



Family Resource Guide



FIRST GRADE





Welcome to First Grade!

Purpose of the Guide

Students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools follow the state of North Carolina's expectations for what every student will know and be able to do by the end of their current grade level. This guide is designed to help you support your student by understanding those expectations, provide everyday activities to reinforce their learning at home and partner with their teachers throughout the school year.

This guide includes...



Key Skills for Reading and Math

Understand the most important things your child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.



Questions to Ask Your Child

Engage in conversations with your child using these suggested reading and math questions.



Topics to Discuss with the Teacher

Find sample questions and topics you might want to talk about with the teacher related to reading and math skills.



Learning Activities

Explore some easy ways you can support your child's learning important reading and math concepts and skills.



Words to Know

Learn some important words and acronyms used at school to "speak the same language".



Helpful Resources to Practice Skills at Home

Click the link to access a collection of reading and math resources aligned to your child's grade level.



LITERACY

First graders will engage in understanding texts and stories, both through listening and reading. They will learn to ask and answer questions about the text, retell stories, and explain key concepts. Strategies for determining the meaning of unfamiliar words, such as using context clues and visual aids, will be emphasized. Furthermore, students will showcase their comprehension through various means, including speaking, writing, and illustrating. They will also practice summarizing events from texts, incorporating key elements like titles, introductory sentences, examples, and concluding thoughts.



Key Skills

Learning Early Reading and Writing

- Letter-Sound Matching: Matching letters with their sounds to read and write simple words, including inventive spelling.
- Word Decoding: Accurately decoding and writing words with short vowels, final -e, and common long vowel patterns.
- Sight Word Usage: Recognizing, spelling, and using common grammatical words correctly.
- Fluent Reading: Reading and rereading words and sentences to improve reading fluency.
- Neat Writing: Writing neatly with proper spacing between words and in complete sentences.

Learning Through Text

- Asking and answering questions, retelling stories, and explaining main ideas accurately.
- Understanding unfamiliar words using pictures, context, and other tools.
- Demonstration of Learning: Expressing new knowledge in various forms such as speaking, drawing, writing, etc.
- Describing events with a combination of drawing and writing, including key elements like title, introduction, examples, and conclusion.



Questions to Ask Your Child

- What was your favorite part of the book? Why?
- Who was your favorite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned from the book?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?



Topics to Discuss with the Teacher

- What letter and sound games should we play at home?
- How well does my child work with others?



Learning Activities

- Read with your child for 20 minutes every day. Talk about what's happening in the story. Ask what they are learning or wondering.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Listen to your child read and reread decodable text. Do they move from decoding sound by sound to reading that is smooth and clear? Don't have your child simply look at pictures and guess. Be sure they are working to sound out words that contain sounds and spellings that they know.
- Support your child to practice writing each day, including helping with real world writing. This can include grocery lists, reminder notes, chores, etc. Be sure your child can sound out the words and write the letters they've learned to represent the sounds.



MATH

Your child will focus on how counting, adding, and subtracting are related. Use strategies to add and subtract within 20 and represent and solve word problems. Understand that two-digit numbers are made of tens and ones. Understand how to measure the length of objects with nonstandard units. 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.



Key Skills

- Model and solve addition and subtraction word problems within 20 with unknowns in all positions.
- Represent and solve word problems that call for addition of 3 whole numbers that add up to 20 or less.
- Use properties of operations to add and subtract.
- Fluently add and subtract within 10.
- Apply understanding of the equal sign in addition and subtraction equations to determine if an equation is true.
- Use strategies to determine the unknown number in an addition or subtraction equation within 20.

Key Skills continued

- Solve an unknown addend problem by using additional strategies or changing it to a subtraction problem within 20.
- Write and solve addition and subtraction equations identifying the unknown with a symbol or picture and explain the reasoning of the unknown.
- Count to 150, starting at any number less than 150.
- Read, write, and represent any numeral and number of objects up to 100.
- Compose and decompose two-digit numbers based on groups of tens and ones. Compare two-digit numbers and record the results with the comparison symbols.
- Use mathematical tools and representations to add and subtract within 100.
- Order 3 objects by length and compare the lengths of two objects by using the third object.
- Measure length by repeating a same-size object without gaps or overlaps.
- Tell time and write time in hours and half-hours using digital and analog clocks.
- Organize, represent, and interpret data with up to three categories.
- Identify quarters, dimes, and nickels and relate their values to pennies.
- Build and describe 2D and 3D shapes by knowing the difference between defining and non-defining attributes (triangles, rectangles, squares, trapezoids, hexagons, circles, cubes, rectangular prisms, cones, spheres, and cylinders).
- Create a composite shape by using 2D or 3D shapes and naming the components of the new shape (rectangles, squares, trapezoids, triangles, and half-circles, and cubes, rectangular prisms, cones, and cylinders).
- Partition circles and rectangles into two or four equal shares and describe and explain them.



Questions to Ask Your Child

- How can you represent this word problem with objects or a picture?
- If you add the numbers in a different order, will you get the same answer (sum)?
- Can you explain how you found the unknown (answer)?
- What strategy or strategies did you use to solve?
- Can you show/represent a two-digit number? Do you have enough to make 10? Any leftovers?
- Can you compare 2 two-digit numbers with the symbols $>$, $<$, and $=$?
- Can you order these objects from shortest to longest? (ex: 3 colored pencils)



Topics to Discuss with the Teacher

- Math games to play at home.
- Developmentally appropriate ways to include math in daily conversations.



Learning Activities

Money Count

Have the student count a group of pennies. Each time the student reaches a ten have them trade out the pennies for a dime.

Example: Student "nine, ten" You "Stop! Trade it out" Student grabs a dime and continues counting "eleven, twelve" etc. and once student gets to twenty You: "Stop! Trade it out"

Make Ten

Use a deck of playing cards. Remove the jack, queens and any jokers. Ace represents one and king represents 10. 2 players. Each player has 10 cards flipped up in front of them. Players take turns to find combinations of ten with the cards that are flipped up. Record the equations on paper. Replace the cards after each turn.

How Many Am I Hiding

Start with showing your child an amount of either 7, 8, or 9 objects. The objects can be small toys that fit in your hand, cereal, pennies, etc.) Hide some behind your back and show the rest. Ask, "How many am I hiding?"



Words to Know

Composite Shape: A shape made by two or more basic shapes.

Digit: Any of the symbols 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, or 9.



Helpful Resources to Practice Skills at Home for First Grade

<http://bit.ly/CMSHomeSchoolConnect>