

Snapshot of key Kindergarten Skills

Kindergarten reading skills

- Read all 26 letters — lowercase and uppercase — and say their sounds, including both short and long vowel sounds.
- Answer questions about details in a book by pointing to where those answers appear in the text or illustrations.
- Read dozens of three-letter, often rhyming, words (e.g. pot/hot, bed/red).

Kindergarten writing skills

- Print most lowercase and uppercase letters.
- Correctly write their names and many consonant-vowel-consonant words (e.g. cat/hat, pet/wet), and phonetically or inventively spell simple high-frequency words they often see or hear (e.g. the, go, she, like, play).
- Understand the three types of writing — opinion, explanatory, and storytelling — and write a couple of sentences of each type. (At this age, drawing and dictating sentences count as writing.)

Kindergarten math skills

- Count to 100 by 1s and by 10s, write numbers 0 to 20, and compare two numbers between 1 and 10.
- Figure out the number to add to any number from 1 to 9 to make 10 — using objects, fingers, or drawings.
- Use names of shapes to describe objects in the environment. (e.g. The window is a square; the plate is a circle.)

Building skills at home

- 1) Cook with kids! Ask them to help count out the ingredients, which helps them learn words and concepts like half.
- 2) Ask questions while reading together, such as: *What is the character feeling? Why is he reacting that way? What do you think will happen next?* Stay on one question word such a “What?” before moving on the other question words.
- 3) Especially at first, kids (and parents) may feel confused by new work. When parents set the example, children learn to work hard, persist, and stay positive.

Snapshot of key 1st Grade Skills

1st grade reading skills

- Distinguishing between long and short vowel sounds, learning the common vowel teams for long vowel sounds (e.g. play, tie, tail), and understanding the silent e.
- Recognizing the print features of a sentence: always capitalize the first letter of the first word and always end with punctuation — a period for statements, a question 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 information 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 verses 17 using words like tens and ones, greater than and less than)

Building skills at home

- 1) Read, read, read continuously. Set a regular routine of reading daily.
- 2) Pick a familiar book children know well and have them read it aloud. It'll give early readers a taste of success and build reading fluency.
- 3) When parents set the example, children learn to work hard, persist, and stay positive. Model this regularly.

Snapshot of key 2nd Grade Skills

2nd grade reading skills

- Perfecting decoding (using patterns to read words and decipher separate sounds) and fluency (reading quickly and accurately, and reading aloud with expression).
- Splitting their time between fiction (stories, poems, early literature) and nonfiction (history, social studies, science, technical texts) — and generally tackling tougher material. Under the Common Core, reading benchmarks begin in second grade that continue through third grade.
- Using reading comprehension skills to build a knowledge bank: with every poem, story, passage, or book read, there's a main point, message, or key fact (or two) that second graders learn, relate to their life, experiences, and prior knowledge, and "bank" for future use.
- Referring to textual evidence when answering questions.

2nd grade writing skills

- Writing compound sentences, using descriptive words, and looking up new words!
- Practicing three kinds of writing – opinion, informative, and narrative – and writing full-sentence introductions and conclusions for each. Write a complete sentence every time.
- Getting familiar with the four steps of writing: prewriting (reading and gathering ideas), writing a first draft, revising their work, and making final edits. Persevere when writing. Have the mindset that you are not finished and can always make writing better.

2nd grade math skills

- Adding and subtracting easily up to 100, including solving word multi step problems with addition and subtraction problems up to 1,000.
- Understanding 3-digit numbers represent 1s, 10s, and 100s; skip counting by 5s, 10s, and 100s to 1,000; comparing two 3-digit numbers using $<$, $>$, and $=$ symbols.
- Identify and know the value of coins.

Building skills at home

- 1) Play "store"! Gather canned food, toys, books – and put prices on them. Then, use play money to go shopping. Take turns being the cashier and customer.
- 2) Include writing in children's imaginative games. Have children write a menu and take orders while playing restaurant. Police officers write tickets. Record grocery lists.
- 3) Start a summer writing journal. Get in the habit of writing daily. Respond to books read, write about trips or summer play, write information gained, or be creative and write a story. Use phonetic spelling on words your child can't spell. All learned word wall words should be spelled correctly.

Snapshot of key 3rd Grade Skills

3rd grade reading skills

- Tackling new and challenging books, poetry, articles, and even online research with less assistance from adults than ever before.
- Knowing common prefixes (e.g. dis-/re-) and simple suffixes (e.g. -able/-less) and decoding multisyllabic words (e.g. pho-to-graph/est-i-mate).
- Identify a noun, verb, adjective, adverb in a sentence.
- Using reading comprehension skills to build a knowledge bank: with every poem, story, or book read, there's a main point, message, and a few key facts third graders should learn, relate to what they already know, and "bank" for future use.
- Find text evidence in a passage or book and say "In paragraph_____ it says..... or In the passage it says...."

3rd grade writing skills

- Using books, websites, and articles to do research projects — and taking notes on what they find (and where they find it).
- Take an original story, make sense of it, and re write a portion of it. Example: Rewrite the story with a new ending adding your own writing technique.
- Write more complex opinions, stories, and informative pieces with introductions, clear points, and conclusions.

3rd grade math skills

- Multiplying and dividing whole numbers (e.g. 6×8 ; $56/8$) and solving word problems with whole numbers up to 100.
- Regrouping with addition and subtraction
- Understanding fractions as pieces of a whole, comparing two fractions, and finding where fractions belong on a number line.
- Telling time to the minute and solving word problems by adding and subtracting intervals of time.(hour, half hour, 15 minutes & 45 minutes)

Building skills at home

- 1) Play "Multiplication War" — a variation on the card game – where the player who calls out the product of the two face-up cards first, wins! Play it with addition and subtraction to ensure all addition and subtraction facts are mastered.
- 2) While out and about, make reading a game: Who can find the funniest bumper stickers? Weirdest signs? Any misspellings?
- 3) Model patience. At first, kids (and parents) may feel confused by new work. When parents set the example, children learn to work hard, persist, and stay positive.
- 4) Build reading stamina. Build up number of minutes for sustained silent reading daily.

Snapshot of key 4th Grade Skills

4th grade reading skills

- Identifying and comparing and contrasting point of view, including the difference between 1st and 3rd person narratives and character point of view
- Identifying and explaining elements of different kinds of text. Discussing the verse, rhythm, and meter in poetry; the cast of characters, settings, and dialogues in stories; and the timeline, diagrams, and cause and effect in a nonfiction text.
- Inferring – a new, subtle skill – to answer questions. Your child needs to point to a few different examples to show how a text conveys a point or outcome that's never expressly stated.
- Comparing and contrasting two paired passages. Your child needs to compare the point of view, theme, text structure, or main ideas of two texts.

4th grade writing skills

- Conducting research projects — both independently and as part of group work – by taking notes in their own words on what they read in novels, nonfiction books, periodicals, and digital sources, then reviewing and categorizing the new knowledge. Develop word processing skills to type on a computer.
- Spending more time on the planning stage of writing. Fourth graders should brainstorm ideas, read and reread, take notes, and visually organize what they plan to write.
- Using storytelling techniques, descriptive details, and clear sequences to write compelling tales; using facts, definitions, details, quotes, and examples to develop a report; presenting research-supported reasons to support any written opinion.

4th grade math skills

- Solving multistep word problems using the four operations – including division problems where there is a remainder. Write equations for these problems where x is the unknown number, and use mental math to assess whether their answer is reasonable.
- Know how to do basic single digit calculations quickly (adding, subtracting, multiplying)
- Comparing two fractions with different numerators and denominators by creating common denominators or by comparing new fractions to benchmark fractions such as $1/2$. Model equivalent fractions.

Building skills at home

- 1) Do pizza math! Cut 3 pizzas into 4, 8, and 12 slices. How many slices are there in one half of each pizza? If you eat one fourth of the 12-slice pizza, how many slices would that be of the 4-slice pizza – or the 8-slice pizza?
- 2) Fourth graders need access to books that fuel their interests and enhance their own special view of the world. Check the library or a bookstore for recommendations that are subject (and age!) appropriate.
- 3) Think organization! Students need to work on organizing materials to prepare for multiple classroom transitions and study habits. Develop responsibility for their own learning.

Snapshot of key 5th Grade Skills

5th grade reading skills

- Summarizing a text's main points and explaining how those points are supported by specific details.
- Paying attention to the organization of what they're reading. Kids need to understand how the structure helps a story develop and flow.
- Reading and analyzing multiple points of view on the same topic and processing the information effectively. Do this regularly with paired texts or passages.

5th grade writing skills

- Using several sources — books, periodicals, websites, and digital sources — to investigate a topic from different angles. Fifth graders need to review, categorize, and summarize the new information they learn.
- Doing several rounds of revisions and perhaps doing a complete rewrite. This requires resilience – resulting in carefully researched, evidence-based writing.
- Structuring work logically, be it an opinion piece, story, or report. An opinion piece, for example, starts with an introduction, follows a logical order to introduce each reason (supported by evidence), and ends with a conclusion.
- Develop strong computer skills to compose a piece of writing in one sitting.

5th grade math skills

- Comparing decimals to thousandths; adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals to hundredths; and rounding decimals to any place.
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions with unlike denominators and mixed numbers.
- Finding volume of a right rectangular prism.

Building skills at home

- 1) Encourage 10-year-olds write about their current obsession – be it zombies, video games, or horses – in journal entries, stories, lists, (or anything, really).
- 2) Make summarizing a habit. As part of their reading, have kids spend the last five minutes summarizing what they've read – in writing or aloud. This practice will make reading comprehension a daily, more instinctual habit.
- 3) Model patience. At first, kids (and parents) may feel confused by new work. When parents set the example, children learn to work hard, persist, and stay positive.
- 4) Start a summer journal. Develop a resource to refer back to and use as a source of ideas to develop into stories, or lessons learned from summer experiences.