

Learning Guide for Families

A summary of what children should know
and be able to do and ways for families
to increase learning at home.



About these learning guides:

This learning guide represents some of the most essential things your child should know and be able to do by the END of the school year in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Learning goals help families and teachers know when students may need extra support and when they need to be challenged even more.

What can families do?

There is a lot you can do to support your child's learning and help prepare them for their future. Here are a few things that will help students learn:

1. Let your child know that education is important to you. Tell them education matters, that it's the foundation for success.
2. Make school a priority, get your child to school on time every day.
3. Work cooperatively with the school and demonstrate respect for teachers and staff.
4. Encourage independence, allow your children to make mistakes and accept responsibility for their choices.
5. Talk to your child about what is happening in school.
6. Talk to your child's teacher to make sure your child is making progress throughout the year.
7. Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events whenever possible.
8. You have a right to know how your child is doing, don't hesitate to contact their teacher if you have questions.

Talking with your Child's Teacher

It's important to talk with your child's teacher and school regularly about your student's progress toward learning goals. Here are some questions or topics you may want to discuss:

- Review this learning guide and ask where your student is strong and where they need improvement.
- In addition to the learning goals in this guide, are there other goals your child is expected to master?
- Ask to see examples of your student's work and how they meet or do not meet learning goals.
- Ask how your child's progress is measured throughout the year.
- Ask if your child is on track to meet grade-level learning goals. If not, what supports will the school offer? What can you do at home?
- Ask if your child is at or above learning expectations. If so, what else does the school offer? What can I do at home?

Talking with your Child

“How was school today?”

“Fine.”

“What did you do?”

“Nothing”

Does this sound familiar? That’s okay, keep asking! Students whose parents talk with them about school do better in school. Here are some ways you can engage with your child and support their success:

- Make time to talk with your child about school every day.
- Ask your child to tell you one thing they learned today. What does your child think is most interesting? What seems hard?
- Review papers and projects your child brings home from school. Ask your child to tell you what learning it demonstrates.
- Praise your child for hard work and effort, not just “right answers”.
- Ask questions about what your child is thinking: How do you know that? What do you think? What do you notice? Why did you do it that way? Is there another way to find that answer?

Supporting Learning Away from School

Learning doesn’t have to stop when students leave school. Students spend more time out of school than in school. Here are some ways you can support learning outside of school:

- Read to your child, read with your child, and encourage family reading time—in the language you are most comfortable.
- Set up a quiet and comfortable place for your student to do homework or other learning activities.
- Try to establish a regular schedule for doing homework or other learning activities.
- Use this guide to focus on a few learning goals, try some of the suggestions for learning at home.



What your student should know and be able to do in English Language Arts (ELA)

Speaking and Listening

- Take turns in an extended conversation with an adult about one topic.
- Ask, “What does that mean?” when hearing a new word.

Reading and Literature

- Recognize writing and print in his or her daily life. *For example – familiar signs in the neighborhood or labels of favorite foods at the store.*
- Retell stories that have been read or told to them many times.
- Point out letters that are the same as beginning sounds of the names of friends or family members. *For example – “M” is for Mommy, “D” is for Daddy.*
- Pretend to read a familiar book. Turn the page appropriately and use pictures to tell the story.

Writing

- Write his/her own first name and the first names of important people such as brothers, sisters, or friends using a combination of upper-case and lower-case letters.
- Draw a picture and tell a story about it.
- Create signs (such as Please Save), lists (such as favorite foods), and messages (such as “I love you”) for specific purposes.



Ways to Encourage ELA Learning at Home

- Read with your child every day in whatever language you are most comfortable. Let your child choose stories to read together. Make this part of a daily routine, such as just before bedtime or just after a meal.
- After reading a story together, talk with your child about his/her favorite part. Share your own ideas too. Encourage your child to talk about the story and have fun with it by adding a new ending or creating a new character.
- Play word games such as “I Spy”, sing songs such as “The Alphabet Song”, and recite rhymes such as “Miss Mary Mack”.
- Be curious with your child. Find out more about something by looking at it carefully, drawing what you see, and then looking for more about it in books at home or at the library.
- Make reading materials such as children’s books, magazines, and poetry available to your child all the time.
- After you read a story with your child, retell the story together later that day, such as at dinner or when they are going to bed.

Notes:

Please also connect with your child’s teacher and ask about home learning resources associated with your school’s specific reading and writing programs.

What your student should know and be able to do in Math

- Show interest in numbers and shapes in everyday life – at home, at school, and in the neighborhood. Ask questions about the numbers and shapes.
- Count up to 10.
- Understand that counting tells how many. Count objects in a line and answer the question “How many?”.
- Compare groups of objects. *For example – count snack items to see if a friend has the same number, fewer, or more.*
- Begin to add small groups of objects. *For example – say “I had three bears and I got one more, now I have four bears.”*
- Recognize and create simple shapes, such as circles, triangles, and rectangles. Use several shapes to make a new picture or complete a puzzle.
- Compare objects to see which one is longer or if they are the same length.
- Repeat a simple pattern of movement such as clap, pat your head, clap, pat your head. Duplicate a simple pattern using colors such as red, yellow, red, yellow.





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