

Parent Guide

First Grade

Reading Public Schools
Reading, MA 01867



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of first grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn in these subjects, which will build a strong foundation for success in the other subjects he or she studies throughout the school year. This guide is based on the new Massachusetts State Frameworks. These K–12 standards are informed by the highest state standards from across the country. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for second grade.

A sample of what your child will be working on in FIRST GRADE:

Mathematics:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

1. Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
2. Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.
3. Add and subtract within 20.
4. Work with addition and subtraction equations.

Examples:

1.

Two frogs sat on the grass. Three more frogs hopped over. How many frogs are on the grass now?

$$2+3=?$$

Five peaches were on the table. I ate two peaches. How many peaches are on the table now?

$$5-2=?$$

Five peaches are on the table. Three are big and the rest are small. How many peaches are small?

$$3+?=5, 5-3=?$$

2.

Commutative property of addition:

$$4+2=6 \quad 2+4=6$$

Associative property of addition:

$$5+5+2=10+2 \text{ or } 5+7$$

3. Students can use any mental strategy such as counting on, making a ten, using the relationship between addition and subtraction.

$$6+3+2=11$$

$$17+2=19$$

4.

There are three students in Ms. Hob's class who have a total of 15 pencils. If Allison has 4 pencils and Jen has 5 pencils, how many pencils does Ryan have?

$$4+5=9$$

$$15-9=6$$

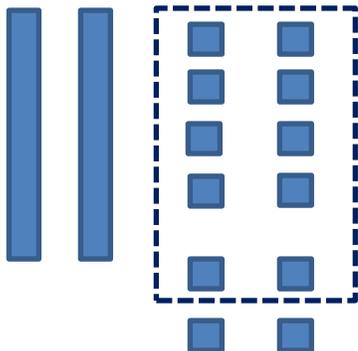
Number and Operations in Base Ten

1. Extend the counting sequence.
2. Understand Place Value
3. Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.

Examples:

2.

$$\begin{array}{r} 28 \\ +4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



2 tens plus 0 tens is 2 tens.

Count the ones and find another ten plus 2 ones.

3.

$42 > 31$ because 4 tens is more than 3 tens,

$64 < 69$ because 6 tens and 4 ones is less than 6 tens and 9 ones.

Measurements and Data

1. Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
2. Tell and write time.
3. Represent and interpret data.
4. Work with Money

Examples:

1.

You buy a new book. The book is 10 paper clips wide and 7 paper clips long. Will the book fit in your backpack? How do you know?

Teddy, Jack and Eva are all first grade students. Teddy is taller than Jack. Jack is shorter than Eva. Eva is taller than Teddy. Who is the tallest? Who is not the tallest, and who is not the shortest? How do you know?

Geometry

1. Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Examples:

1.

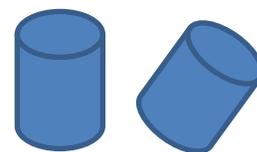
What shapes can you compose with these two triangles?



Decompose this shape into squares.



Are these shapes alike or different? How are they alike or different?



What shapes were composed to make this shape? Use a physical box for this problem, so that students can look at it from different orientations and find the shapes.



Tips for First grade Families to Support Students in Math at Home:

Help your child see that the mathematics he is learning is very much a part of everyday life. From statistics in sports to the sale price of clothing to the amount of gas needed to travel from one city to another, mathematics is important to us every day. Help your child to link his "school" math to practical events.

Show your child that you like mathematics. Letting your child see that you use math—and that you aren't afraid of it—will go much further to building positive attitudes than just telling her/him that she/he should learn it.

Set high standards for your child in mathematics achievement. Challenge your child to succeed in math and encourage his/her interest by finding mathematics in books, on television, in movies, at the playground, or anywhere else you see the opportunity.



English Language Arts:

Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Text

- Ask and answer questions about a story read aloud to them
- Identify characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Retell familiar stories
- Share what an author is and what an illustrator is
- Engage in group reading activities
- Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book

Reading Standards: Foundational Skills

- Follow words on a page from left to right and top to bottom
- Name upper-and lowercase letters
- Matching letters to sounds and using other methods to figure out unfamiliar words when reading
- Recognize and produce rhyming words
- Isolate beginning, middle, and end sounds in words
- Count the number of syllables in words that are said aloud
- Read common words such as; *the, of, you, are, she, and my*

Writing Standards

- Use a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion
- Take part in shared writing and research projects
- Explore digital tools for writing

Speaking and Listening Standards

- Express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly
- Follow agreed upon classroom and school rules
- Ask and answer questions for clarification or to seek help
- Describe familiar people, place, things, and/or events with details

Language Standards

- Print many upper and lower case letters
- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun 'I'
- Recognize and name a period, a question mark, and an exclamation point
- Spell small words using learned skills *Example: cat, mop, big, etc.*

Tips for First grade Families to Support Students in English Language Arts at Home:

Read aloud daily to your child. Talk about the pictures. Make predictions about a story and see if they come true. Read aloud a chapter-book before bed.

Let your children see you write for pleasure. Send family letters to relatives or friends. Let everyone in the family contribute a part or an illustration.

Help your child find a place in your home that is his/her favorite reading spot. A place where he/she can read comfortably with little distraction. Put a basket of books near the spot. Include pens, crayons, pencils, erasers and paper in the basket to encourage writing too. Every now and then, put a "literacy gift" in their basket to discover and explore.

Help your child notice people reading and the writing all around them. Watch other people read. Count all the people on a bus, in a library or café reading. Read signs posted all around you.

Play word games such as Scrabble Junior, Boggle Junior, ABC Bingo, Word Concentration, etc. Tell jokes, riddles and limericks. See how many words rhyme with _____.

Subscribe to a children's magazine and have the magazine sent directly to your child. Show interest when it arrives. "Show me your favorite article." "I love that picture of _____." Popular magazines include: Highlights, Click, Ranger Rick, Sports Illustrated for Students, and National Geographic Junior. Large bookstores have many magazines to choose from. Find your favorite magazine and take one of the subscription cards located inside it.

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