

PARENT GUIDE FOR KINDERGARTEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Preparing Florida's Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.





To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **kindergarten** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in kindergarten—along with some important additional skills. **Kindergarten** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Asking and answering questions about key details in a text with prompting and support. 
- Recognizing common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems). 
- Actively engaging in group reading activities with purpose and understanding. 
- Reading emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.
- Demonstrating understanding of the organization and basic features of print. 

Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards for Kindergarten at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



Remember, you are your child's first and will always be his/her most important teacher. Think about a conference as a "team meeting" in which you will discover the special contributions each of you can bring to your kindergartener's success.

Ask the teacher for examples of reading materials that could support learning.

Together, look at examples of something your child has created, such as a drawing or artwork, or you can review books your child enjoys. Ask the teacher what this work tells him/her about your child's start on the journey to becoming a confident reader and writer.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning English language arts at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Put magnetic letters on the refrigerator. Help your child remember the sounds the letters make. Practice forming and remembering new words.



Enjoy "wordless" picture books together. There are no "right or wrong" stories from this kind of book. Study the cover and predict what you will find inside. Look carefully at the illustrations and talk about the details. Have your child take the lead and talk about what the story portrayed. You can cue him/her by asking who, what, where, when and why.



Set aside some time every day to read to your child. You might consider identifying a special "reading corner" in your home with good lighting and comfortable pillows or chairs.



Build a personal library for your child by finding inexpensive books at library or bookstore sales. Make a little shelf or other place where your child can collect his/her own books. Make this a "go to" spot for quiet time.



Encourage your child to draw. Ask him or her to explain the drawing or tell you a story about what he/she has drawn.



Create special occasion and thank you cards and notes to family and friends. Have your child use pictures and write letters he/she knows—including his/her own name. Encourage your child to learn their home address and parents' names.



Memorize and recite nursery rhymes and sing favorite songs with one another. Take turns with different parts.



As you read aloud to your child, stop and talk about the story or information. Ask your child questions, such as what he or she thinks is going to happen next or at the end and why.



When you and your child are taking a walk or riding in a car, point out and read the different signs you see. In the grocery store, read the names on familiar products, learn the names of new products and practice reading labels.



Choose books that use lots of rhyme, books that repeat phrases over and over and books that have predictable patterns to the story.



Be frequent visitors to your local public library. Let him/her see you choosing, checking out and enjoying books.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

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Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org