

Dear Parents of Soon-to-Be First Grade Dragons,

The NES First Grade Team looks forward to meeting your child in the fall! Moving from kindergarten to first grade is a pretty big step, and this can be a little scary at first. We have "big kid" rooms and we do "big kid" kinds of things. We want your child to feel comfortable and self-confident, so we have included information concerning the skills that we expect for beginning 1st Graders. We sincerely hope that it will be helpful to you as you work with your child during the summer in preparation for the big transition.



Reading and Writing

One of the best ways to help your child build their reading skills is to read *to* them and *with* them daily! Reading to your child will help build their reading accuracy (read the words), their fluency (read smoothly and with expression), comprehension (understand what they read) and expand their vocabulary (learn new words). As you read with your child, point out that letters make words and words make sentences. Run your finger under the words and sentences as you read aloud. Your child should be able to recognize and name each letter (in sequence and in random order), as well as know the sound that they make.

Have your child practice writing his or her first and last name using the proper case (capitalize the first letter but not any others within your name). Your child should be able to print uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet using correct shaping and spacing. We have included a handwriting guide to help you with this.

Math

Your child should be able to recognize and write the numbers 1 - 20. Don't be too concerned if the letters and numbers are turned around backwards. Just gently correct them by saying something such as, "Oops! Let's turn that one around."

Your child should be able to count objects up to twenty. You can practice this by having your child count out socks from the laundry, count beans or pasta before it goes in the pot or count how many red cars you see while driving. This will also help your child to sort objects by color, size and/or shape. Play easy board games and card games this summer!

Motor Skills: These are personal things to make your child feel like a "big kid."

By the time your child gets to first grade, s/he should be able to tie their own shoes. Your child should also be able to redress after using the toilet (pull up, zip and/or button) without help. S/He should hold pencils, crayons and scissors correctly as well as use an Elmer's glue bottle correctly. Practice with a few arts and crafts activities this summer. Use coloring books and clay frequently as it exercises the small muscles in the hands.

We sincerely hope that this list helps you to understand what we will be expecting from your first grader in the fall. We have tried to include some ideas that might be helpful as you choose activities to do with your child during the summer. We are very much looking forward to meeting you and your child!

Sincerely,

NES First Grade Teachers

Handwriting Without Tears®

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