

GRADE 1 ENGLISH/READING & WRITING

First grade English class is an exciting time of transitions for your child. First graders have the opportunity to hone important foundational reading and writing skills. To make sure everything is covered, use this checklist as your first grader progresses.

LETTERS AND SOUNDS

- Name and recognize all the letters of the alphabet in the proper order
- Recognize two letters that represent sounds and know what those sounds are, for example, "th" and "ch"
- Understand that an "e" at the end of a word will change the sound of vowels within the word
- Identify middle, beginning and ending sounds of words
- Make pairs of rhyming words

READING

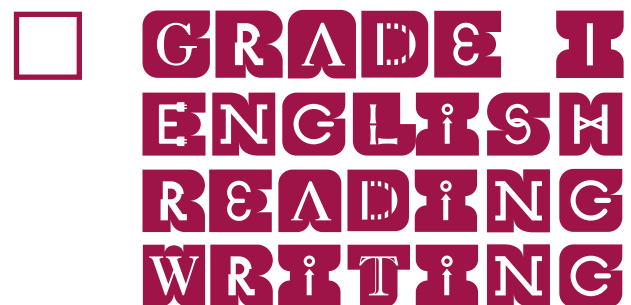
- Recognize important features of a sentence, such as capitalization and ending punctuation
- Read one-syllable words with simple spellings, such as "cat" and "on"
- Break up long words into syllables to sound them out
- Read first-grade level words that have irregular spellings, such as "the," "where" and "come"
- Answer questions about a book or story that was read
- Begin to read poetry
- Read stories more than once to help increase reading speed
- Read aloud in group settings

LITERATURE

- Know the difference between fiction and non-fiction
- Identify the plot, main ideas and characters in fictional stories
- Compare different characters, events and books
- Use diagrams and pictures to demonstrate an understanding of the information that was read
- Understand the purpose of features commonly found in books, like titles and tables of contents
- Identify the words and phrases in poetry that relate to emotions and the five senses (sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch)

WRITING

- Write opinion stories, narratives and informational pieces
- Know and execute the proper structure of a story, including an introductory sentence, supporting details and a closing
- Work with peers and an instructor to create a group writing project



You can help your child reach the important milestones of first grade English by reading stories together before bed and encouraging him/her to keep a journal.