



GRADE

1

**D91 Pathway to the
Common Core Standards
English Language Arts**

In grade one, your child will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will continue to learn the letters and sounds that make up words. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on arrange of topics using a growing vocabulary. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading stories and showing they understand the lesson or moral of the story
- Asking and answering questions about a story, including characters, settings, and major events
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of different characters
- Identifying the reasons an author gives to support a point
- Explaining differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information
- Learning and using new words
- Participating in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions
- Describing people, places, things, and events, expressing feelings and ideas clearly
- Learning basic rules of spoken and written English
- Working with others to gather facts and information on a topic
- Writing to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child reading on grade level?
- How is my child doing in writing?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?

In grade one, students will read stories and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

READING LITERATURE

Kindergarten Reading

- With help from the teacher, students retell stories, including key details.
- With help from the teacher, students name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.

Grade One Reading

- Students retell stories, including key details, and show that they understand the lesson or moral of a story.
- Students identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.

Grade Two Reading

- Students retell stories and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Kindergarten Reading

- With help from the teacher, students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- With help from the teacher, students identify what person, place, thing, or idea a picture shows.

Grade One Reading

- Students ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Students use the illustrations and details in a text to describe key ideas.

Grade Two Reading

- Students ask and answer such questions as *who, what, where, when, why, and how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Students explain how specific images or illustrations (such as a diagram of how a machine works) are useful.

Writing tasks in grade one may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Kindergarten Writing

- Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing, students name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.

Grade One Writing

- Students name a topic and supply some facts about the topic.
- Students provide some sense of closure.

Grade Two Writing

- Students introduce a topic and use facts and definitions to develop points.
- Students provide a concluding statement or section.

Helping your child on the path to success...

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. It is also helpful for your child to see other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy quality family time while experiencing the joy of reading together!
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books they are interested in to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
6. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.
7. Explore the formation of letters. Using different materials such as; salt, sand, shaving cream or play dough, have your child form their letters.
8. Be a word detective; look for words you know in books, newspapers or magazines. Encourage decoding unknown words and help them to find rhymes and sound out letter combinations.
9. Encourage writing everywhere! Write sentences about vocabulary and spelling words, write poems, write anything! Grammar and spelling is not important in early 1st grade, just get writing!
10. Check out the teacher's webpage each week to see what is happening in the classroom and link to activities and resources.

