

Children that are entering into the 1st grade are truly coming upon the launch-pad year, Education-wise. I say that because they know the basics (ABCs, Numbers to 100, 2D shapes and the 1st level of knowledge that is needed in order to build a well-rounded amount of knowledge). This year serves as the 1st step beyond the foundation. They get to REALLY add and subtract. Math is more than merely $1+1$. They have to show their work and become anchored in the rules of the operations. Ironically, a lot of what is learned in 1st grade becomes reinforced in 2nd grade. Below are some aspects that will be included in your child's year and resources/advice that should help in the process.

1. Counting

It is requested that by the end of the 1st grade year, students know how to count to 120, starting with ANY number between 1-120. Kindergarten standards require that a child can count from 1-100, so you are merely going to keep the same concept of your child counting normally, but beginning with a 1 in the hundreds place. Practice this!! Randomly throw out numbers and count with them. Make every activity one that involves your family. If there are older children, USE THEM.

★ Ideas for practice

- Bounce a ball and count.
- Take a family walk and count the steps
- Watch a clock and count the clicks (this can be a great opening to telling time).
- Jump rope and count

★ Pretty much, be physical, be creative, be consistent and ALLOW MISTAKES to drive betterment.

- Counting in 2's will open the understanding of 2 times tables just as counting by 5 and 10's will as well.
 - https://youtu.be/q_yUC1NCFkE
 - <https://youtu.be/GvTcpfSnOMO>
 - <https://youtu.be/EemjeA2Djjw>

- <https://youtu.be/SXPW9zu24Xc>
- A resource for numbers to 100 and charts for counting by 2s, 5s and 10 is
https://www.amazon.com/Ready-Set-Learn-Skip-Counting-Grd-1-2/dp/1420659162/ref=sr_1_11?crid=324YSR4XKWIOK&dchild=1&keywords=skip+counting+cards&qid=1589315427&srefix=skip+counting%2Caps%2C239&sr=8-11
- Additional Counting Resources
 - https://www.amazon.com/Eamay-Numbers-Teacher-Lessons-Classroom/dp/Bo7H2S64J9/ref=sr_1_12?crid=324YSR4XKWIOK&dchild=1&keywords=skip+counting+cards&qid=1589315493&srefix=skip+counting%2Caps%2C239&sr=8-12
 - https://www.amazon.com/School-Zone-Addition-Subtraction-Workbook/dp/158947323X/ref=sr_1_16?crid=11Q5G9WXU85WH&dchild=1&keywords=1st+grade+math+flash+cards&qid=1589315673&srefix=1st+grade+ma%2Caps%2C201&sr=8-16
- ★ Workbooks are amazing for children because you can create a routine that they do 1-pages of work, each day. They build up the expectation and understanding of what you require. You can attach increments of rewards for completion. Make it like a light system.
 - Red rewards- for mere effort
 - Yellow rewards- for effort and some correct answers
 - Green rewards- for stellar performance.
- ★ Sit with them until they display that they want autonomy. When they finish, ask if they have any questions and what they liked/disliked about the activity that you did.

2. Addition/Subtraction

There are new-school ways of adding that require students to merely find the number that makes the number 10 and then just add in the remaining numbers. 1st grade is where single-digit addition and subtraction buds. Students may see equations such as $3+4+1$ or $2+3+4$. Knowledge of numbers is essential for completing these exercises! Practice IS KEY! I assure you that IF YOU take the time to familiarize your child with the chart below, it will assist them in being able to add a number to the 10's place and finding the sum. Adversely, use the 2nd chart for basic knowledge of subtraction. NEVER stop enforcing what your child was required to know in the previous grade(s). This will remind them of the foundation and subsequential information that has been presented to them.

Addition Chart

$1+1=2$	$2+1=3$	$3+1=4$	$4+1=5$	$5+1=6$
$1+2=3$	$2+2=4$	$3+2=5$	$4+2=6$	$5+2=7$
$1+3=4$	$2+3=5$	$3+3=6$	$4+3=7$	$5+3=8$
$1+4=5$	$2+4=6$	$3+4=7$	$4+4=8$	$5+4=9$
$1+5=6$	$2+5=7$	$3+5=8$	$4+5=9$	$5+5=10$
$1+6=7$	$2+6=8$	$3+6=9$	$4+6=10$	
$1+7=8$	$2+7=9$	$3+7=10$		
$1+8=9$	$2+8=10$			
$1+9=10$				

***You may be wondering why I do not have the entire chart from 1 to 10. There is a VERY good reason. If a child knows THIS chart then they know the entire 1-10 addition. Simply put, you must explain and secure the

understanding that $1+7$ is the SAME as $7+1$, so there is no need to actually see it on the chart.

Subtraction Charts

$10-1=9$	$9-1=8$	$8-1=7$	$7-1=6$	$6-1=5$
$10-2=8$	$9-2=7$	$8-2=6$	$7-2=5$	$6-2=4$
$10-3=7$	$9-3=6$	$8-3=5$	$7-3=4$	$6-3=3$
$10-4=6$	$9-4=5$	$8-4=4$	$7-4=3$	$6-4=2$
$10-5=5$	$9-5=4$	$8-5=3$	$7-5=2$	$6-5=1$
$10-6=4$	$9-6=3$	$8-6=2$	$7-6=1$	
$10-7=3$	$9-7=2$	$8-7=1$		
$10-8=2$	$9-8=1$			
$10-9=1$				

$5-1=4$	$4-1=3$	$3-1=2$	$2-1=1$
$5-2=3$	$4-2=2$	$3-2=1$	
$5-3=2$	$4-3=1$		
$5-4=1$			

This is different because all numbers have to be represented with something being taken away. Although not indicated on the chart, make sure that your child knows that ANY number that is subtracted by itself has absolutely NO value. Also, a trick that has worked for me is the always

realign equations that are written, horizontal. Line your numbers up with the higher number on top, for now. With learning to truly add and subtract, you have to be able to form a procedure.. Rules of sort. Carrying a ten or drawing from the ten's place is a later 1st grade, early 2nd grade concept. If your school requests this skill, PLEASE write me and let me know.

★ I have some links below that are meant to assist you and also links for addition and subtraction flashcards.

- <https://youtu.be/pxUY29LpMZE>
- https://youtu.be/M_z7SJ_uTik
- https://youtu.be/dean_tALtAo

FlashCards

- https://www.amazon.com/Addition-Subtraction-War-Flash-Cards/dp/148385275X/ref=sr_1_20?crid=11Q5G9WXU85WH&dchild=1&keywords=1st+grade+math+flash+cards&qid=1589319225&sprefix=1st+grade+ma%2Caps%2C201&sr=8-20
- https://www.amazon.com/Addition-Subtraction-War-Flash-Cards/dp/148385275X/ref=sr_1_20?crid=11Q5G9WXU85WH&dchild=1&keywords=1st+grade+math+flash+cards&qid=1589319225&sprefix=1st+grade+ma%2Caps%2C201&sr=8-20
- https://www.amazon.com/Subtraction-Flash-Cards-Brighter-Child/dp/0769677215/ref=sr_1_4?crid=11Q5G9WXU85WH&dchild=1&keywords=1st+grade+math+flash+cards&qid=1589319225&sprefix=1st+grade+ma%2Caps%2C201&sr=8-4

3. Time

WHAT TIME IS IT??? Does your child know the answer to that question? Well, in first grade, they begin to understand this concept. I recommend that you start their journey by explaining the difference in time, throughout the day. Point out the Morning, Noon, Evening and Night. From there, start announcing the time when you are doing things.

- ★ Ex: You could say, “Hey guys, it is 11:30, LUNCH TIMEEEEEEE!”
Children learn from routine and may even take a look over at the clock (digital or otherwise) to see what that time actually looks like.
- ★ Remind them that the big numbers represent 5’s. You could even go over to the clock and say, “We know how to count in 5’s rightttttttt? Let’s count the big numbers by 5.” Then go into 5,10,15,20, etc while pointing to each number. Consistent review WILL help. Also, point out that the “hands” of the clock are NOT the same size.
 - Smaller Hand- Hour
 - Larger Hand- Minutes (Big #s=5 and in between are = to 1 min.)
- ★ Videos for assistance
 - <https://youtu.be/r2K1Py9U87I>
 - https://youtu.be/g6tJAY_7AL4
- ★ Physical tools for Learning
 - https://www.amazon.com/Learning-Resources-Time-Activity-Pieces/dp/Bo1MT1S2W4/ref=sr_1_3?crid=1Y9HRZLEX2TRK&dc_hild=1&keywords=telling+time&qid=1589319932&s=toys-and-games&srefix=telling+time%2Caps%2C539&sr=1-3

4. Money

The real-life application of this skill is unlimited! Coin money is not as common as cards, these days, but is still used in spurts (I guess). When introducing this skill, be fun and whimsical. Go to the store, buy some ice cream, get a pizza or something your child likes. When you get to the counter and ask them for their money. When they look at you like they are more lost than a polar bear in Southern Louisiana, then smile and let them know that it is time to learn money. One good resource that I found on youtube was <https://youtu.be/pnXJGNoo8vo> . If you would like to take a more hands-on approach, get some coins and sit down with your honeybun(s)

- ★ TAKE YOUR TIME and help them to understand the value of each coin.

- Say the name, the amount and let them repeat it back to you. Do that with each. Do this about 4-5 times.
- Start to explain the common amounts that make up a dollar.

\$1.00	1 Paper Dollar 2 Half-Dollars 4 Quarters 10 dimes 20 Nickels
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Show them those amounts, in person. Allow them to count it out for you. Familiarization and exposure will prove to be the factors that propel a child ahead of where they are expected to be.

★ Amazon Resource for Money

- https://www.amazon.com/Learning-Resources-Pretend-Counting-Currency/dp/B01LZS1L48/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=Money&qid=1589320627&s=toys-and-games&sr=1-1

This year IS the year of REEEEEADDDDDING!!! OMG, There have been so many books flowing in and out of my house that I forgot what grade that my son was in. Exposure to books, exposure to words and exposure to encourage ARE imperative. It is more than the mere sight words and sounds. 1st grade is where everything is expected to be put together in the sense that letters are words and words make sentences. This resource will be filled with many components. I will specifically focus on READING and early aspects of literacy/grammar.

How to make Reading fun?

- Smile, people!! Enjoy reading yourself. Remember that it was not THAT long ago that your child was in Pull-ups and wanting your to hold them all the time (They still might), so they are still REALLY young. The books are not ones dedicated to the Civil War, they are about “kid stuff”. Set aside a time and place for them to read. Place pillows in a corner of the room or get him/her a special “reading chair” for them to relax and just read.

How long and how many days?

- I am about being truthful and, honestly, this is dependent upon your child. You know their tolerant level and reading cannot be forced. This is why creating a relaxed and calm environment is super important. With my son, we read for 30 mins, M-F. He was not aware of time, in detail then, so we just focused on reading in the evening time, after he ate a snack.

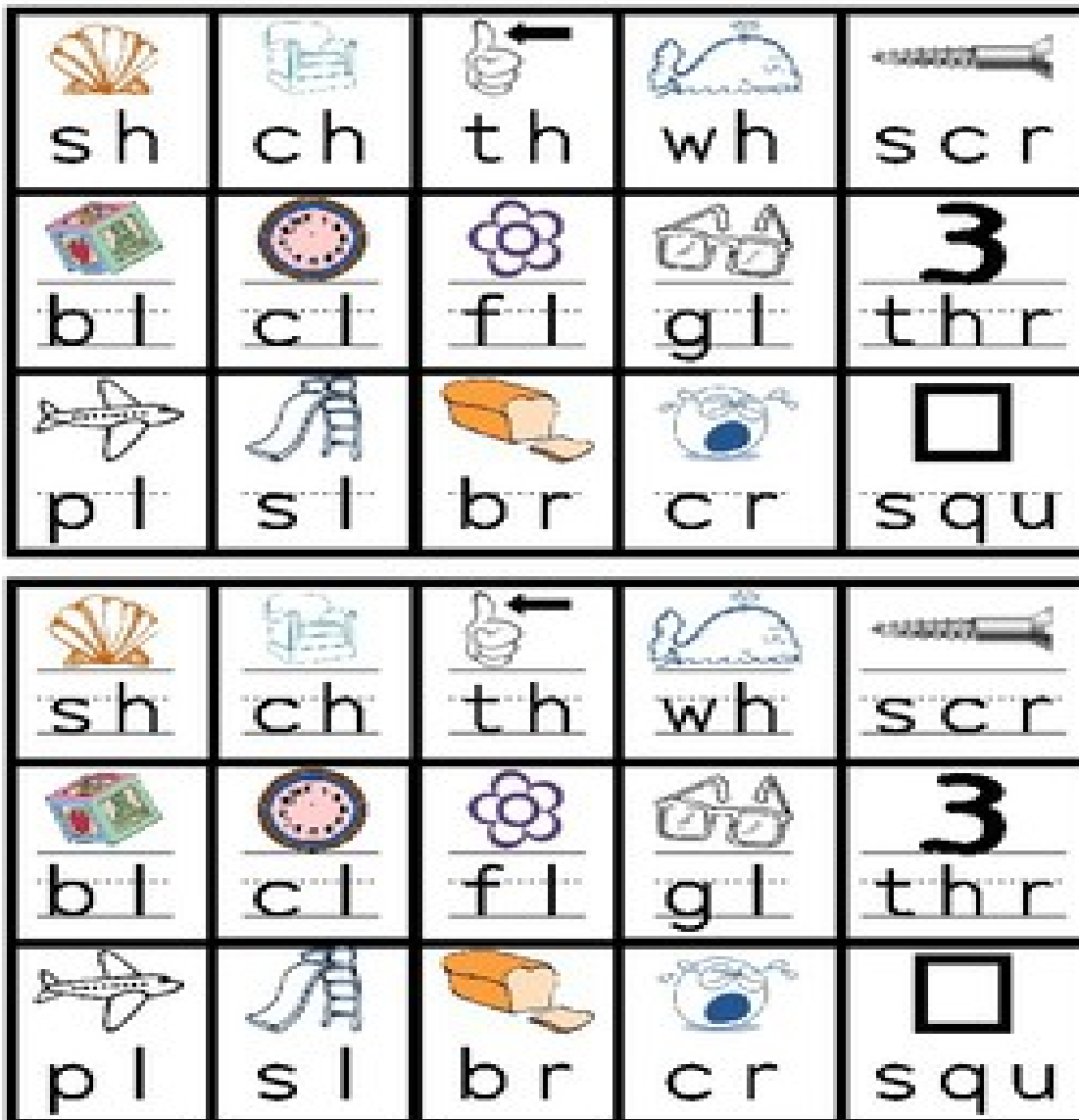
How to get them on track with reading?

- The steps to achieving the goal of fluent reading are:
 - Make sure that they know sounds for each alphabet.
 - Make sure that blending is occurring. If it is not, start labeling things within your home so that they become familiar with the spelling of common things that they know the words for. Also, see the chart and video link below.
 - Sit your child down and read the Level A-C books to them. You read it, you guys read it and then allow him/her to read it to you.
 - For your reading, slow your pace and really pronounce the words.
 - For your reading together, you read some and then stop on certain words to see if they know them, by sight, or can sound the word out by themselves. If they struggle a bit, that is ok.
 - ENCOURAGE, ENCOURAGE AND ENCOURAGE SOME MORE. Never let them see any frustration, only love and support. If you feel yourself becoming a bit less than positive, say, “Baby, I will take a second to get some water, just look over the book for a sec and try to read a bit. I am so proud of all of your work. We will get this done.”
 - Organize family time where your child can read for everyone! There is nothing more rewarding than being able to show off

what you know, right? Imagine how that feels for a child. Make it a big deal. Pop some popcorn, cook a special meal. If you place emphasis on it today, your child WILL continue the thrive.

- Make sure that you are reading the books more than once. If a child completes a book, allow them to read another. Once they finish the 2nd book, rotate back to the initial book. Keep a rotation of books going so that they are not only improving in their ability to read, BUT they are also becoming familiar with the story or content. 2nd grade will require they to take more inventory of the actual story. In addition, books read at school that are included in the Accelerated Reader program have assessments at the end of them. Teachers allow students to set a goal for books read during the year. Building confidence during the summer will allow your child to set a reasonable goal and surpass it. **Prior Preparation Provides Progression!!**

Blending Chart



Level A-C Book Sets

1. https://www.amazon.com/s?k=level+a-c+reading+book+set&ref=nb_sb_noss

Videos for blending and further assistance

1. <https://youtu.be/pOgInpE7lL8>
2. https://youtu.be/ycPaP_aONjE

How will you know that there has been improvement?

Of course, you will see that your child is reading with a better flow and gaining the ability to sound out and come to the conclusion of what a word is with a lessened amount of help from you. In addition, they will be able to answer questions that you ask. If you want to build your child's comprehension a bit more (which I am so sure that you are striving for that to occur) develop questions while they are reading. Ask them about the characters, what is occurring, where is everything happening, what mood or attitude(s) are present in the story and even what is the purpose of this book/what did you learn from this book? EXPOSURE will take a child from crawling to sprinting, sometimes, with little effort. Your child will appreciate the focus and push (one day).

Now, I know that I said that I would focus on reading BUT writing IS inclusive to what is required in 1st grade ELA. It is not anything major though. They use wider spaces to write. This was annoying for me because penmanship is really a huge factor in my mind. With that running through my mind, I did not stress writing smaller, overall, but I did assure that my son knew that the 1st letter of his 1st and last name needed to be Capitalized and LARGER than the remainder of the letters in each. Also, I mandated that he wrote, both, his 1st and last name on EVERY document. Often times, Educators may not require anything more than the 1st name, but if you do not practice a skill, it is often made into more of a weakness than a strength. Practice writing IN COMPLETE SENTENCES. Such sentences could include:

1. Name (First and Last)
2. Birthdate (with hyphens)
3. Hobbies/Overall Likes
4. Parents' Name

Please have your children begin responding to you in complete sentences as well. This will assist in their minds already going to that format when they write. Think about it, how someone speaks is often similar to their writing style. Electronics have removed the need for effective written communication. Avoid that issue by building strength in that skill ASAP.

Do not stop practicing the writing of their alphabets and numbers as well. Skills from before are ALWAYS needing to be reinforced. For example, you cannot write, if you lose knowledge of the alphabet or how it looks and/or relates to other letters when placed in a sentence.

Briefly, punctuation is an area of instruction as well. Review the chart but make up sentences to demonstrate how the punctuation sets a certain mood or feeling for the particular sentence.

➤ Ex:

- The book is large.
- Look out for that wasp!
- Are we going to the fair?

“Your You is Yours because You made it that way” - Me

