

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 1 MATHEMATICS

Preparing Florida’s Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today’s workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **first grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child’s teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child’s learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in first grade—along with some important additional skills. **First grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Solving word problems that call for addition of three whole numbers whose sum is less than or equal to 20 by using objects, drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.
- Understanding subtraction as an unknown-addend (an unknown number added to another) problem.
For example: “Subtract $10 - 8$ by finding the number that makes 10 when added to 8.”



- Relating counting to addition and subtraction.



- Counting to 120, starting at any number less than 120. Read and write numbers that represent a number of objects.



Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 1 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



When you talk to your child's teacher, don't worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics for your child. In first grade, you may ask your child's teacher questions such as:

- How will my child be expected to show his/her work?
- What are some areas where my child is excelling? Where does my child need extra help?

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

As a parent, you are your child's first teacher. You can encourage learning mathematics at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Play number games with your child. Count to answer, "How many?" Think of ways to incorporate "120" into real-life, meaningful activities.



Turn daily activities into real-life math "mysteries." Make word problems that provide practice adding and subtracting within 20.



Gather a collection of coins of various sizes. Ask your child to sort the coins by size. Then pick two of the groups, and ask your child to count the number of coins in each group. Have him/her add the numbers together, then find the difference between the two numbers.



Have your child "check" your addition and subtraction decisions as "true or false." Give him/her opportunities to answer false, and have fun.



Allow him/her to count money and make change. For example, tell your child you have coins in your pocket that total 90 cents and ask, "What combinations of coins could be in my pocket?"



Perform math-based tasks in real life. Set two place settings and ask them to finish the rest, following the pattern you began. Create projects such as planting a garden.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards and other resources for parents at www.flstandards.org

Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org