

The way we taught students in the past simply does not prepare them for the higher demands of college and careers today and in the future. Your school and schools throughout the country are working to

What your child will be learning in kindergarten English language arts and literacy

In kindergarten, students will learn the alphabet and the basic features of letters and words. They will break down spoken and written words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes. These important skills will enable your child to learn new words and to read and understand simple books and stories. Students will also learn to write and share information in a variety of ways, including drawing, writing letters and words, listening to others, and speaking aloud. Activities in these areas will include:

- ™ C V b ^ c \ V c Y I g ^ i ^ c \ j e e Z g " V c Y a d I Z g X V h Z
- ™ B V X] ^ c \ a Z i i Z g h i d h d j c Y h V c Y j h ^ c \ d i] Z g b
unfamiliar words when reading and writing
- ™ A Z V g c ^ c \ V c Y j h ^ c \ c Z I I d g Y h
- ™ > Y Z c i ^ [n ^ c \ I d g Y h i] V i g] n b Z
- ™ G Z V Y ^ c \ X d b b d c I d g Y h h j X] V h the, of, you, are,
- ™ G h ^ c \ V c Y g ^ c \ h f j Z h i ^ d c h V W d j i V h i d g n i] Z
out loud
- ™ > Y Z c i ^ [n ^ c \ i Z g h h Z i i ^ c \ h ! V c Y b V _ d g Z k Z c i
- ™ G Z X c ^ o ^ c \ i] Z e Z g h d c ! e a V X Z ! i] ^ c \ ! d g ^ Y Z
- ™ E V g i ^ X ^ e V i ^ c \ ^ c Y ^ h X j h h ^ d c h W n a ^ h i Z c ^ c \
- ™ J h ^ c \ d V W X ^ c V i ^ d c d [Y g V i ^ c \ ! h e Z V ^ c \ ! V c Y
event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion
- ™ V ^ c \ e V g i ^ c h] V g Z Y g Z V Y ^ c \ ! I g ^ i ^ c \ ! V c Y
- ™ m Z g h ^ c \ i] d j \] i h ! [Z Z a ^ c \ h ! V c Y ^ Y Z V h X a Z

Partnering with your child's teacher

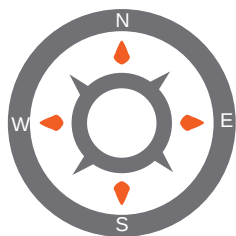
Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

- ™ > h b n X] ^ a Y a Z V g c ^ c \ i d g Z V Y V c Y I g ^ i Z 4
- ™ L] V i V g Z b n X] ^ a Y È h h i g Z c \ i] h V c Y I Z V ^ c Z
- ™ L] V i X V c > Y d V i] d b Z i d b V ^ Z h j g Z i] V i b r

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Read to your child and have him or her read to you every day for at least 15 minutes. Pick out words that might be new to your child or words that have multiple or complex meanings. Discuss those words and how they add to what the writer is saying.
2. Ask your child to retell a story in his or her own words by telling what]VeeZcZY Ñghi! hZXdcY! i]^gY! ZiX#
3. Ask your child to think about what the message of a story may be or what he or she learned from an informational book or article.
4. Look for opportunities in everyday places to build your child's vocabulary.
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books ^c l]^X] i]Zn VgZ ^ciZgZhiZY id YZkZade V libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
6. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Additional Resources



For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and literacy, go to [http://iie/\\$\\$lll#XdgZhiVcYVgYi\]Z"hiVcYVgYh\\$`Zn"ed^cih"^c"Zc\ a^h\]"aVc\jVcommoncoreworks.org](http://iie/$$lll#XdgZhiVcYVgYi]Z)

For more information on helping your child become a reader, go to <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html>