

What will my student learn in Kindergarten?



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 kindergarten your child will learn the alphabet and basic features of letters and words. The children will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters, and identify the sounds each letter represents. These fundamental skills allow your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple stories. Your child will learn to write and will practice speaking aloud and listening to others.

YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Follow words from left to right. Know that spoken words are represented by specific sequences of letters. Know the uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Recognize rhyming words. Pronounce syllables in spoken words. Know one-to-one letter-sound correspondences. Associate the long and short sounds with the common spellings for the five major vowels. Read common words by sight.
- Use drawing, dictating, and writing to state an opinion or preference, compose an informational text, or tell a story.
- Converse with children and adults, and follow agreed-upon rules for discussions. Ask questions. Describe familiar people, places and things. Speak audibly in complete sentences.
- Use standard grammar and usage when writing and speaking. Use the most common nouns and verbs. Form regular plural nouns. Understand question words such as *who* and *why*. Use the most common prepositions such as *to*, *from*, *for*, *of*.
- Use the conventions of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
- Talk about a story. Retell a story. Identify characters, settings, and major events. Talk about unknown words. Identify common types of writing (picture books, poems, songs). Know what moment in a story an illustration depicts.
- Talk about an informational text. Describe the connection between two individuals, events, or ideas in the text. Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page.



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— Kindergarten

- Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas.
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school.
- Have your child describe the picture to you.

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Math

In kindergarten your child will focus on learning whole numbers, addition and subtraction, and describing shapes and space.

YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Know number names and the count sequence. Count to tell the number of objects. Understand addition as putting together and subtraction as taking apart and taking from. Add or subtract whole numbers to 10 by using objects or drawings.
- Count to 100 by ones and tens. Count forward from a beginning number in a sequence. Work with numbers 11 to 19 to gain foundation for place value (tens and ones). Write numbers from 0 to 20.
- Know how to count objects and understand that the number of objects is the same regardless of their arrangement. Identify whether the number of objects in one group is greater than, less than, or equal to the number of objects in another group.
- Recognize and continue simple patterns of color, shape, and size. Describe measurable attributes of objects such as length or weight. See which object has more of or less of the attribute and describe the difference. Describe the relative difference of objects such as above, below, next to.
- Name in sequence the days of the week. Tell time to the hour using analog and digital clocks. Identify coins by name.



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Math—Kindergarten

- Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, "How many books do you have about animals?"
- Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. "Who is wearing more beads, you or your sister?" (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer.)