

What Makes a Good 1st Grader?

We asked our Sallas Mahone 1st Grade teachers what is important for an incoming 1st grader to know BEFORE they begin school and here are their responses:

1st grade ROCKS

- 🐾 Can tie their shoes!!!
- 🐾 Has self-help/problem solving skills (shoe tying, what to do if a pencil breaks, etc)
- 🐾 Identifies by sight all letters and the sounds they make
- 🐾 Can blend and segment words
- 🐾 Can write in complete sentences
- 🐾 Can identify numbers 0-30 and count to 100 by 1's and 10's (2's and 5's are bonus)
- 🐾 Can read sight words
- 🐾 Read beginning level readers
- 🐾 Draw a picture with detail and describe it.



How to be prepared for



First Grade

First things first, can your child TIE THEIR SHOES????

If the answer is no, please work on that. There are lots of YouTube videos and tutorials to help you. This is VERY important as in first grade children are expected to be able to tie their own shoes.



1st Grade Reading Skills



- Distinguish between long and short vowel sounds, learning the common vowel teams for long vowel sounds (i.e. play, tie, tail), and understanding the silent e.
- Recognizing the print features of a sentence: always capitalize the 1st letter of the first word and always end with punctuation—a period for statements, a questions mark for questions.

Write a complete sentence independently.

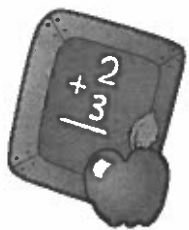
- Hunting for "evidence" to answer questions, which means finding – and literally pointing to – answers to questions. To answer What was Grandpa making for breakfast at the beginning of the book? Your child may remember Grandpa was flipping pancakes, but showing evidence means your child should flip through the pages and find the words – or the picture – to point out the answer.
- Ask what, where, when, why, and how questions.

1st Grade Writing Skills

- Practicing and learning three kinds of writing: opinion, informative, and narrative.
- Understanding that writing is a multistep process that begins with prewriting (reading and gathering ideas), writing a first draft, revising their work, and making final edits.
- Responding to questions using formation they've learned – by looking up answers and using facts and observations to back up what they write.



1st Grade Math Skills



- Adding and subtracting easily up to 20, including solving word problems and addition and subtraction problems up to 100.
- Understanding ones and 10s and being able to mentally add or subtract by 10.
- Partitioning circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares and describing the parts as halves, fourths, and quarters.
- Understand place value of a number. (Discuss the difference between 71 versus 17 using words like tens and ones, greater than and less than)