



Parents Guide to

Students Success

Preschool

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of preschool in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. This guide is based on the new Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for Kindergarten.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live are prepared for success in college and the work force. Standards provide an important first step - a clear road map for learning for teachers, parents and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A sample of what your child will be working on in Preschool

- Making predictions about what happens next in a book
- Listening actively to a variety of literature and informational text
- Using books appropriately, holding them right side up and turning pages one at a time from front to back
- Recognizing and producing rhyming words
- Recognizing and naming some upper case letters
- Recognizing ones' own name and familiar common signs and labels
- Using a combination of dictating and drawing to explain information about a topic and/or to tell a story
- Using technology, (e.g. computer, cell phones, cameras and other devices) to communicate and convey messages in pictures and/or words
- Taking turns talking and listening, waiting until someone is finished speaking, asking questions and waiting for an answer.
- Speaking clearly and expressing thoughts, feelings and ideas

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Keeping the Conversation focused.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In preschool, these include...

- Observing and using appropriate ways of interacting in a group
- Listening attentively to a story and gaining knowledge from books listened to
- Ask to see a sample of your child's work. How can I help my child improve or excel in this area?
- What are some things I could do with my child outside the classroom?

Mathematics

- Saying the names of numbers in a meaningful way
- Recognizing and naming written numerals 0-10
- Understanding the relationships between numerals and quantities up to ten
- Using one-to-one correspondence count up to ten items
- Describing collections of objects using comparative language, such as more/less than, equal to, greater than
- Using objects to model real-world addition (putting together) and subtraction (taking away) problems up through five
- Recognizing and comparing the attributes of objects using appropriate vocabulary (e.g., long/longer, short/shorter, heavy/heavier, same and holds more/less)
- Sorting, classifying, and categorizing objects by more than one attribute
- Recognizing that coins and dollars represent money
- Identifying positions of objects using appropriate language (e.g., next to, above, close to and apart)
- Creating and identifying two and three-dimensional shapes using various materials

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

KEEPING THE CONVERSATION FOCUSED

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In preschool, these include...

- Counting objects with one-to-one correspondence up to ten
- Sorting, classifying and categorizing objects
- Identifying attribute of basic 2-diminsional shapes

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to learn/work and carve out time *everyday* when your child can concentrate. You should try to sit down with your child at least twice a week for 15 minutes while engaged in a learning activity (e.g., play dough, puzzles, puppets, Legos, dolls). Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Read with your child everyday. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of a story. Share your own ideas. And to find more books for your child to read, go to your local libraries.
- Model good reading habits

Mathematics

- Ask your child questions that require counting up to 10 items. For example, "How many plates do we need for dinner?"
- Ask your child to participate in household activities that require sorting. For example, sorting socks, silverware, toys and personal belongings

For more information, the full standards are available at www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/current.html

