

Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Your child will learn many new concepts and skills over the course of the school year. In Texas, all public schools use the *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)* as the basis for what they teach students. TEKS are provided for Grade 1 in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts & Reading
- Spanish Language Arts & Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health Education
- Art
- Music
- Theatre
- Technology Applications

Below are a few of the TEKS that your child will learn along with strategies you can use to support your child's learning at home.



Reading

TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading

1(5) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking—self-sustained reading. The student reads grade-appropriate texts independently. The student is expected to self-select text and interact independently with text for increasing periods of time.

What does it mean?

By the end of the year, a first grade student should be reading books on a variety of topics and other written materials (e.g. menus, posters, magazines, etc.) on a first grade-level. Your child is expected to choose what they are reading and read for longer periods of time as the year goes on.

How can you support your child?

- Provide a wide variety of reading material
- Show your child that you enjoy reading by reading near him/her
- Read to your child every day
- Listen to your child read to you
- Read more than books—read labels, signs, newspapers, etc.



Writing

TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading

1(11) Composition: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking using multiple texts—writing process. The student uses the writing process recursively to compose multiple texts that are legible and uses appropriate conventions. The student is expected to:

(B) develop drafts in oral, pictorial, or written form by:

- (i) organizing with structures; and
- (ii) developing an idea with specific and relevant details

What does it mean?

A first grade student should develop drafts of stories and reports that share facts and information or give directions by

- telling their story
- drawing pictures
- writing words

Students should pay attention to the order of their story, making sure it has a clear beginning, middle, and end. Drafts should include specific details, such as descriptions.

How can you support your child?

- Tell stories to and with your child
- Provide your child with a variety of paper, pens, markers, and pencils
- Encourage your child to draw pictures that show their stories and information
- Help your child add details to their writing by asking them to tell you more about something
- Show interest in your child's writing



Mathematics

TEKS for Mathematics

1(5) Algebraic reasoning. The student applies mathematical process standards to identify and apply number patterns within properties of numbers and operations in order to describe relationships. The student is expected to:

(D) represent word problems involving addition and subtraction of whole numbers up to 20 using concrete and pictorial models and number sentences;

What does it mean?

Word problems are math problems that are presented as a story or situation. Representing a word problem means that a child can explain the word problem using objects, pictures, or number sentences ($10+5=15$).

First grade students are expected to solve word problems with answers no greater than 20.

How can you support your child?

- Provide your child with household items for them to represent word problems.
- If your child is struggling with reading the word problem, read it aloud to them and ask questions about the math problem.
- Allow your child to help you solve math problems that arise in everyday life.



Science

TEKS for Science

1(2) Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student develops abilities to ask questions and seek answers in classroom and outdoor investigations. The student is expected to:

(A) ask questions about organisms, objects, and events observed in the natural world

What does it mean?

A first grade student should be able to ask questions about animals, plants, objects, and events (weather, seasons, etc.).

How can you support your child?

- Model asking questions for your child
- Go on walks to find interesting natural materials in your neighborhood or community
- Encourage your child to ask questions by showing interest in their questions



Social Studies

TEKS for Social Studies

1(19) Social studies skills. The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings. The student is expected to:

(A) use a problem-solving process to identify a problem, gather information, list and consider options, consider advantages and disadvantages, choose and implement a solution, and evaluate the effectiveness of the solution.

What does it mean?

- A first grade student should be able to solve problems by choosing an informed solution.
- A first grade student should find out multiple solutions and evaluate the pros and cons of each solution before making a decision.
- After trying out a solution, a first grade student should reflect on how well their solution worked.

How can you support your child?

- Model problem-solving for your child
- Allow your child to help you solve problems
- Find appropriate problems at home for your child to solve independently