



# **First Grade Curriculum**

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## Overview of First Grade

First grade is an exciting time for students! Having gained the confidence a successful kindergarten year provides, students are ready to experience a bit more formal learning environment while still capitalizing on the curiosity and wonderment that are characteristic of their age. This is a critical year; research suggests that a child's success and mastery of first grade material is an indicator of success in years ahead.

### *Mathematics*

Students will master their addition facts up to addends of 20 and begin learning related subtraction facts. They become comfortable working with numbers in their various forms up to 100 or higher. Children also begin performing mathematical algorithms to add two-digit numbers, and reading time on clocks to the hour and half hour. Children observe patterns in geometry and numbers.

### *Language Arts*

By the end of first grade, children should be able to read independently. They should quickly recognize common words on sight, and be able to read familiar stories aloud. First graders develop their writing skills and focus on conventions such as writing from left to right, using end punctuation, and following some basic rules of capitalization.

### *Science*

Students move from careful observation to developing a core of scientific knowledge about matter, healthy heart, energy, earth and space, and living things.

### *Social Studies*

Students develop basic map skills, learn what good citizenship is all about, and learn about the lives of some important Americans. Symbols of America that represent people, events, and freedom are also studied. Having everyone work together, appreciate and respect others' differences, students will develop a better understanding of themselves and others. Differences allow everyone to grow and help make our world purposeful, interesting, and meaningful.

## First Grade Curriculum Guide

### *Necessary skills for entering first grade*

Children will be most successful if they have mastered these skills prior to entering first grade.

### *Language Arts*

- Understand how print is organized: Left to right, top to bottom
- Perform basic writing techniques: Correct direction, proper spacing between letters and words, use of end punctuation
- Know names, sounds, and order of upper and lower case alphabet
- Recognize and sort words within basic categories: Food, colors, shapes, etc.
- Dictate stories and events to others
- Follow rules of conversation: Speaking and listening in turn
- Listen for story elements: Main idea, sequence of events, characters, setting
- Speak clearly and in an appropriate volume for the setting, neither too loud nor too soft

### *Mathematics*

- With the aid of manipulatives, count objects to 20; read and write numerals to 20; count orally to 100 by 1
- Count backwards from ten to one
- Group objects in sets of two or more
- Describe certain concepts: Day or night, before or after, hot or cold, empty or full, above, below, beneath, beside, in between, etc.
- Understand time of day: night, morning, afternoon, evening, today, yesterday, tomorrow
- Use calendars to measure days, weeks, and months
- Recognize squares, circles, rectangles, triangles, rhombus', and trapezoids
- Recognize spheres, cubes, cylinders, pyramids and cones
- Identify left and right
- Determine if two groups of objects are equal or unequal
- Determine if two groups of objects are greater than or less than
- Be able to show one more or one less than a given amount up to 20; show two more or less than a given amount up to 20
- Estimation skills: Estimate whether various sets of objects have more, fewer, or the same number in them, compared to other sets or to a given number

### *Science*

- Describe observable properties of objects such as color, size, texture, and shape
- Make predictions of hypotheses about an event or an experiment
- Understand temperature differences between sun and shade
- Explain what objects can be seen in the sky during the day and at night
- Understand basic needs of all living things: Food, water, shelter, space
- Know what the five senses are and how to use them to understand the world
- Be able to make careful observations
- Understand life processes of plants and animals: Living organisms change and grow over time
- Describe some of the patterns found in nature
- Learn about good health habits and a healthy heart.
- Demonstrate and describe the various ways that objects can move, such as in a straight line, zigzag, back-and-forth, round-and-round, fast, and slow.
- Explore the Law of Gravity by demonstrating that Earth's gravity pulls any object on or near Earth toward it even though nothing is touching the object.
- Demonstrate that the way to change the motion of an object is by applying a push or a pull.

### *Social Studies*

- Distinguish among past, present, and future
- Be familiar with various patriotic poems, songs, and stories
- Describe relative locations; Near, far, up, down, left, right, behind, and in front
- Know what the globe models
- Understand the need for rules
- Respect and appreciate diversity in everyone
- Model good citizenship such as sharing, taking turns, and taking care of one's possessions
- Be familiar with commemorative holidays
- Be able to recite the Pledge of Allegiance
- Be aware of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Johnny Appleseed/John Chapman

## First Grade Skills: First Quarter

### *Language Arts*

- Capital letters at the beginning of a sentence
- End punctuation: Periods, question marks, and exclamation points
- Writing: The writing process; using graphic organizers
- Giving and writing directions
- Descriptive words
- Penmanship: Practice forming letters neatly (correct formation, writing on the line), using (kind of paper)

### *Mathematics*

- Number sense
  - One-to one correspondence
  - Ordering numbers through 10
  - Concepts of more and fewer
- Counting forward and backwards by 10's
- Using numbers to 100
- Understanding addition
  - Modeling with story/picture problems
  - Counting forward by 1, 2, 3, and doubling numbers
- Understanding subtraction
  - Modeling subtraction with story/picture problems
  - Count back by 1, 2, 3, and taking away 0
- Addition combinations and facts to 10
- Subtraction combinations and facts to 10

### *Social Studies*

- Importance of Rules and Laws
- Famous Americans: Johnny Appleseed/John Chapman

### *Science*

- Objects in the sky
- How do magnifiers work?
- What does the sun do?
- What is gravity?
- How does science work?
- What are inquiry skills and how can we use them in science?

## First Grade Skills: Second Quarter

### *Language Arts*

- Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives
- Writing: Writing directions; using transition words; topic sentence and conclusions
- Writing: Story writing: Beginning, middle, end; research writing; recording information
- Descriptive Words
- Possessive nouns
- Proper nouns and capitalization
- Proper nouns in sentences
- Plurals with *-es* and *-s*
- Compound Words
- Writing friendly letters
- Abbreviations for titles
- Penmanship: Focus on writing entire words neatly and in a straight line (paper?)

### *Mathematics*

- Addition and subtraction facts to 20
  - Counting on
  - Counting back
- Building numbers to 100
  - Place value: ones and tens (up to the number 100)
- Comparing and ordering numbers
  - Use these symbols to compare:  $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$
  - Concepts of “greater than” and “less than”
  - Ordering numbers to 100 (including reading and writing those numbers)
- Patterns on a hundreds chart
  - Counting by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s to 100
  - Even and odd numbers

### *Social Studies*

- Events from History: The First Thanksgiving
- Holiday Traditions

### *Science*

- Animal habitats and environments
- Animal habits
- Animal traits and characteristics

## First Grade Skills: Third Quarter

### *Language Arts*

- Antonyms
- Synonyms
- Biographies
- Commas in a series, dates, and greetings and closings in a letter
- Penmanship: Emphasis on writing entire sentences neatly in a straight line (handwriting paper)

### *Mathematics*

- Measurement
  - Length: non-standard units such as a paper clip (ie. The book is 12 paper clips long)
  - Temperature: Using thermometers; concept of “hot” and “cold”
  - Weight
  - Capacity
- Using numbers to 100: comparing and ordering using  $<$ ,  $>$ , and  $=$ 
  - 10 more, 10 less
- Two-digit addition and subtraction strategies

### *Science*

- Earth Sciences
  - Properties of Water
  - Types of Rocks
  - Properties of soil
- Matter

### *Social Studies*

- American Symbols: Statue of Liberty, Bald Eagle, American Flag, Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Liberty Bell, White House, Mount Rushmore
- Famous Americans: Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington, Abraham Lincoln

## First Grade Skills: Fourth Quarter

### *Language Arts*

- Descriptive writing
- Biographies
- Persuasive speaking and writing
- Poetry
- Other writing forms: Lists, notes, invitations, journals

### *Mathematics*

- Counting and grouping by 10's
- Explore two-digit addition and subtraction
- Continue mastery of addition and subtraction facts to 20
- Using 10, 25, and 50 as benchmark numbers
- Data using graphs
  - Picture graphs, bar graphs, and tally charts
- Geometry (2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes)
  - Plane figures: Identifying, classifying sorting, lines of symmetry
  - Solid figures: Rectangular prism, sphere, cone, pyramid, cube, cylinder. Compare and sort by attributes
  - Location and movement: Inside, outside, on, left, right, beneath, beside, below, in between, etc.
- Time
  - Using calendars: Order of the 12 months, days of the week; passages of time such as before and after, yesterday, today and tomorrow, day or night, and morning, afternoon, and evening
  - Telling time on a clock (digital and analog) to the hour and half-hour

### *Social Studies*

- Reading and Creating Maps
- Economics: goods and services, wants and needs

### *Science*

- Living and Non-living things
- Needs and Growth of Plants
- Animal characteristics
- Parents and their offspring
- Life cycles
- Motion
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## Summary of first grade skills

Mastery of these skills is what we generally expect our first grade students to attain by the end of the school year. They are considered the requisite skills for the second grade.

We encourage your family to practice and review these skills over the summer. By doing this, you are setting the stage for a successful second grade year!

### *Language Arts*

- Read at the second grade level or higher
- Recognize elements of stories: main idea, supporting details, beginning, middle and end of story, main characters, setting
- Alphabetize words by the first letter
- Write legibly in print (manuscript): left to right, with proper spacing between letters and words
- Writing shows a clear beginning, middle, and end.
- Correctly spell common first grade vocabulary words
- Conventions of writing; Complete sentences, end punctuation, capitalize first word in sentences, names of people, “I”, and days of the week and months of the year
- Follow three-step directions that are given orally
- Speak clearly in an appropriate voice, and use eye contact when speaking

### *Mathematics*

- Count, read, and write numbers to 100 or higher; place numbers on a number line
- Count to 100 or higher by 2, 5, and 10
- Count backwards from 100 (by ones)
- Demonstrate place value to the one hundreds place using manipulatives
- Know addition fact to 20 (10+10)
- Add two-digit numbers without regrouping
- Measurement: non-standard units (ie. Paper clip, length of a finger)
- Know attributes of two and three dimensional shapes: Vertices (points), edges, faces)
- Time to the hour and half-hour
- Data and graphs

### *Science*

- Group objects by their physical properties
- Know relative speeds of objects such as turtles and snails, bicycles, cars, and planes, and the effect gravity has on objects
- Recognize the different materials that make up the earth
- Identify organisms that live in the air, land, or water
- Explain how living things change as they grow
- Know what a food chain is, that plants produce oxygen and food for animals
- Group living things in different ways: plants/animals, edible/non-edible plants, etc

- Understand that there is an orderly way in which to conduct science experiments

*Social Studies*

- Understand changes in communication, transportation, and technology over time (cars, telephones, computers)
- Describe legend, folktales, and holidays from around the world
- Describe accomplishments of important American figures
- Explain the reasons for commemorative holidays
- Map use: four cardinal directions; a map represents a real place
- Similarities between rights and responsibilities at school and at home
- Major elected officials: President
- Good citizenship: Fairness, good sportsmanship, individual responsibility
- Consequences for not following rules or neglecting responsibilities