



LITERACY

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, kindergarten 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:

- Playing with language, rhyming, clapping out, or counting syllables. Identifying beginning, middle, and end sounds in spoken words (**phonemic/phonological awareness**).
- Naming all upper- and lower-case letters. Matching those letters with their sounds. Printing them clearly by hand, on handwriting paper.
- Matching letters and sounds to sound out and write simple words. Focus on the most common consonant and short vowel sounds. (This may include **inventive spelling** for writing.)
- Reading and rereading **decodable** words and sentences in simple texts so the reading is smooth.

Learning about the world through text:*

- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts read aloud. (Children may need some prompting.) Retelling what happened and explaining key ideas.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words by using pictures, context, etc. (Children may need support with pronunciation.)
- Showing something new they have learned from text or about a topic. This can be in lots of ways: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters, or sentences on the page.
- Using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to answer a question or describe an event or topic from a text. Children may use simple sentences and some **inventive spelling**.

**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. 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.
- Play sound games with your child! Pick a letter sound to start as many words as you can in a sentence ("Leo Lion laughs loudly"). Make silly words ("big," "boom," "bop," "biz," "baz"). Clap out syllables. Sing songs together and call out the rhyming words.
- Identify the sounds in the beginning, middle, and end of spoken words. Separate words into their sounds (/b/ /a/ /t/). Then blend them back together ("b-a-t bat!").
- Have your child help with real-world writing. Use starting sounds. Then add ending or middle sounds. ("Let's start the grocery list. What letter should you write to help me remember to buy milk?")