



English Language Arts –Supporting Kindergarten Students

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

In kindergarten, students will learn the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words. They will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes. These important skills will enable your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple books and stories. Students will also learn to write and share information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others, and speaking aloud.

Activities in these areas will include:

- Naming and writing upper and lowercase letters
- Matching letters to sounds and using other methods to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- Learning and using new words
- Identifying words that rhyme
- Reading common words such as the, of, you, are, she, and my
- Asking and answering questions about a story the teacher reads out loud
- Identifying characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Recognizing the person, place, thing, or idea that an illustration shows
- Participating in discussions by listening and taking turns speaking
- Using a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion
- Taking part in shared reading, writing, and research projects
- Expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly



You are your child's first teacher. Whether your child is going to school for the first time, or if he or she has begun their learning at home your child is developmentally ready to begin his or her formal education. Take advantage of the opportunities that your child's teacher provides for you to learn about child development and student experiences in the classroom. With that information, you can be your child's best support and advocate. Keep in contact with your child's teacher and feel free to ask questions like:

- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successfully learning in school?

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

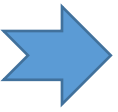
Throughout the PASS model the terms parent and family are used broadly to include adults who have a significant responsibility in a child's life. The model recognizes and respects that other individuals may also have opportunities to support the parenting, education and well-being of children and youth.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



READING LITERATURE

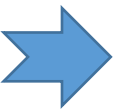
In kindergarten, students will listen to stories and poems. They will demonstrate understanding and will practice verbal expression. Additionally, they will begin to read words and learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important pre-reading skills across grade levels.

Building on early learning knowledge and skills to support student at grade level	Preparing for the next grade level	Preparing for the path of future performance
<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

Building on early learning knowledge and skills to support student at grade level	Preparing for the next grade level	Preparing for the path of future performance
<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

Pre-writing and writing tasks in kindergarten may include letters, numbers, words, and illustrations. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important pre-writing skills across grade levels.

Building on early learning knowledge and skills to support student at grade level	Preparing for the next grade level	Preparing for the path of future performance
<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.