

2024
**Summer Requirements
for students entering
Grade 1**



All children need a summer plan to keep them motivated to learn. Three things can happen during the summer months: 1) your child can regress three months; 2) your child can maintain her/his year's growth; or 3) your child can continue to learn. There are three important educational areas that must be integrated into your child's day, every day. They are:

1. Reading Comprehension
2. Math – Facts/Problem Solving
3. Writing

Here are some ways you can help your child continue to learn:

Reading Comprehension

Your child will learn to read better by reading more and being read to. It is that simple. Reading is not naturally 'fun' for every child. Learning to read takes work and work can't always be fun. Talking to children about what they have read, or what has been read to them is an absolute necessity to help them make connections to what they are reading and to understand the content. These connections make reading fun. Here is how you help your child connect:

Reading – Choose at least one book for your child to read for the week. This book should be at your child's reading level. Prior to reading the book, discuss with your child what s/he thinks the book will be about. After reading ask these questions:

- Was your prediction of the book, correct? If not, how was it different?
- What happened at the beginning? middle? end?
- What was your favorite part?
- What does the book remind you of?
- Written Response: Have your child draw a picture of her/his favorite part and write three sentences about the story.

In addition, your child needs to be reading, and be read to, at least 20 minutes each day. It is vital that s/he hear the vocabulary, as well as your intonation and fluency. When you read aloud children get a better understanding of the purpose of punctuation, as well as the emotion and drama of the text. Read with feeling! The "together time" is worth the effort, and most of all, your child is seeing that reading must be important because you are taking the time to read to him/her and that you read, too!

Math – Facts/Problem Solving

Children need to see the connections between math and the everyday world before they can see the patterns in math. Here are some strategies you can incorporate in your daily lives:

- Think out loud when you are trying to figure out how much of something you need. For example, when you are setting the table, discuss how many people will be eating dinner and how many plates, forks, napkins, etc. you will need.
- While at the grocery store: 1) Notice numbers – if your child is having difficulty recognizing numbers, focus on one number and have her/him count every time s/he sees that number. Your child can carry a notepad (kids LOVE this) and write it down or tally it. (*This can also work for finding letters and sight words*); 2) If you buy two, does it cost more or less? 3) Tell your child how many apples you want and have her/him put them in the bag. Better yet, tell your child you are buying four apples and you have already put two in the bag. How many more do you need? 4) Which one weighs more? less?
- The idea is to get your child thinking and, more importantly, understanding and recognizing.
- When in the car: 1) Talk about how far you will travel and how long you think it will take to get there. Say, “It is one o’clock now. It will take us 2 hours to get there. What time will it be when we arrive?” Show your child a watch and have her/him point out the time show. Ask these types of questions on all of your car trips; 2) Play the number search game. Focus on a particular number or number word. (*Again, this works well for letters and sight words*).

Talking to your child in this way encourages her/him to think. Be patient as you wait for your child’s responses. Wait time is critical at this age. Your child needs thinking time.

Math – To enter 1st grade at grade level, your child is expected to have mastered the following skills:

- Recognize numbers to 30
- Count to 100
- Add and subtract using numbers 0 - 10
- Identify a penny, nickel, dime & quarter
- Tell time by the hour on an analog clock
- Recognize basic shapes (square, triangle, rectangle, circle)

Writing

Keeping a journal for the day’s activities is the best way to work writing and drawing into the day. Always help your child focus on correct letter formation. S/he is forming habits now and we want those habits to be good ones. After writing each day for a week, ask your child to pick the journal entry of her/his most exciting day of the week. Set up a specific spot on the fridge or make a bulletin board where s/he can display the writing for the week.

Materials, Needs, Resources, Websites

- A designated small space on a wall or the fridge to display work

- The following educational apps will still be available for summer: **LEXIA, MATHLETICS, ST MATH, and RAZ KIDS.**
- **IF YOU WISH** to give them more activities, I have included a Summer Learning Packet PDF for incoming First Grade. (Please note the correction on page 2 of the Summer Packet: **Each one of the activities in this packet is designed to prepare and review skills your child should know to enter FIRST grade.**)