

What your child will learn in Grade 1 English Language Arts and Literature

Text Forms and Structures

Your child will learn that the way a story or message is organized helps readers understand it better. Books, poems, lists, and letters all have different shapes and purposes. When your child notices that a recipe lists ingredients first and then steps, or that a story has a beginning, middle, and end, they are learning how text works. [See the curriculum.](#)

Oral Language

Listening and speaking are how your child builds all their other reading and writing skills. When your child tells you about their day, listens to a story you read aloud, or talks with friends about what they learned, they are practicing the foundation of literacy. [See the curriculum.](#)

Vocabulary

Your child will discover how words are built from smaller pieces. When they notice that "cat" and "cats" are related, or that "un" at the start of a word changes its meaning, they are learning how language works. [See the curriculum.](#)

Phonological Awareness

Your child will manipulate sounds in words through oral language. Clapping syllables in "but-ter-fly," rhyming words, or noticing that "cat" and "can" start with the same sound are all ways your child builds the ear for language. [See the curriculum.](#)

Phonics

Your child will connect the sounds they hear to the letters they see on the page. Learning that the letter "m" makes the /m/ sound, or that "sh" together make one sound, helps your child unlock new words. [See the curriculum.](#)

Fluency

Your child will read with accuracy and expression, the way you might read a story aloud with feeling. When your child reads smoothly and with the right tone, they understand the story better and enjoy it more. [See the curriculum.](#)

Comprehension

Your child will ask themselves what a story or book is really about. They will think about the characters, what happens, and what the author is trying to tell them. [See the curriculum.](#)

Writing

Your child will use writing to share ideas and tell stories. They will learn to plan what they want to say, write it down, and then fix it to make it clearer. [See the curriculum.](#)

Conventions

Your child will learn the rules of writing: how to use capital letters, periods, and commas; how to spell words correctly; and how these tools help readers understand their message. [See the curriculum.](#)

How to help at home

Text Forms and Structures

Point out different kinds of writing around your house: recipe cards, shopping lists, greeting cards, and picture books. Ask your child, "Why do you think this is written this way?" This helps them see that different messages need different shapes. [See the curriculum.](#)

Oral Language

Read aloud to your child every day and ask them questions about the story. Let them tell you stories about their day without correcting them. This builds their confidence and listening skills. [See the curriculum.](#)

Vocabulary

When your child hears or reads a new word, say it aloud together and use it in a sentence. Play word games like "I spy" or rhyming games at dinner. This helps them collect words naturally. [See the curriculum.](#)

Phonological Awareness

Clap out the syllables in family members' names. Sing songs and nursery rhymes together. Play "I spy with my little eye something that starts with /s/." These games train your child's ear for sounds. [See the curriculum.](#)

Phonics

Point to letters on signs when you are out together and ask, "What sound does that make?" Read simple books where your child can sound out words. Your child will recognize and analyze letters and sounds in words [See the curriculum.](#)

Fluency

When your child reads to you, let them read at their own pace without rushing. Read the same book many times so they feel confident. Model good expression by reading aloud with feeling. [See the curriculum.](#)

Comprehension

After reading a story, ask simple questions: "Who was in the story?" "What happened?" "How did it end?" Let your child draw pictures of their favorite part. This helps them hold onto what they read. [See the curriculum.](#)

Writing

Give your child paper and pencils and let them draw and write freely. Write simple messages together, like thank-you notes or shopping lists. Do not worry about spelling or neatness; the goal is to share ideas. [See the curriculum.](#)

Conventions

Point out capital letters at the start of sentences and periods at the end when you read together. When your child writes, help them add a period or capital letter, but keep it playful. Your child will examine and apply grammar, spelling, and punctuation in oral and written language [See the curriculum](#).