

# What will my student learn in grade 1?



Alaska's public schools now have higher expectations in English and math. These parent guides help you understand what your child will learn. For more information, see <http://education.alaska.gov>

## English Language Arts

In Grade 1 your child will grow in independence as a reader and writer. Your child will continue to learn and practice rules for recognizing the sounds that make up words and be able to sound out more complex words. Students will learn to think about what they read, and talk about the main ideas of simple stories.



### YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Talk about a literary text using key details. Retell stories and understand the theme. Describe characters, settings, events, and problem-solutions in a story, play, or poem.
- Identify words and phrases in stories, plays, or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses. Identify who is telling the story, such as a character or a narrator.
- Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, events, setting, or problem-solution. Compare and contrast the adventures of characters. Read prose and poetry from a variety of cultures.
- Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information. Talk about an informational text using key details. Identify the main topic. Retell key details of a text.
- Apply phonics and word analysis skills to pronounce words. Know how to read and pronounce two consonants that form one sound, such as *sh* or *ch*. Pronounce regularly spelled one-syllable words. Know the conventions for long vowel sounds. Read words with inflectional endings, such as *-ed* and *-ing*. Read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
- Converse with peers and adults using agreed-upon rules for discussions. Talk about what a speaker says. Describe people, places, things, and events with details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly. Use drawings or other visual displays to clarify thoughts and feelings.
- Use conventions of grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Print all uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Use common, proper, and possessive nouns. Use singular and plural nouns with matching verbs like *I am* and *they are*. Use verbs to convey past, present, and future. Use determiners like *the* and common adjectives, conjunctions, prepositions. Produce simple and compound declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences.

## Help Your Child Learn at Home

**Parent Tips** Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 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.



### English Language Arts— First Grade

- Encourage your child to read to you books such as *Little Bear* by Else Holmelund Minarik. Help him or her sound out difficult words.
- Pick a “word of the day” each day starting with a different letter.
- Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter.

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## Math

In Grade 1 your child will focus on understanding addition and subtraction, whole number relationships and place value, linear measurement, and geometric shapes.



### YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Skip count by 2s and 5s. Use ordinal numbers such as first, second. Know the order of numbers 1-100, and count forward and backward.
- Count a large quantity of objects by grouping into 10s, and counting 10s and 1s to find the quantity. Identify place value positions of two-digit numbers, such as knowing that 12 is a 10 and two 1s.
- Subtract multiples of 10 up to 100. Use addition and subtraction to solve word problems with numbers up to 20 using a number line. Use symbols for greater than, less than, or equal.
- Understand and apply the properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction. For example, if  $8 + 3 = 11$ , then  $3 + 8 = 11$ . To add  $2 + 6 + 4$ , you can add  $2 + 10$ .
- Understand subtraction as an unknown-addend problem. For example, subtract  $10 - 8$  by finding the number that makes 10 when added to 8. Add and subtract using numbers up to 20. Use various strategies to add and subtract.
- Understand that the equal sign means same as, and determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true, such as  $7 = 8 - 1$ . Determine the unknown whole number in an equation, such as  $8 + ? = 11$ .
- Measure and compare three objects. Express the length of an object as a whole number of length units by laying copies of a shorter object (the length unit) end to end.
- Tell time in half hours using analog and digital clocks. Read a calendar. Read and write a date. Recognize money symbols. Identify values of coins.
- Distinguish between defining attributes of shapes and non-defining attributes. Compose shapes to create a larger shape. Partition circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares. Use words such as halves, fourths and quarters.

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### Math—First Grade

- Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 1st-grade examples might include: 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 is my number?”