



English Language Arts – Supporting 1st Grade Students

What your child will be learning in first grade English Language Arts and Literacy

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, speaking, asking questions, and responding to what others say
- Describing people, places, things, and events, and expressing feelings and ideas clearly
- Learning basic rules of spoken and written English
- 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



You are very important to helping your child begin his or her learning at home and at school. You are the number one teacher in your child's life. Take advantage of the opportunities that your child's teacher provides for you to learn about student experiences in the classroom. With that information, you can be your child's learning support system for the classroom, outside of school and through his or her future. Keep in contact with your child's teacher and feel free to ask questions like:

- What types of books should my child and I read together? Are these books available to borrow from the school?
- What types of technology use could benefit my child's learning? So you have suggestions for activities or programs?

The NJ DOE uses the term "parent" to refer to any adult who plays the primary role in a child's family life.

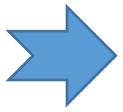
Throughout the PASS model the terms parent and family are used broadly to include adults who have a significant responsibility in a child's life. The model recognizes and respects that other individuals may also have opportunities to support the parenting, education and well-being of children and youth. Such individuals might include grandparents, relatives, stepparents, adult siblings, guardians, foster parents, etc.



READING LITERATURE

In grade one, students will read stories and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

Built on knowledge and skills from prior grade level	Performing on Grade Level	Preparing for next grade level
<p>Kindergarten Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With help from the teacher, students retell stories, including key details. • With help from the teacher, students name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story. 	<p>Grade One Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students retell stories, including key details, and show that they understand the lesson or moral of a story. • Students identify who is telling the story at various points in a text. 	<p>Grade Two Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students retell stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral. • Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.



Reading for Information

Built on knowledge and skills from prior grade level	Performing on Grade Level	Preparing for next grade level
<p>Kindergarten Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With help from the teacher, students ask and answer questions about key details in a text. • With help from the teacher, students identify what person, place, thing, or idea a picture shows. 	<p>Grade One Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students ask and answer questions about key details in a text. • Students use the illustrations and details in a text to describe key ideas. 	<p>Grade Two Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. • Students explain how specific images or illustrations (such as a diagram of how a machine works) are useful.



Writing

Writing tasks in grade one may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Built on knowledge and skills from prior grade level	Performing on Grade Level	Preparing for next grade level
<p>Kindergarten Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing, students name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic. 	<p>Grade One Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students name a topic and supply some facts about the topic. • Students provide some sense of closure 	<p>Grade Two Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students introduce a topic and use facts and definitions to develop their points. • Students provide a concluding statement or section.