = 12 + 1 = 13$

## 7. Understanding the Equal Sign

First graders understand the equal sign (=) means "is the same as." They determine if addition and subtraction statements are true or false.

EXAMPLE:

Which of the following statements are true?

- $3 + 3 = 6$
- $7 = 8 - 1$
- $4 + 1 = 5 + 2$

## 8. Working with Equations

First graders work with addition and subtraction equations – math sentences that use numbers and symbols – to solve problems such as  $8 + ? = 11$  or  $5 = ? - 3$

## PLACE VALUE

### 9. Understanding Place Value

First graders understand place value in one- and two-digit numbers. They understand that in two-digit numbers such as 79, the digit to the left is seven tens and the digit on the right is nine ones.

### 10. Understanding Categories of Tens

First graders understand 10 as ten ones ( $1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1 + 1$ ) or one ten. They understand 20 as twenty ones, or two tens, 30 as thirty ones or three tens, etc. First graders understand numbers 11 to 19 as a ten and some ones.

### 11. Using Number Words

First graders say two-digit numbers using number words (79 is "seventy-nine"). They use "tens" and "ones" to explain the meaning of a two-digit number ("79 is seven tens and nine ones").

### 12. Comparing Two-Digit Numbers

First graders compare two-digit numbers using the symbols  $>$  (greater than or more than),  $=$  (equal to), and  $<$  (less than).

### 13. Single Digits and Multiples of Ten

First graders mentally add ten and subtract ten from any two-digit number and explain the thinking used. They add a one-digit number (one through nine) to any two-digit number and add any two-digit number to any other two-digit number within 100. First graders add 10 and subtract 10 from any two-digit number up to 100. They use concrete models or drawings to show the place values and explain the thinking involved.

## MEASUREMENT

### 14. Measuring Object Length

First graders measure the lengths of objects using a shorter object as a unit of measurement.

### 15. Ordering Objects by Length

First graders put objects in order by length, longest to shortest, and shortest to longest. They use correct terms to compare length: short, shorter, shortest; long, longer, longest.

### 16. Organizing Objects into Categories

First graders organize objects into as many as three categories (by shape, color, size, etc.). They ask and answer questions about the number of objects in different categories. First graders represent the quantities of objects in as many as three categories, using drawings or charts.

## SHAPES

### 17. Describing Shapes

First graders describe what defines shapes (number of sides; corners or angles) and what does not (color, size). They build and draw shapes based on descriptions of their characteristics (properties).

#### EXAMPLES:

- Use toothpicks to make a shape with three sides.
- Draw a shape that has four sides of the same length.

### 18. Drawing Circles and Rectangles

First graders divide circles and rectangles into two equal pieces (called halves) and four equal pieces (called quarters).