



KY Standards

Your home for Kentucky Academic Standards.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

A Family's Guide to the *Kentucky Academic Standards*

This guide was made to help families understand the *Kentucky Academic Standards* and to show what children will learn by the end of kindergarten. This tool provides information about the key ideas and skills teachers will introduce in mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies. It includes possible examples of what students will be asked to do in class, how to help your child at home, questions you can ask your kindergartner and questions families can ask their child's teacher.

This guide also was designed to help parents understand how they can work with teachers to support the learning of their kindergartner. When teachers and families work together to help students master *Kentucky's Academic Standards*, students can succeed by developing the skills they will need for life after graduation.

If you have questions about this information or if your child needs extra help, please contact your child's teacher.

Why are the *Kentucky Academic Standards* important?

Kentucky Academic Standards are important because they help make sure that all students, no matter where they live or what school they attend, have the skills they need to go after a successful future. Standards represent a goal or outcome of a subject area (such as mathematics, reading and writing, science and social studies). They help set clear and consistent expectations for what students should know and be able to do from kindergarten through high school. The standards are not a curriculum and do not determine the design of a lesson plan or how units should be organized. Decisions on how best to help students meet the goals in the standards are left to local school districts and teachers.

How are the standards organized?

The *Kentucky Academic Standards* are organized differently based on the content area. Some of the *Kentucky Academic Standards* are arranged grade-by-grade, while others are grouped into several grade levels, such as "high school" for grades 9-12. In all subjects, the standards show what students should learn and be able to do, but not how those learning experiences are to be designed or what resources should be used. For more information on the *Kentucky Academic Standards*, visit <https://kystandards.org/> to read the complete standards and find standards-related resources.



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KINDERGARTEN MATHEMATICS

OVERVIEW:

During kindergarten, students will develop the ability to add and subtract up to 5. Your child will:

- Become more comfortable knowing and using numbers, including the ability to count objects and add and subtract small numbers;
- Learn to notice similarities and differences in groups of objects and numbers, as well as how to make and break apart numbers up to 20; and
- Identify and describe basic 2D and 3D shapes.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Counting objects to tell how many there are and then writing that number down;
- Comparing two groups that contain up to 10 objects each;
- Quickly and accurately adding and subtracting numbers up to 5;
- Adding and subtracting numbers up to 10 by using objects to act out word problem;
- Naming and describing shapes, such as triangles, squares, rectangles, hexagons, circles, cubes, cones, cylinders and spheres;
- Identifying coins by name; and
- Grouping and breaking apart numbers from 11 to 19 based on place value.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Take turns with your child counting out loud, forward and backward, beginning with different numbers.
- Give your child seven blocks and have him or her show you ways to make seven on two plates (for example: 5 and 2, 6 and 1, 3 and 4.) Do this with numbers up to 10.
- Have your child act out a word problem using household items to add and subtract (such as cubes, beads or crackers).
- Have your child find examples of squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders and spheres in your home.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What number comes before/after a given number?
- Which group of blocks is greater?
- Can you find some examples of squares in our home?
- Show me a way to make ___ with your fingers (for example, 7).
- Roll one die and ask your child to say what you rolled and what number comes before or what number comes next.
- Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. "Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?" (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer.)

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What will my child will be learning this year? How can I help his or her learning?
- How can I help my child when they keep skipping a number when counting?
- What's the best way to teach my child how to add and subtract?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help her or him in this area?

KINDERGARTEN READING AND WRITING

OVERVIEW:

During kindergarten, students will develop new language skills to help them become beginning readers and writers. Your child will:

- Recognize the connection between written and spoken language, and will recognize and produce consonant and vowel sounds, syllables and rhyming words;
- Listen to, read, talk and write about kindergarten fiction and nonfiction using clues from the text to help make sense of the writing;
- Print numbers 0-20 and upper and lowercase letters to begin to form words;
- Use a combination of drawing, speaking and writing to express opinions, explanations and personal stories; and
- Speak and write appropriately using basic parts of speech, simple capitalization, punctuation and phonetic spelling, as well as language that shows a growing vocabulary.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Speaking and writing rhyming words;
- Asking and answering questions about key ideas and details (with support from an adult);
- Identifying key details from text to show understanding of the lesson learned or the central idea of a story;
- Printing numbers and all upper and lowercase letters;
- Stating an opinion or preference about a topic or book in writing (for example, "My favorite book is ...") and providing reasons why; and
- Writing word lists/sentences, sorting pictures/letters/sounds/words and labeling pictures with words or sentences.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Play word games like, "I Spy," sing songs like, "Itsy Bitsy Spider," make up silly rhymes like, "The cat is wearing a hat on the mat."
- Ask and answer questions before, during and after reading to encourage thinking and understanding, and practice retelling the lesson learned or the information presented. You also can do this with songs, movies, TV shows and more.
- Talk about things that are going on at school, home and in the community.
- Practice writing numerals 0-20.
- Practice writing all uppercase and lowercase letters.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What rhymes with bat? Do cat and man rhyme? How do you know? (Repeat with different words.)
- What did you learn from something you read today? (Could be at school or home.)
- What is your favorite (book, toy, game, etc.)? Tell me three reasons why this is your favorite.
- Play a game, cook, watch a movie or read together. Afterward, have her or him explain what you did together.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- How well can my child produce a rhyme when given a word? What can I do at home to help him or her?
- Can my child retell and make sense of what she or he has read, seen or heard? If not, what can I do at home to help?

KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE

OVERVIEW:

During kindergarten, your child will be an active learner who will be doing science to learn science. They will learn skills that promote analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking and problem solving similar to professionals in the field while making connections across the different areas of science to develop a deeper understanding of the science concepts. Your child will:

- Develop an understanding of patterns and variations in local weather and the purpose of watching the weather forecast to prepare and respond to severe weather;
- Determine the effects of sunlight on the earth's surfaces;
- Apply a basic understanding of the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object; and
- Learn about what plants and animals need to survive, and how their habitat supports those needs.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Observe the weather each day and collect weather conditions over time to find patterns;
- Observe plants and animals to discover their basic needs;
- Plan and carry out an investigation with guidance to see how when an object is pushed harder it moves faster and goes farther;
- Design and build a ramp to make a car move faster and farther or a structure that would cause an object to turn;
- Use tools and materials to design a structure that will reduce the warming effect of sunlight on an area; and
- Talk about how we can reduce the amount of trash ending up in the environment.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Talk about the weather and how it changes.
- Notice the animals and plants in your yard and neighborhood and discuss what they need to survive.
- Explore motion by talking about how toys and balls move.
- Consider recycling to teach your child how we can reduce the amount of trash going into our landfills.
- Talk with your child about severe weather and how your family is prepared for severe weather events.
- Watch the weather forecast and discuss questions that arise.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What happens if you push or pull something harder?
- Where do animals live and why do they live there?
- What is the weather like today and how is it different from yesterday?
- Why is it usually cooler in the morning than in the afternoon?
- What do you do at school to prepare for severe weather?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- How can I help reinforce what my son or daughter is learning about force and motion?
- How can I increase my child's curiosity about the world?
- How often does my daughter or son learn about science?
- What is my child learning about in science?
- How is my child using what they have learned about science?

KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL STUDIES

OVERVIEW:

In kindergarten, students discover the basics of social studies by learning about themselves, their relationships and their community. Your child will:

- Learn about familiar places, such as the school, city and their local communities;
- Explain the purpose of local government, the responsibilities of individuals in the local community and identify several symbols that represent the key components of being an American and a Kentuckian;
- Explain how people use and communities provide goods and services;
- Explore geography in the local community and explain how humans affect the environment; and
- Compare, using personal experiences, how life in the past is different from today.

Examples of Your Child's Work at School:

- Asking questions about the school, city and local communities;
- Identifying school rules;
- Comparing and contrasting life today to life in the past;
- Determining the differences in needs and wants and making connections to everyday life;
- Using maps to identify routes to various locations; and
- Describing the geography of the community.

How to Help Your Child at Home:

- Encourage your child to ask questions. And when your child asks questions, rather than give answers immediately, suggest thinking about where the answer might be found.
- Read with your child every day. Look for social studies related books, both fiction and nonfiction, at your school or local library.
- Ask your child about school rules, consequences (such as the results of an action) and incentives (which encourage or motivates a decision maker in favor of a particular choice).
- Take a walk in your community and take note of the geographic features (such as mountains or lakes) around you.
- Talk about the services provided in your community and what would happen if they weren't available. For example, what would happen if the garbage collectors or mailman didn't come?
- Talk to your child about the importance of civic participation, such as voting, and find examples in past and current events.

Questions You Can Ask Your Child:

- What jobs are important at school? In your classroom?
- What happens if we don't follow the rules? At school? At home?
- Can you use a map to show me buildings, landforms (such as mountains and valleys) or natural resources that are near and far from our house?
- How do you think things are different from when I was little? How is it different than things in your life?

Questions You Can Ask Your Child's Teacher:

- What books and authors would support my child's learning?
- What games can help my child learn about the locations of places at home?
- What places can I visit with my child locally that may help him or her learn what is being taught in class?