

First Grade Academic Descriptors for Parents

READING

Instructional Reading Level-This graph indicates the level in which your child is being instructed by the teacher.

Reading on Grade Level-

- **Comprehends grade level material-** This indicates how well your child can read and understand materials written at the first grade level.
- **Reads grade level material fluently-** This indicates how well your child can smoothly read materials written at the first grade level.

Reading on Instructional Level-

Comprehension

- **Uses strategies to Comprehend-** The student is able to make predictions using clues from the story, ask and answer questions about the story, identify areas of confusion and clarify them and identify the most important parts of the story.
- **Identifies text elements and features-** In a fiction story, the student identifies the characters, settings, problem, solution and major events to better understand the story. In a non-fiction text, the student uses features such as the title, table of contents, headings, photographs, captions, labels, graphs, maps, glossary, and index to better understand the text.
- **Summarizes a text after reading-** The students identifies the important text elements and restates them in his /her own words.
- **Makes connections between texts and life experiences-** The student can explain how the text relates to his/her own experiences, another familiar text, and /or world events.

Word Work

- **Uses a range of strategies to identify words by their parts-**The student can use letter sounds and small word parts to identify an unknown word. The student will also use strategies such as picture clues, rereading, skipping words and going back to identify an unknown word.

Fluency

- **Reads accurately at an appropriate rate-** The student reads accurately and with appropriate pacing.
- **Reads with appropriate phrasing, intonation and emphasis-** The student reads smoothly (not robot reading) and naturally groups words together. The student uses punctuation to read the text with expression that reflects an understanding of the text.

Vocabulary

- **Recognizes and uses high frequency words-**The student can automatically read the words individually or in a story.
- **Acquires, understands and uses vocabulary-**The student reads and uses new vocabulary words in discussion and written work.

WRITING

Content-the “topic” of the story

- **Writes with a focus-**The student writes about a main idea and provides supporting details.
- **Organizes ideas in a logical order-**The student organizes the writing in an order that makes sense to the reader. A beginning is present, as well as transition words. The ending to the story summarizes the writing piece.
- **Develops content by adding details-**The student adds information to the story to make it more interesting. All details are clear, coherent, and support the main topic.
- **Uses varied sentence style-**The student varies the way sentences begin and combines ideas to make lengthier sentences. Adjectives, precise nouns, pronouns, and action words are used appropriately.

Conventions

- **Uses capitalization-** The student capitalizes the beginnings of sentences, names and the word “I” within the writing.
- **Uses punctuation-** The student uses periods, commas, question marks and exclamation marks appropriately within the writing.

Spelling

- **Uses appropriate sounds to spell words accurately-**The students spells common words correctly. He/she uses spelling patterns correctly.
- **Spells high frequency words without hesitation-** The student memorizes the spelling of common/ previously studied words and automatically writes them correctly.
- **Spells correctly in daily writing-**The student spells previously studied words correctly in all writing.

Handwriting

- **Forms letters correctly-**The student uses lines and spaces to properly make the letter.
- **Spaces letters and words correctly-** The student will use appropriately-sized spacing when writing letters and words.
- **Shows neatness in daily work-**The student's work is legible.

MATH

- **Demonstrates and applies number sense-**The student is able to read and write numbers, put numbers in order, compare numbers, skip-count, find equivalent names for numbers, ($2+2=1+3$), find complements of ten ($0+10$, $1+9$, $2+8\dots$)and read the numbers on a calculator.
- **Names and states the value of coins –** The student is able to identify each coin and its correct value.
- **Counts coin combinations-**The student can count and show coin combinations, and record the amounts in dollars and cents notation.
- **Tells time accurately-** The student can tell time to the hour, half-hour, and quarter-hour.
- **Understands and uses place value-** The student is able to identify the value of the ones, tens, and hundreds within a number.
- **Measures accurately-**The student uses tools to measure to the nearest inch
- **Knows basic addition/subtraction facts-**The students can use objects, a number line, and a number grid to solve facts. The student can find missing addends in a fact.
- **Solves number stories –** The student will need to use information provided in order to solve the addition/subtraction number story correctly.