

# Kindergarten

## Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Your child will learn many new concepts and skills over the course of the school year. In Louisiana, all public schools use the *Louisiana Students Standards* as the basis for what they teach students. These are provided for kindergarten in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts & Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education

Below are a few of these standards that your child will learn along with strategies you can use to support your child's learning at home.



### English Language Arts

**In kindergarten, children are expected to demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the areas that follow: print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, and fluency. Students are expected to write all upper and lowercase letters and form a complete sentences.**

#### What does it mean?

**Print concepts:** follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page, recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters, understand that words are separated by spaces, and name all upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet.

**Phonological Awareness:** recognize and produce rhyming words; count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words; blend and segment single-syllable words; isolate or substitute the initial, medial vowel, and final sounds;

**Phonics and Word Recognition:** basic knowledge of one-to-one letter-sounds, spell long and short vowel sounds (a, e, i, o, u), read high-frequency words by sight (e.g. the, of, to, you, she, my, is, are, do, does), distinguish between similarly spelled words

**Fluency:** Read and comprehend kindergarten leveled text

**Writing:** hold pencil properly, write all the letters in the alphabet (upper/lower case), capitalize the first word in a sentence, and use end punctuation

#### How can you support your child?

- Reinforce letter sound knowledge (*What sound does m make?*)
- Provide your child with a variety of reading books
- Read with your child and talk about the story
  - model tracking print while reading
- Encourage your child to draw pictures that show their stories and information
- Model writing for your child
- Encourage letter naming games, nursery rhymes, and blending/segmenting
  - Parent: If I say /b/ /a/ /t/, what word did I make?
  - Child: bat



### Physical Education

**The primary focus for this age group is the learning and acquisition of locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative skills.**

#### What does it mean?

These are the foundational skills for all movement patterns that gradually become more complex as movement becomes more specific.

#### How can you support your child?

- Keep children active.
- Maintain a well-balanced diet for your child.
- Encourage outdoor play and team-building games/sports.





## Mathematics

Kindergarten students are expected to understand the concept of addition and subtraction. They must work with numbers 11-19 to gain an understanding of place value, count to 100, and answer "How many?" questions.

### What does it mean?

- count by ones and tens to 100
- write numbers from 0 to 20
- count objects and know that the final number said is how many there are of the objects being counted
- compare numbers
- use drawings, mental images, sounds, fingers, acting out, equations, or objects to show addition and subtraction
- understand that adding means putting together and subtraction means breaking apart or taking from

### How can you support your child?

- Incorporate counting into daily routines (shopping, cooking, car rides, etc.)
- Have your child identify numbers on labels and signs
- Read *counting books* with your child
- Help your child practice writing numbers 0-20



## Science

Kindergarten students should learn about concepts about forces and motion, animals, plants, and their environments; weather; human impact on Earth systems

### What does it mean?

**Forces and Motion:** Pushes and pulls, start and stop of motion, touching/collision of objects, strength and direction

**Animals, Plants, and the Environment:** Sunlight warms the Earth's surface, animals need food and water to live and grow, animals obtain food from plants or other animals, plants need light and water to live and grow

**Weather:** wind, snow, rain, and temperature are measured by people and recorded in order to notice patterns

**Human impacts on Earth systems:** Choices that people make can impact the land, air, water, and other living things; humans need natural resources; severe weather impact on communities

### How can you support your child?

- Model asking questions for your child and encourage your child to ask questions
- Talk about the weather
- Notice plants, animals, and natural resources and discuss them with your child



## Social Studies

Kindergarten students are introduced to the world beyond their family and home. Students will build upon experiences with their families, schools, communities, and parishes as they begin their study of the most fundamental principles and ideas of each of social studies' core disciplines: history, civics, economics, and geography.

### What does it mean?

- **Exploring our world:** suburban, urban, and rural communities; impact of environment and weather on where people live; understanding maps; US landmarks
- **Understanding the past:** timelines; important US historical figures; US and LA symbols and holidays
- **Understanding needs and wants:** concept of scarcity, exploration of jobs and industries; goods/services; money concepts
- **Being part of a community:** laws, rules, responsible citizenship

### How can you support your child?

- Use and read maps/GPS systems
- Talk about historical events and people
- Order events chronologically (by date)
- Discuss different cultures in the US and LA

