

Welcome to FIRST GRADE!

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sets expectations, or standards, for what every student will know and be able to do in school. This guide is designed to help you understand those standards and partner with teachers to support your child's learning during first grade. If you have questions about this information or your child needs extra help, please talk to your child's teacher.

To talk to your child about school, you can ask:

- ▶ Can you tell me about something you **read** today?
- ▶ How could you use the **math** you learned today?
- ▶ What **scientific ideas** did you talk about today?
- ▶ How did someone help you learn today?

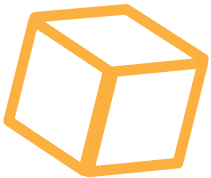
If your child is also learning English, you can ask:

- ▶ How does your teacher help you understand and participate in class?
- ▶ How do you work on your English while you learn academic material?



TO LEARN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY at every grade, your child will:

- ▶ Read various texts, like books, poems, letters, news articles, and Internet pages.
- ▶ Speak and listen in formal and informal ways, like presentations and conversations.
- ▶ Communicate opinions, information, and experiences in writing for various readers.
- ▶ Use knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary in both speech and writing.



TO LEARN MATHEMATICS at every grade, your child will:

- ▶ Use math to represent and solve real-world problems.
- ▶ Use math to make arguments about why something is true or false.
- ▶ Use tools, like rulers and calculators, to show mathematical relationships.
- ▶ Use patterns and the structures of numbers to think about math.



TO LEARN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING at every grade, your child will:

- ▶ Ask scientific questions about the natural world and things humans design.
- ▶ Learn through various experiences, like observations and experiments.
- ▶ Solve problems using the skills and tools of engineers and scientists.
- ▶ Share solutions and communicate explanations of how the world works.

The next three pages focus more specifically on the Massachusetts learning standards for **FIRST GRADE**.



NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR FIRST GRADE:

- ▶ Notice when a story has a message or lesson for its readers. For example, understand when an author uses a character's actions to show why being kind is important.
- ▶ Respond directly to what other people say in a conversation. For example, when a classmate says "I like this book," ask "Why do you like it?"
- ▶ Choose and use words in speech and writing to show whether something happened in the past (like *I ate*), is happening now (like *I am eating*), or will happen in the future (like *I will eat*).
- ▶ Have a clear ending when writing about something. For example, end a story with "It was a fun day" or end an explanation with "That is how to brush your teeth."



BY THE END OF FIRST GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Explain the differences between common types of stories (like folk tales and fairy tales).
- ▶ Understand who is telling a story: for example, an author or a character in the story.
- ▶ Stop and read a sentence again if it does not make sense the first time.
- ▶ Use clues like headings and a table of contents to find information in a text.
- ▶ Break words into syllables. For example, *helping* has two syllables: *help* and *ing*.
- ▶ Understand that the same word can take different forms: for example, *look*, *looks*, *looking*.
- ▶ Understand that numbers (like 2) can also be written with words (like *two*).
- ▶ End written sentences with a period (.), question mark (?), or exclamation point (!).
- ▶ Capitalize the names of months (like January) and people (like Martin Luther King, Jr.).
- ▶ Describe people, places, things, and events clearly in both speech and writing.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:



- ▶ Can you tell me what happened in this story?
- ▶ What information does this picture give you?
- ▶ How did you decide to use that word?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:



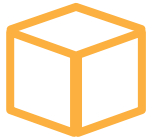
- ▶ Books and authors to look for at the library
- ▶ Types of writing your child is working on

FOCUS AREAS FOR FIRST GRADE:

- ▶ Understand how counting, adding, and subtracting are related. For example, solve $18-3$ by counting back 3 numbers from 18: 17, 16, 15.
- ▶ Understand that two-digit numbers are made of tens and ones: for example, 27 is made of 2 tens and 7 ones. Use this knowledge to add and subtract.
- ▶ Understand how to measure the length of objects. For example, compare the lengths of two pencils by using paper clips to measure both.
- ▶ Put shapes together and break them apart to create new shapes. For example, use triangles to create a trapezoid.



BY THE END OF FIRST GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



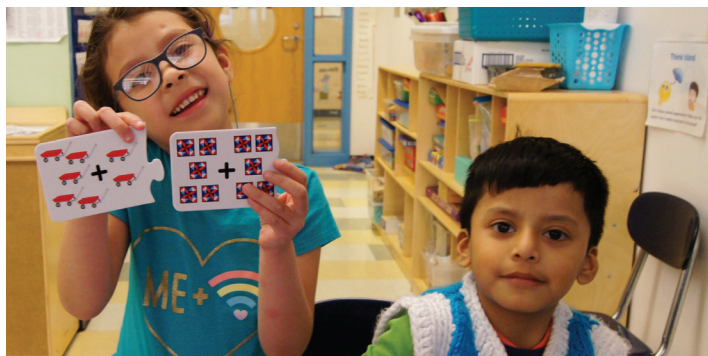
- ▶ Count to 120. Read and write numerals up to 120.
- ▶ Fluently (quickly and correctly) add and subtract with numbers up to 10.
- ▶ Mentally (without writing or objects) add and subtract with numbers up to 20.
- ▶ Use various methods to solve problems like $23 + 9$ and $23 + 20$.
- ▶ Solve one-step word problems using addition and subtraction.
- ▶ Explain what an equal sign (=) means. For example, tell why writing $5 + 1 = 4 + 3$ is wrong.
- ▶ Explain how addition and subtraction are related.
- ▶ Use analog and digital clocks to tell time to the nearest hour and half-hour. Write the times.
- ▶ Tell how much different United States coins (like nickels and dimes) are worth. Show how different coins can make the same amount (like 2 nickels and 1 dime).
- ▶ Draw and build two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes, like rectangles, squares, trapezoids, half-circles, quarter-circles, cubes, prisms, cones, and cylinders.
- ▶ Separate shapes into equal parts. Describe the parts using the words *halves*, *fourths*, and *quarters*.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ How many more points do I need to have as many as you?
- ▶ How many nickels would it take to equal 3 dimes?
- ▶ How could we divide this cake into quarters?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ Which addition and subtraction strategies work best for your child
- ▶ Games that can help your child practice math at home



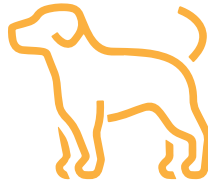


FOCUS AREAS FOR FIRST GRADE:

- ▶ Use language and numbers to describe patterns: for example, how the sun, moon, and stars move across the sky.
- ▶ Understand that weather changes from season to season and that, by observing patterns carefully, people can predict those changes.
- ▶ Understand that individual plants and animals are unique but we can sort them into categories (like *maple trees* or *dogs*) based on their similarities.
- ▶ Explore how light and sound move through different materials. For example, notice how humming causes the throat to vibrate or how sunlight is partly blocked by a curtain.



BY THE END OF FIRST GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Collect data on seasonal changes in the local environment: for example, birds leaving an area or sunsets happening earlier.
- ▶ Use patterns in temperature, rainfall, and snowfall to predict what future weather will be like.
- ▶ Explain how animals use their body parts and senses to meet their needs: for example, how owls use their eyes (seeing) and ears (hearing) to find food.
- ▶ Describe how parents help their babies survive: for example, how birds feed their babies when the babies chirp to say that they are hungry.
- ▶ Build something that can send a signal (light or sound) over a distance.
- ▶ Figure out how an object can help solve a problem: for example, how a heavy box can hold a door open.
- ▶ Think about possible solutions to a problem, like a window that won't stay shut. Use drawing and language to explain how the solutions could work.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ What information about the weather have you been gathering?
- ▶ What changes will we see when winter comes? How do you know?
- ▶ How can we make this chair more comfortable?
- ▶ How do we hear sound?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life
- ▶ Places in the community that can help your child learn science