





# 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,</li></ul>		

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## 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 evidence to support the opinion.</li> </ul>



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**READING FOR ENJOYMENT AND ENRICHMENT**

## LEARNING AT HOME

- 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

## 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 materials of our Odith h0diT4



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