



On Common Ground

KINDERGARTEN - MARKING PERIOD 1: 2012-2013

THIS NEWSLETTER PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL LEARN BASED ON THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS DURING THE FIRST MARKING PERIOD OF KINDERGARTEN IN READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS. IT ALSO OFFERS IDEAS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING AT HOME.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS)?

- The Common Core State Standards initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English Language arts and Mathematics that states may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.
- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.
- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.

READING

At school, students will:

- Recognize and name all upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Recognize and produce the sounds of letters.
- Recognize and produce rhyming words and syllables as well as sounds at the beginning, middle and end of words.
- Understand the organization and basic features of books and print.
- Understand the relationship between illustrations and text in a book.
- Identify characters, setting, and major events in a story.

At home, you can:

- Read and discuss books together.
- Have children talk about what is happening in a book's illustrations.
- Talk about characters, setting and events when reading stories together.
- Practice naming letters and the sounds they make.
- Discuss the first, middle and ending sounds of words used when speaking.

WRITING

At school, students will:

- Print many upper- and lowercase letters.
- Use drawing and writing to explain or provide information.
- Recognize, name and use end punctuation in writing sentences.
- Write and/or draw pictures about a specific topic and provide details about the topic.
- Respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to their writing.
- Describe familiar people, places, things and events.
- Add drawings to descriptions to provide additional detail.

At home, you can:

- Practice correctly forming the letters of the alphabet.
- Set up a writing station at home where children can write and draw. Provide paper, markers, crayons and other materials to encourage writing and drawing.
- Work together to write/draw real-life situations, such as creating a grocery list or writing a letter to someone.
- Start a daily journal with your child.



MATH

At school, students will:

- Count an amount of objects up to 20.
- Count an amount of objects that have been arranged in a line, circle, or equal rows.
- Represent addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings and sounds.
- Sort objects into categories.
- Learn the names of shapes and find them in their environment.
- Learn position words such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind and next to.

At home, you can:

- Count objects around the house or at the store.
- Practice combining (putting together 3 grapes and 4 grapes) and separating items (taking 2 grapes away from 8 grapes).
- Look for shapes around the house.
- Use and practice position words, such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind and next to with your child.