



A Family Guide
To Mastering The TEKS
The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills
KINDERGARTEN

Language Arts

Expectations at School

During Kindergarten, students will:

- Listen and respond to stories, rhymes, conversations, discussions, and one and two-step instructions.
- Know that print is read and written left to right and top to bottom.
- Understand that written words are a sequence of letters separated by spaces.
- Name, identify, and write letters of the alphabet and know the difference between capital and lowercase letters.
- Recognize that different parts of a book offer information (For example: cover, title page, and table of contents).
- Understand simple story structure.
- Distinguish fiction from nonfiction, fact from fantasy.
- Understand that written words are made of letters that stand for sounds.
- Understand that spoken sentences are made of individual words.
- Identify the first and last sounds of spoken words.
- Identify, separate, and combine syllables within spoken words by clapping syllables or by moving objects to represent syllables.
- Make rhyming words and tell rhyming words from non-rhyming words.
- Break down one-syllable words into separate sounds, clearly saying beginning, middle, and final sounds.
- Talk about meanings of words and learn new words through classroom experiences
- Show their understanding of a story by retelling the important events in the story in order or by acting out the story.
- Recognize a core of high frequency words.
- Participate actively when predictable and familiar books are read aloud.
- Use correct pencil grip, paper position, and beginning stroke to develop printing skills.
- Use sounds of letters to write their first and last names and write to messages.
- Think of ideas before writing, and write to record ideas and thoughts.
- Use computers to write their own stories.

Language Arts

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your Kindergartener to:

- Listen to you read daily.
- Answer questions you ask.
- Sing songs and recite rhymes.
- Talk with you about letters and words around them (examples: menu at McDonald's, food packaging at HEB, displays at Wal-Mart, etc.).
- Draw and create with pencils, crayons, paper, and scissors.
- Practice writing his or her name with uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Watch you write (examples: grocery list, phone message).
- Play letter games (examples: magnetic letters on the refrigerator, find letter 'C' on a can of corn, etc.).

Mathematics

Expectations at School

During Kindergarten, students will:

- Count to 100.
- Describe sizes of sets using one-to-one correspondence and language such as more than, same number as, two less, or one more
- Represent quantities through 10 in written form
- Identify whole and half using models and pictures
- Show and create simple addition and subtraction in real-life situations, using objects
- Identify patterns, add to them, and create new ones
- Describe, identify, sort and arrange items by traits or by category.
- Describe and compare circles, triangles, and rectangles including squares
- Recognize geometric shapes in real-life objects
- Make and use graphs of real objects or pictures to answer questions
- Read a calendar, using days, weeks, and months
- Compare and order objects according to length, weight, and capacity
- Compare and order events or situations according to time and temperature
- Describe the order of events or objects, using words such as first, second, before, after, and between
- Communicate about mathematical observations using objects, words, pictures, and number
- Solve problems connected to things that happen in everyday life

Mathematics

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your Kindergartener to:

- Talk about the order of daily events using words like first, then, next, and last
- Look at and talk about numbers in real-life situations
- Point out shapes and colors around you
- Talk about time using words such as now, later, yesterday, today and tomorrow
- Practice identifying and writing numbers
- Play board and card games and do other activities that involve matching, counting and comparing (more than, less than)
- Sort objects by categories such as alike and different, color, size, shape, etc.
- Look for patterns such as tiles on the floor, bricks on a house, repeating designs in fabric, wallpaper, etc.
- Look to you as a positive role model in learning math
- See you as a problem solver – someone who questions, investigates, and explores a variety of solutions to problems.

Science

Expectations at School

In Kindergarten, your child will:

Safety

- Demonstrate safe practices at home and school
- Use and conserve resources and materials

Use of Scientific Tools

- Use the senses as tools of observation
- Use the following tools to extend the senses: hand lenses, balances, cups, bowls, and computers

Scientific Inquiry Methods and Critical Thinking

- Ask questions and base observations on information
- Plan and conduct simple investigations
- Justify merits of decisions
- Explain a problem and propose a solution

Science

Expectations at School (Continued)

In Kindergarten, your child will:

Life Science

- Sort organisms and objects into groups
- Describe characteristics of organisms
- Record observations about plant parts and animal parts
- Observe and identify patterns of growth
- Identify basic needs of organisms
- Give examples of how organisms depend on each other
- Identify ways Earth provides resources for life
- Identify and group organisms and objects as living or nonliving
- Observe and record stages in life cycles

Earth Science

- Observe and describe properties of rocks, soil and water and give examples of how they are useful
- Observe and identify patterns including seasons and day and night

Physical Science

- Describe properties of objects
- Observe, describe, and record changes in size, mass, color, position, quantity, time, temperature, sound, and movement
- Identify that heat causes change, and compare objects according to temperature

Science

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your Kindergartener to:

- Develop their natural inquisitiveness
- Observe real objects, events, and organisms in nature
- Describe their observations using words and numbers
- Ask questions about their observations
- Make guesses about what the answers to their questions might be
- Safely engage in investigations to answer their questions
- Watch and discuss science-oriented programs on television such as the Discovery Channel
- Read nonfiction books and magazines on science topics
- Visit museums, zoos, parks, libraries, etc.

Social Studies

Expectations at School

During Kindergarten, students will

- Express ideas orally based on knowledge and experiences.
- Obtain information about a topic using oral sources (conversations, interviews) and using visual sources (pictures, symbols, maps).
- Identify self by name, address, telephone number, and birthday.
- Identify family members, customs, and traditions.
- Place events in order of time (first, next, last).
- Use terms to describe location (over, under, near).
- Distinguish between land and water on a globe or map.
- Locate & describe the relative location of places.
- Explain how basic human needs (food, clothing, shelter) can be met.
- Identify rules in the home and school and the reasons for having them.
- Identify American symbols, customs and patriotic celebrations such as the flag, voting, and Independence Day (July 4th).
- Identify ways technology is used in the home and school.
- Identify similarities and differences between people.
- Identify authority figures in the home, school, and community.

Social Studies

Support at Home

As parents, provide opportunities for your Kindergartener to:

- Learn home address, phone number, and full name.
- Talk about the order of daily events using words like first, then, next, and last.
- Look at and discuss simple maps.
- Distinguish between needs and wants.
- Visit museums, farms and parks.
- Discuss family traditions and celebrations.
- Discuss the importance of rules in the home and neighborhood.