

First Grade Elementary Parents' Guide to Student Success

This guide is based on the Florida State Standards. If your child meets the expectations as outlined in this guide, he/she will be well prepared for success in second grade.

MATH:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g., $2 + 5$, $7 - 5$)
- Identify and combine values of money up to \$1
- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value) and use place value to add and subtract (e.g., $38 + 5$, $29 + 20$, $64 + 27$, $80 - 50$)
- Ordering 3 objects by length, comparing the lengths of two objects by using a third object
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles & rectangles into halves or fourths

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Create a quiet place and determine a regular time for your child to study every day.
- Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 - 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

Activities to do with your child to support learning at home:

- Look for "word problems" in real life such as If you open a new carton of a dozen eggs, and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left?
- Play the "I'm thinking of a number" game. For example, "I'm thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What's my number?"

For more information, the full standards are available at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/pdf/mathfs.pdf>

SCIENCE:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

Life Science

- Observations of living things using your senses
- Identify the stem, roots, leaves and flowers of a plant
- Identify the differences between living and nonliving – examples
- Observe how some plants and animals may look like their parents and others do not
- Recognize what are the basic needs of plants and animals (air, water, shelter, space)

Physical Science

- How objects move differently, round and round, zigzag, straight line, back and forth
- Pushes and Pulls change the motion of an object
- Sorting objects by shape, color, size, temperature, heavy or light, sink or float

Earth Science

- Stars- Can you count the stars in the sky?
- Using hand lens, microscope, telescope – tools that magnify
- Beneficial and harmful properties of the sun (Vitamin D, sunscreen)
- Water, rocks soil and living things are found on the surface of the Earth
- Water Safety
- Some things happen slowly some things happen fast (a turtle walking vs. a bird flying
A bicycle vs. a race car

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Go on nature walks making observations of your surroundings (plants, animals, soil, rocks)
- Bird watching - using birding guides available on line
- Star gazing – observing stars, star patterns, moon and planets
- Check out science related books from your local library
- View science related websites, webcams and videos

LANGUAGE ARTS:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

In grade one, your child will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Students will continue to learn the letters and sounds that make up words. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in stories, articles, and other sources of information. In their writing, students will work on putting together clear sentences on a range of topics using a growing vocabulary. **Activities in these areas will include:**

- Reading stories and showing they understand the lesson or moral of the story
- Asking and answering questions about a story, including characters, settings, and major events
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of different characters
- Identifying the reasons an author gives to support a point
- Explaining differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information
- Learning and using new words
- Participating in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions
- Describing people, places, things, and events, expressing feelings and ideas clearly
- Learning basic rules of spoken and written English as well as printing all upper and lowercase letters.
- Working with others to gather facts and information on a topic
- Writing to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Provide time and space for your child to read independently.
- Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
- Be sure your child has a library card. Your child should select books they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities.
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter to family members or friends.
- Leave notes for your child around the house. Ask your child to leave notes for you. Have your child create a to-do list. Have him/her turn it into a checklist to encourage self-monitoring.

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ART:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

- Create drawings that explore line qualities, geometric and free - form shapes, express visual movement and/or visual texture
- Create paintings that mix colors and explore other various paint media and tools
- Create sculptures using paper, fibers and other various materials
- Create clay pinch forms using additive and subtractive techniques
- Create prints using simple printmaking techniques
- Create artworks using mixed media and/or fiber techniques
- Experiment with digital media
- View and respond to a variety of artworks
- Experiment with various media to express ideas
- Create artwork based on ideas from imagination, real life, self and community
- Recognize that art is all around me
- Identify connections between visual art and other content areas

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Set up an "art area" with a table and art supplies such as pencils, computer or drawing paper, construction paper, scissors, glue, tape, crayons, colored pencils, washable markers and paints, brushes, and air-dry clay
- Borrow art books from the school or local library
- Go online with your child to learn about and make art using interactive art websites (*Link to several sites: <http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/digitalartmaking>)*
- Visit an art museum, art center or local gallery (*More info: <http://www.artstampabay.com/>)*

MUSIC:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

- Classify music as pitched or unpitched
- Play loud/soft, fast/slow and high/low, on classroom instruments in response to the music
- Identify the similarities and differences between two performances of a familiar song
- Sing simple songs, in a group and alone, using age-appropriate vocal tone
- Sing and play songs, which may include changes in verses or repeats, from memory
- Read rhythmic patterns using basic standard notation
- Read melodic patterns using solfege syllables Mi, So, and La
- Improvise a four-beat response to a musical question
- Use visual representations (hand signs) of solfege syllables Mi, So, and La, to show what I hear.
- Perform a steady beat to various tempos
- Respond to changes in tempo and dynamics through movement
- Perform songs, dances, and musical games from a variety of cultures
- Create sounds or movement that bring a poem or story to life

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Listen to music with your child and discuss their likes and dislikes
- Expose your child to live musical concerts
- Encourage and provide private vocal or instrumental instruction as a supplement to school musical ensembles
- Initiate and participate in family singing!

CIVICS

What Your Child Will be Working on:

The goal of Social Studies Civics instruction is to prepare students to be knowledgeable, informed, and active citizens in their community. In grade one; the focus is on your child's school and local community. Students will be engaged in conversations and learning opportunities that will develop their understanding of basic civic concepts such as rules and laws, rights and responsibilities, and ways that individuals within a community work together.

Activities in these areas may include:

- Explaining the purpose of rules and laws in a school or local community
- Identifying individuals who have the power to make and enforce the rules and laws in a school or local community
- Explain the rights and responsibilities students have in the school community
- Describing the characteristics of a responsible citizen in the school community
- Identify ways students can participate in their school or local community
- Create ways to become involved in their school or local community
- Explain how decisions can be made or how conflicts might be solved in fair and just ways
- Recognize symbols and individuals that represent American constitutional democracy

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Make and display a list of rules for your home and discuss why they are important
- Discuss the rights and responsibilities the members of your household may have
- Do a community service project together; join a park clean-up or collect canned goods
- Read books about being a good citizen and discuss the characteristics of a good citizen