



LITERACY

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 1st grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

Learning to read and write:

- Matching letters and sounds to sound out and write simple words. (This may include **inventive spelling** for writing). Students should be able to accurately decode and write all words with short vowel sounds, final -e, and common long vowel spellings.
- Recognizing, spelling, and properly using those little grammatical words that hold the language together (for example, "a", "the", "to", "of", "from", "I", "is", "are").
- Reading and rereading **decodable** words and sentences so that the reading is smooth.
- Writing neatly and legibly, with spacing between words and in complete sentences.

Learning about the world through text:*

- Accurately asking and answering questions about stories and texts read aloud. Retelling what happened and explaining key ideas.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context, glossaries, etc. (Children may need support with pronunciation.)
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters, or sentences on the page.
- Using a combination of drawing and writing to describe an event in a text. Children should include a title, an introductory sentence, examples, and a conclusion sentence.

**The texts used for this purpose are often read aloud, since they are more complex than the child could read alone. But texts children can read for themselves (with support as needed) may also be used.*



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Read aloud to your child for 20 minutes each day. Talk about what is happening in the text. Ask what they are learning.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Listen to your child read and reread **decodable** text. Do they move from decoding sound by sound to reading that is smooth and clear? Don't have your child simply look at pictures and guess. Be sure they are working to sound out words that contain sounds and spellings that they know.
- Support your child to practice writing each day, including helping with real-world writing. This can include grocery lists, reminder notes, chores, etc. Be sure your child can sound out the words and write the letters they've learned represent the sounds.