

Kindergarten 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 kindergarten 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

K(4) 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 kindergartner should be reading books on a variety of topics and other written materials (e.g. menus, posters, magazines, etc.) on a kindergarten-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
- Read more than books—read labels, signs, newspapers, etc.



Writing

TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading

K(10) 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 organizing ideas.

What does it mean?

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

- telling their story
- drawing pictures
- writing words

At the beginning of kindergarten, students will rely on storytelling and drawing pictures to share their stories and information. As the year goes on, students will begin to label their pictures with some words followed by writing a sentence or two about their pictures.

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 label their pictures
- Model writing for your child



Mathematics

TEKS for Mathematics

K(2) Number and operations. The student applies mathematical process standards to understand how to represent and compare whole numbers, the relative positions and magnitude of whole numbers, and relationships within the numeration system. The student is expected to:

(B) read, write, and represent whole numbers from 0 to at least 20 with and without objects or pictures

What does it mean?

A kindergarten student should be able to

- recognize written numbers 0 - 20
- write the numbers 0 - 20
- When given a number 0 - 20, display that many objects
- When given a number 0 - 20, draw that many pictures

How can you support your child?

- Incorporate counting to daily routines (shopping, cooking, car rides, etc.)
- Have your child identify numbers on labels and signs
- Read *counting books* with your child
- Help your child practice writing numbers 0-20



Science

TEKS for Science

K(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 kindergarten 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

K(16) 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 kindergarten student should be able to solve problems by choosing an informed solution.
- A kindergarten 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 kindergarten 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