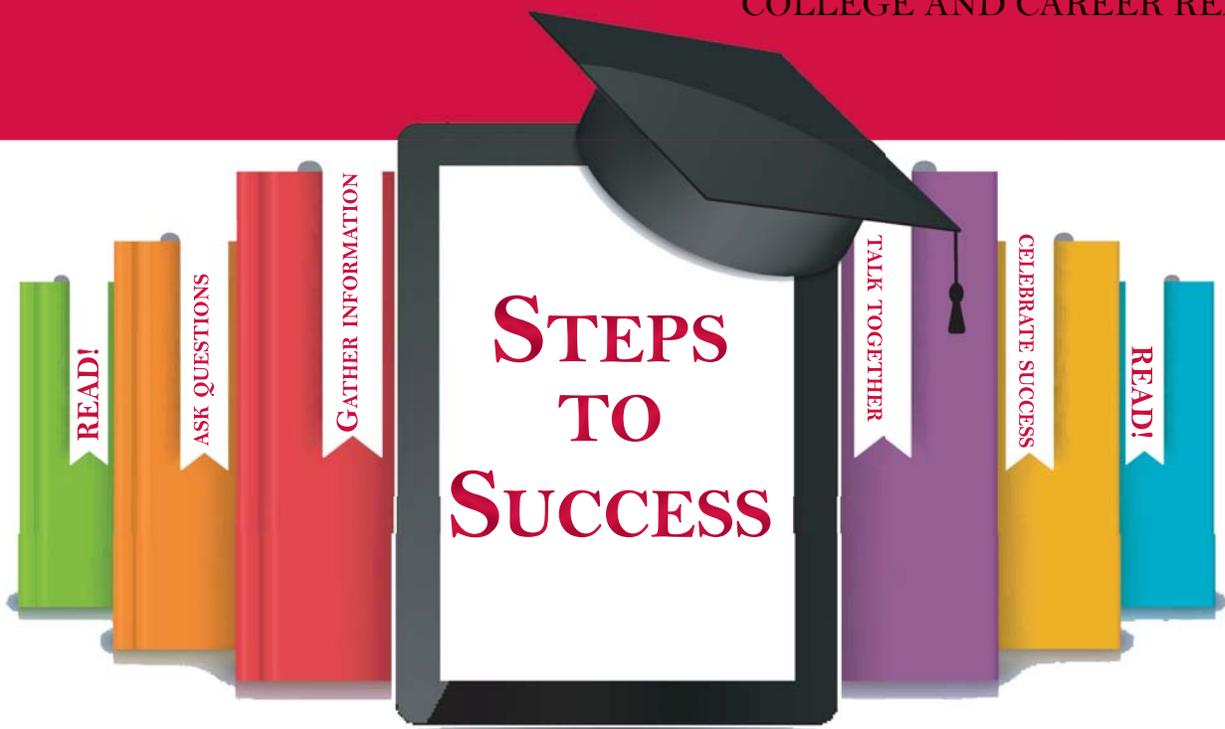


# SOUTH CAROLINA STANDARDS

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY



## Family-Friendly Guide for First Grade

### English Language Arts

First-grade children are creative and enthusiastic about learning to read and write. The *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards* use this energy to expand the reading and writing skills learned in kindergarten. As the year progresses, first graders read more, talk more, and gain deeper understanding. They write with greater ability and use a growing vocabulary. When a child starts school, reading becomes a primary way of learning. While the skills involved in reading and writing take many years to develop fully, the fundamental skills are learned in the first grade.



## STEPS TO SUCCESS

*This document is designed to:*

- Provide examples of the standards, skills, and knowledge your child will learn in English language arts and should be able to do upon exiting first grade
- Suggest activities on how you can help your child at home
- Offer additional resources for information and help



Log on to the SC Department of Education website, <http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/standards-learning/>, for the complete standards.

## LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

The *South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for English Language Arts (ELA)*:

- Outline the knowledge and skills students must master so that, as high-school graduates, they have the expertise needed to be successful in college or careers.
- Provide a set of grade-level standards, “stair steps,” based on the previous grade’s standards which serve as the foundation for the next grade.
- Ensure that no matter where a student lives in South Carolina, the expectations for learning are the same.

Human knowledge now doubles about every three years. Therefore, revision of South Carolina’s standards occurs periodically to respond to this growth of knowledge and increase of needed skills so our students will be ready for college or jobs. The *Col-*

*lege- and Career-Ready Standards* prepare students for dealing with the growing mass of information by not only emphasizing content knowledge but by also stressing the skills of reasoning, analyzing data, and applying information to examine and solve situations.

South Carolinians developed these academic standards for South Carolina’s children. The ELA standards are aligned with the *Profile of the South Carolina Graduate*, which summarizes the knowledge, skills, and habits employers expect (See [http://sccompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate\\_Updated.pdf](http://sccompetes.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Profile-of-the-South-Carolina-Graduate_Updated.pdf).) Developed by business leaders, the *Profile* is approved by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and is endorsed by the Superintendents’ Roundtable, as well as South Carolina’s colleges and universities. The *Profile* demands world-class knowledge and skills, emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving, communication, and interpersonal skills.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FIRST GRADE

### INQUIRY AND INVESTIGATION

First-grade students work to gather information and facts on a topic. They begin to ask the type of questions that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving skills later in school and in life. These **Steps to Success** include:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and begin to talk about the “I wonders” on topics of interest</li> <li>• With help from the teacher, collect information from many sources</li> <li>• With help from the teacher, select the appropriate information and report the discoveries found</li> <li>• With help from the teacher, look for patterns and relationships</li> <li>• With help from the teacher, reflect on the thinking process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move from “wondering” to questions that prompt discussions and exploration</li> <li>• Develop a plan and collect information from many sources</li> <li>• Select the important information and report the discoveries found</li> <li>• Draw conclusions from patterns and relationships found</li> <li>• Think about the discoveries and conclusions, and take action</li> <li>• Reflect on the act of learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions that lead to discussions and investigations</li> <li>• Develop a plan for collecting relevant information from many sources</li> <li>• Select the most important information, revise ideas, tell about conclusions and report what is found</li> <li>• Think about the conclusions and ask new questions to guide further study</li> <li>• Think about and describe the act of learning. Know when to seek help.</li> </ul>

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FIRST GRADE

## LEARNING TO READ

First-grade students continue to work on the relationships of letters and sounds that make up words and how they give meaning. They use the basics of written grammar and work on building clear sentences. These **Steps**, combined with those of writing and communication discussed below, develop strong readers. These **Steps to Success** include:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand letter sounds, syllables, and words</li><li>• Practice rhyming, matching words with similar beginning sounds, and blending sounds into words</li><li>• Use phonics and word analysis to figure out words</li><li>• Recognize word parts (prefixes, suffixes, and root words)</li><li>• Learn “sight” (frequently used) words (ex. me, you, see, run)</li><li>• Use pictures and other text to figure out new words</li><li>• Read simple texts accurately and with understanding of the meaning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use knowledge of the individual sounds of letters to read simple words</li><li>• Read a two-syllable word by breaking the word into parts and understand that every syllable must have a vowel sound</li><li>• Use context to confirm or correct word recognition and understanding</li><li>• Expand the number of “sight” (frequently used) words</li><li>• Begin reading independently with accuracy and understanding of the meaning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use knowledge of the individual sounds of letter to read</li><li>• Use knowledge of how syllables work to read multiple-syllable words</li><li>• Use context to confirm or correct word recognition and understanding</li><li>• Learn more types of punctuation (ex. commas and apostrophes)</li><li>• Read more independently, with increasing accuracy and understanding of the meaning, for longer periods</li></ul>



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FIRST GRADE

## WRITING

First-grade students begin to write and to describe events, give opinions, and provide information on a topic. By the end of the year, students will write in complete sentences. Their use of basic English grammar expands. These **Steps to Success** include:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Learn to print capital and small letters</li><li>• Write by leaving space between words</li><li>• Use basic punctuation rules when writing (capitalize the first letter of a sentence and place a period at the end of a sentence)</li><li>• With help from the teacher, use drawings, letters, or dictate words in order to “write” about a topic or give an opinion</li><li>• With help from the teacher, plan, revise, and edit writings</li><li>• With help from the teacher, write often and on various topics both in and outside the classroom</li><li>• With help from the teacher, locate letter keys on electronic devices</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Practice printing capital and small letters</li><li>• Learn to use additional punctuation (capitalize dates and names, use periods, question marks, and exclamation marks)</li><li>• Look at books to pick a topic to write about. Introduce the topic, state an opinion, give a reason for the opinion, and close.</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit to improve writings</li><li>• Write often on various topics both in and outside the classroom</li><li>• Work on keyboarding skills to write simple messages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Print and begin to develop cursive writing</li><li>• Continue to learn punctuation and standard English grammar</li><li>• Explore books and other materials to pick a topic to write about. Introduce the topic, state an opinion, give reasons that support the opinion, and provide a closing sentence.</li><li>• Plan, revise, and edit to better focus on a topic to improve writings</li><li>• Write often on various topics both in and outside the classroom</li><li>• Continue to work on keyboarding skills</li></ul>



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FIRST GRADE

## COMMUNICATION

First-grade students participate in discussions. They listen to others, present their ideas, and respond to others' comments. They examine how a variety of media present topics in order to improve their communication skills. These **Steps to Success** include:



### Kindergarten

- Practice taking turns listening to others and speaking clearly
- With help from the teacher, recall or collect information to ask or answer questions, both individually and in a group
- Explore how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats to see how understanding is influenced
- Use appropriate images and illustrations to support discussions and presentations
- Identify a speaker's purpose



### First Grade

- Practice taking turns listening to others and speaking clearly
- Express ideas gathered from various sources in a clear and concise way. Conduct research individually and in a group.
- Explore and compare how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats to see how understanding is influenced
- Use appropriate images and illustrations to support discussions and presentations to clarify thoughts and ideas
- Identify a speaker's purpose and what the speaker does to keep the listener engaged

### Second Grade

- Take turns listening to others and speaking clearly
- Express ideas gathered from many sources in a concise way. Conduct research both individually and in a group.
- Explain how ideas and topics are shown in different media and formats
- Use techniques of volume and tone, eye contact, facial expressions, and posture when speaking
- Create a simple presentation using audio and visual tools to clarify ideas and thoughts
- Examine why a speaker makes certain word choices and uses descriptive language

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN FIRST GRADE

## READING FOR ENJOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT

First-grade students learn to think about the purpose of a book and identify the main idea. They retell a story to show understanding and the order of events. These **Steps to Success** include:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the parts of a book and of a story (title page or title, cover, author, illustrator)</li> <li>With help from the teacher, describe the story's setting, the characters, the main idea and important details</li> <li>With help from the teacher, make a connection between some action in the story and the experiences of the reader</li> <li>With help from the teacher, identify a problem in the story and explain its solution</li> <li>With help from the teacher, identify the cause of an event and imagine a different outcome</li> <li>Read independently</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine if the author's main purpose is to explain, entertain, inform, or convince</li> <li>Tell the order of events and determine the beginning, middle, and end of the writing; as well as, determine the topic</li> <li>Describe the setting and identify the plot, including the problem and solution</li> <li>Describe what happened and why</li> <li>Read independently for longer periods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine if the author's main purpose is to explain, entertain, inform, or convince</li> <li>Determine who is telling the story at different points in a text - the narrator or characters</li> <li>Make predictions before and during reading; confirm or change thinking</li> <li>Explain what happened, why, and how it shaped the theme</li> <li>Describe how cultural background influences characters, setting, and the development of the plot</li> <li>Read independently for extended periods</li> </ul>

## READING FOR INFORMATION

First-grade students examine the basic questions: *who, what, when, where, why, and how*. They begin to learn how to gain and apply information, and to draw suggestions and conclusions from text. These **Steps to Success** include:

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand information can come from a variety of sources</li> <li>With help from the teacher, ask and answer the basic questions about a text</li> <li>With help from the teacher, summarize the central idea and details</li> <li>With help from the teacher, give key details to draw conclusions in texts read</li> <li>With help from the teacher, compare similar topics</li> <li>With help from the teacher, select important information, revise ideas, and tell about conclusions</li> <li>With help from the teacher, think about the conclusions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask and answer basic questions to show understanding of a text</li> <li>Compare familiar texts</li> <li>Use key details to draw conclusions in texts heard or read</li> <li>Select the most important information, revise ideas, and tell about conclusions</li> <li>Think about the conclusions and take action</li> <li>Reflect on the act of learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask and answer questions to given and implied information to demonstrate understanding of a text</li> <li>Provide details to draw conclusions or make predictions from texts heard or read</li> <li>Select the most important information, revise ideas, and tell about conclusions</li> <li>Think about the conclusions and ask new questions to guide further study</li> <li>Think about and describe the act of learning. Know when to seek help.</li> </ul>

## LEARNING AT HOME

Your child needs your support and help to succeed in the first grade. Work with your child at home. Be informed on what the tasks are and be ready to help with specific skills. Here are some suggestions for things to do at home to help your child improve reading comprehension, gain vocabulary, and improve writing skills:

- Let your child read her favorite books over and over again to you and family members. This practice helps in gaining confidence, word recognition, and improves reading aloud.
- Play word games with your child. Substitute letters in words (ex. sat, cat, hat, bat, ball, call). As the year progresses, increase the difficulty of the words and the number of letters substituted.
- When your child makes a mistake in reading, ask him questions to guide him and help him gain skill with self-correction. *Does the word make sense in the sentence? What clues might the picture give to help figure out the word?* However, if the word he puts in place of the correct one does not change the meaning, let the error go; it shows he is reading for meaning. Correct it next time.
- Have your child describe the main character in a book. Ask your child to retell the story in her own words. Have her summarize the story. *What character did she like the best? Why?*
- Visit the library frequently and let your child pick out books to read. If some of the books are too difficult, but the subject is of interest to your child, read it together and let him pick out the words he knows.
- Have your child circle certain “sight words” found on a page in the newspaper or magazine (such as *them* or *are*). The next day have her circle words beginning with the same sound (ex. *-th* or *-sh*).



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The *Student Reading Success Activity Guide, June 2015* at <http://www.eoc.sc.gov> is available for download from the S.C. Education Oversight Committee. It has information and activities for helping your child become a better reader. Scroll down to the bottom of the web page to see the link.
- See [www.pbs.org/parents/](http://www.pbs.org/parents/) for insights into child development, and for fun learning games see <http://pbskids.org/> from *Public Broadcasting*. Be sure to check out *Super Why*.
- You must sign up for this site, but the activities on this part of the site are free: [www.education.com/activity/first-grade/reading/](http://www.education.com/activity/first-grade/reading/). There are learning games also available.
- Fun interactive games are available on the free section at: <http://www.smarttutor.com/free-resources/free-reading-lessons/first-grade-reading/>.
- For printable worksheets for reading, phonics, and writing, visit <http://www.tlsbooks.com/firstgradeworksheets.htm>.
- Print out worksheets for reading and writing fun from <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables/activities/ages-6-7>
- The S.C. State Library and many of our county public libraries provide access to *TumbleBooks*, online books that your child can read or the computer will read the book with him. *Tumblebooks*, <http://daybyday-sc.org/read-with-me>, also has games and activities.
- Don't forget the activities and resources at your public library. The library has reading activities, books, puzzles, summer programs, and more. Many libraries have "beginning readers" sections.
- Do you have a smart phone? Review the free reading apps available for your child. Type in "reading app for beginners." (Some apps are free at first but then ask you to pay for additional games.)



A publication of SC Department of Education  
([www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov))

SC Education Oversight Committee  
([www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov))

