

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 1 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 **first grade** 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 first grade—along with some important additional skills. **First grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Retelling stories, including key details that help demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.



- Explaining major differences between books that tell stories and those that give information.



- Demonstrating understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds.
- Reading with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.



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 Grade 1 at www.flstandards.org

#FLStandards
Join the conversation



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 first grader'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:



Be a reading role model. If your child sees you reading he/she will want to learn to read.



Play alphabet games. Pick a letter. Think of a person whose name begins with that letter. Clap once. Then think of a thing. Clap twice. If you can, think of a place. If you can think of both or all three, jump up and clap three times!



When you make a shopping list, let your child select 3–5 items that he/she will help you find. Copy these onto your child's version of the list, using a combination of letters and drawings.



When out, tell your child you see something that begins with the "p" sound (or some other sound) and ask him or her to guess what it is you see. Reverse roles.



Start a family book club.



Have fun with the stories you read! Use different voices. Make sound effects and funny faces. Act out the stories. March, dance or move around as the characters.



When you read to your child, move your finger underneath the words from left to right as you read each line.



Ask your child questions about what he/she sees and experiences. Be sure your questions call for sentence answers (more than yes/no answers).



Everywhere you go, tuck at least one little book in your bag. Pull it out to enjoy together anytime you can.



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



Provide opportunities for your child to type on a keyboard.

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

Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards and other resources for parents at www.flstandards.org

Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org