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Introduction

It feels like I was just changing my son diapers and already, it's time to start the first grade. Im'a be honest, Im more nervous for the start of 1st grade than my child is lol. Currently we are living in difficult times; Covid-19 has affected us all. School environments will be a lot different.

That's why I'm creating this guide to making the transition to 1st grade easier than ever. While in kindergarten, my son was already apart of a "big school", surrounded by more students, eating at a cafeteria, and playing outside during recess.

He adapted to the school hours, the homework packets, and circle time. Lately, I've been talking with my child about entering first grade, and how his routine will be different from kindergarten. We talked about how the work load will increase, the longer school hours, and learning to get around with little assistance.

As your child adjusts, they may get tired at the end of the day or have trouble focusing as the day progresses – that's fine! What I would do is check with your child's teacher on their progress, and work together to develop strategies if they're having trouble adjusting, especially at the beginning of the year.

Most importantly, continuing the learning process at home with enriching books and activities that support what they're learning in school. When your first grader spends time learning new skills with you, it not only makes that time more valuable to them, but also helps them reach the milestones expected at this age. I did research, and here is everything you need to know about the exciting year of 1st grade, and the materials that will help your child thrive.

Reading Comprehension Skills



According to an article “in Scholastic” , building reading skills is an essential part of a first grader’s learning process and academic success down the road. Even when students are not specifically learning “reading,” they are constantly using this skill to learn other subjects—which is why it’s crucial for your child’s success in all subjects. As first graders develop their reading comprehension, they will talk more about certain topics and gain a deeper understanding of what they read.

Checklist for building reading skills, first grade:

- Recognizes the features of a sentence (for example: first words, capitalization, and ending punctuation).
- Recognizes the spelling and sound of two letters that represent one sound, such as *th*, *ch*, *wh* (these are also known as digraphs).
- Learns to read regularly spelled one-syllable words.
- Understands how an “e” at the end of a word changes a vowel within the word.
- Breaks up longer words into syllables in order to read them.
- Reads grade-level words that have “irregular” spellings.
- Knows the difference between and reads fiction texts (such as *Baby Shark*) and non-fiction texts (like *LEGO Nonfiction: Super Sharks*) with purpose and an understanding of the plot and important ideas and characters.
- Talks about and answers questions about the text they read.
- Reads texts aloud at an appropriate speed and with expression.
- Compares different characters, events, or texts.
- Understands the purpose of and uses common features in a book, such as headings, tables of contents, and glossaries.
- Begins to read grade-appropriate poetry (such as the poems in *100 Super Sight Word Poems*) and identifies words and phrases that relate to emotions and the senses.