

Elementary

Kindergarten

Reading/Language Arts

Prerequisites:

Before entering kindergarten, students should be able to

- Use self-help skills (examples: bathroom independently, zip, button, buckle, snap, etc.).
- Speak and share ideas in complete sentences.
- Listen to and talk about stories that were read to them.
- Play with rhyme, rhythm, and repetition in poems, songs, and stories (examples: Dr. Seuss books, Mother Goose Rhymes, etc.).
- Use materials, tools, and toys to develop muscles in fingers and hands (examples: Legos, Play-Doh, scissors, crayons, etc.).
- Think about their experiences with letters and recognize some letters of the alphabet (examples: letters in names, street signs, store names, singing the alphabet, etc.).
- Recognize their first names in print and write them.
- Relate printed words to spoken language.
- Make marks and pictures that look like writing.

Competencies:

During kindergarten, students will

- Listen and respond to stories, rhymes, conversations, discussions, and one- and two-step instructions.
- Recognize that letters stand for speech sounds and convey meaning (example: students' own names).
- Know that print is read and written left to right and top to bottom.
- Understand that written words are a sequence of letters separated by spaces.
- Know the order of the alphabet and the difference between capital and lowercase letters.
- Recognize that different parts of a book offer information (examples: cover, title page, and table of contents).

- Understand that written words are made of letters that stand for sounds.
- Begin to read and write by learning to match letters with sounds for consonants and short vowels.
- Identify, separate, and combine syllables within spoken words by clapping syllables or by moving objects to represent syllables.
- Make rhyming words and tell rhyming words from non-rhyming words.
- Break down one-syllable words into separate sounds, clearly saying beginning, middle, and final sounds.
- Talk about meanings of words, and learn new words through classroom experiences.
- Show their understanding of a story by retelling the order of important events in the story or by acting out the story.
- Read basic high-frequency words and read aloud from familiar, predictable texts.
- Use correct pencil grip, paper position, and beginning stroke to develop printing skills.
- Use sounds of letters to write their first and last names and to write messages.
- Think of ideas before writing, and write to record ideas and thoughts.
- Use computers to write their own stories.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your kindergartner to

- Listen to you read daily, and answer questions you ask.
- Sing songs and recite rhymes.
- Talk with you about letters and words around them (examples: menu at McDonald's, food packaging at Kroger, displays at Target, etc.).
- Draw and create with pencils, crayons, paper, and scissors.
- Practice writing his or her name with uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Watch you write (examples: grocery list, phone message).
- Play letter games (examples: magnetic letters on the refrigerator, find letter 'C' on a can of corn, etc.).

Mathematics

Prerequisites:

Before entering kindergarten, students should be able to

- Count objects to 10.
- Count aloud to 20.
- Recognize numbers 0 through 10.
- Write numbers 0 through 5.
- Know the difference between letters and numbers.
- Make sets of objects (example: 8 blocks).
- Sort objects by color, size, and shape.
- Identify these colors: red, yellow, blue, orange, green, purple, black, and brown.
- Understand and use words that show position (examples: up, down, over, under, beside, behind, and below).
- Begin to understand patterns and create a two-member pattern (example: XOXOXO or +**+*+*).
- Identify these shapes: circle, triangle, rectangle, and square.
- Use pairs of opposite words such as short and tall, short and long, big and little, hot and cold.
- Understand the idea of more and less.
- Begin to understand the concept of time (example: days of the week).
- Follow simple directions.
- Use numbers that have personal meaning to them (examples: phone number, address, birthday, and age).

Competencies:

During kindergarten, students will

- Recognize, count aloud to 100, and write numbers.
- Identify patterns, add to them, and create new ones.
- Sort and arrange items by traits or by category.
- Use numbers to describe how many objects are in a set.
- Use language and one-to-one correspondence to describe relative sizes of sets.
- Make and use graphs of real objects or pictures to answer questions.
- Read a calendar, using days, weeks, and months.

- Describe the order of events or objects, using words such as first, second, before, after, and between.
- Compare situations according to temperature, and use time to compare events according to duration.
- Compare and order objects according to length, weight, or capacity.
- Identify, describe, and compare shapes and solids in real-life objects.
- Show and create simple addition and subtraction in real-life situations, using objects like blocks, buttons, etc.
- Solve problems connected to things that happen in everyday life.
- Write numbers 0 through 10, using correct formation.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your kindergartner to

- Solve problems in everyday situations.
- Look at and talk about numbers in real-life situations.
- Measure things at home (example: ingredients in a recipe).
- Point out shapes and colors all around you.
- Talk about time (examples: now, later, yesterday, today, and tomorrow).
- Practice identifying and writing numbers.
- Play board games and do other activities that involve counting.
- Read counting and number books with you.
- Sort objects by traits or category (examples: alike and different, color, size).
- Look for patterns in your environment (examples: petals on a flower, bricks on a house, repeating designs on wallpaper, etc.).
- Practice counting aloud.
- Count objects.

Science

Prerequisites:

Before entering kindergarten, students should be able to

- Use the five senses to make observations and discoveries.
- Identify changes in daily life (seasons, weather, temperature).
- Practice and understand science lab safety rules (do not taste unknown items).
- Make predictions.
- Identify patterns.
- Identify and name body parts.
- Ask and answer simple questions.
- Explain decisions and observations in their own words.

Competencies:

During kindergarten, students will

- Know and practice simple basic safety rules during science investigations.
- Identify the five senses, and use them to make observations and discoveries.
- Gather information using tools such as hand lenses, balances, and cups.
- Observe, identify, and predict what happens next.
- Know that heat causes change.
- Describe, sort, and classify objects from their environment (living and nonliving).
- Explain basic needs of plants and animals.
- Give examples of ways that rocks, soil, and water are useful.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your kindergartner to

- Discuss schoolwork and activity sheets with you.
- Make observations and discuss issues concerning the environment.
- Practice good health habits.
- Watch science-oriented programs on television (the Discovery Channel).
- Read nonfiction books on science topics.
- Read magazines such as *Your Big Backyard* and *Zoo Books*.

- Visit museums, zoos, farms, libraries, etc.
- Observe weather patterns and changes (clouds, storms, puddles).
- Observe and discuss things found in nature (shadows, insects, water, etc.).
- Use directional words (left/right, top/bottom, over/under, etc.).
- Discuss the importance and use of safety gear such as helmets when biking, knee/elbow pads when skating, and life vests when boating.
- Discuss fire safety.

Social Studies

Prerequisites:

Before entering kindergarten, students should be able to

- Obtain information through listening, speaking, and observing.
- Use both words and pictures to express ideas.
- Identify the United States flag and the Texas flag.
- Name self and identify family members.
- Describe family customs and traditions.
- Identify rules and purposes for having rules.

Competencies:

During kindergarten, students will

- Express ideas orally based on knowledge and experiences.
- Obtain information about a topic using oral sources (conversations, interviews) and using visual sources (pictures, symbols, maps).
- Identify self by name, address, telephone number, and birthday.
- Identify family members, customs, and traditions.
- Place events in order of time (first, next, last).
- Use terms to describe location (over, under, near).
- Distinguish between land and water on a globe and map.
- Explain how basic human needs (food, clothing, shelter) can be met.
- Identify rules that provide order and safety in the home and school.
- Identify American symbols, customs, and celebrations (flag, voting, Independence Day).

- Identify ways technology is used in the home and school.
- Identify authority figures in the home, school, and community.

Outside of School:

As parents, you can provide opportunities for your kindergartner to

- Learn home address, phone number, and full name.
- Talk about the order of daily events using words like *first*, *then*, *next*, and *last*.
- Look at and discuss simple maps.
- Distinguish between needs and wants.
- Visit museums.
- Discuss family traditions and celebrations.
- Discuss the importance of rules in the home and neighborhood.

Grade 1

Reading/Language Arts

Prerequisites:

Before entering 1st grade, students should be able to

- Listen carefully and follow one- or two-step instructions.
- Write their names (first and last).
- Recognize all letters in capital and lowercase form.
- Begin to read and write by learning to match letters with sounds for consonants and short vowels.
- Separate one-syllable words into beginning, middle, and ending sounds.
- Name and make rhyming words.
- Read kindergarten high-frequency words alone.
- Show understanding by retelling a story or by acting out the story.

Competencies:

During 1st grade, students will

- Listen carefully and give proper, courteous responses to directions, questions, and literature.

- Speak with an increasing variety of vocabulary words to tell about ideas, feelings, and experiences.
- Understand that letters form printed words that represent spoken language and have meaning.
- Know that words are written and read on a page from left to right and top to bottom.
- Blend beginning, middle, and ending sounds to read new words.
- Use word parts and meaning, along with phonics, to read and gain meaning from written words.
- Read familiar texts, both aloud and silently, at about 60 words per minute at least 10 minutes daily.
- Talk about meanings of words, and learn new words through active experiences and exciting literature.
- Show understanding by asking and answering questions, retelling stories, predicting outcomes, drawing conclusions, and comparing cultures.
- Understand and identify the main characters, setting, problems, and solutions in stories.
- Understand and use strategies for reading, such as using picture clues, letter-sound knowledge, re-reading, and checking for understanding.
- Know how stories, poems, and informational materials differ from each other.
- Use pictures, print, and people to gather information and answer questions.
- Gain and increase control of penmanship when printing each letter of the alphabet, both capital and lowercase, using correct formation with proper size and spacing.
- Use basic capitalization (names and first letters in sentences).
- Use basic punctuation (periods, question marks, and exclamation points).
- Spell frequently-used words and words with short-vowel patterns.
- Write complete messages on a page from left to right and top to bottom with correct word and letter spacing.
- Write friendly letters, personal stories, and short stories.
- Write and revise sentences to check for precise word choices and vivid images.
- Use computers to write sentences and stories.