

Literacy For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



In first grade, students build confidence in their learning and relationships. As they get to know classroom routines, first-graders read familiar stories, work out meanings of new words, and begin writing using punctuation and capital letters.



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn about literacy this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

What First-Graders Learn and Do



Listen to, read, and talk about stories, poems, and texts about their world.



Use ideas from their favorite authors to inspire their own drawing and writing.



Join conversations and share their thoughts with others.



Understand how words are spelled and what they mean.



Understand why people share ideas in different ways (such as books, videos, or ads) and how they affect people.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



How to Support Your First-Grader with Literacy

Promote Literacy at Home

- Read a variety of fiction and nonfiction books to and with your student. Talk about what you read and encourage questions. Ask your student to write or draw something they learned.
- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters using letter tiles, magnet letters, magazines, or signs.
- Write tricky words on index cards, on sticky notes, or with sidewalk chalk and ask your student to practice reading them.
- Have your student write often by journaling, making lists, or writing notes to friends and family members.

Talk with Your Student

- Talk with your student about what they are learning about reading and writing and how it connects to your world and community.
- Ask what is going well in reading and writing and what is challenging.
- Share stories about your family or community and explain why they matter.
- Have lots of conversations with your student. Encourage them to ask questions, listen to and build on what was said, and add ideas that connect to the topic.
- Support your student when they make a mistake or error. Explain that mistakes are part of learning.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in reading and writing and what you can practice at home.
- Ask the teacher what students should know and be able to do in reading and writing by the end of first grade.
- Tell the teacher what you notice about your student's strengths and challenges in reading and writing. Ask what they need to practice or what they can work on next.
- Talk to the teacher if you have concerns about your student's progress in reading and writing. Ask what kinds of support or resources the school offers.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

