Parents’ Guide to First Grade

Some Developmental Characteristics Displayed by Many Six-Year-Olds

- Go to bed quite willingly; some like to take a book or chat with mom or dad.
- Typically sleep about 11 hours daily.
- Seem to be active almost constantly, even when sitting; some will stand or walk while working.
- Tend to be somewhat clumsy and dawdlers.
- Enjoy making things and are inventive. Concocting new things are favorite activities.
- Need to be in the middle of things, to be first, to win.
- Often pair up with peers and have best friends, but friendships may be erratic, and pair combinations may change many times during school year.
- ”Tattling” is a pronounced characteristic.
- Like to work at school but more in spurts. Don’t show the persistence they will show later.
- Love to hear about past times, especially about their mom or dad’s childhood.
- Love to talk, share their thoughts, and have a conversation.

GRADE ONE
LEARNER EXPECTATIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: Foundational Skills
- Demonstrates understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds.
- Applies grade level phonics and word analysis skills when decoding unknown words.
- Reads and understands grade level text with accuracy and fluency.

Reading: Literature
- Asks and answers questions about key details.
- Retells stories, including key details when speaking and writing.
- Compares and contrasts characters and identifies the storyteller.

Reading: Informational
- Asks and answers questions about key details in informational texts.
- Identifies main topic and retells, using information from the text, text features, and illustrations.
- Compares and contrasts similarities between two texts about the same topic.

Writing
- Writes opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative pieces
- Writes on topic, responds to questions and suggestions from peers, and adds details to strengthen writing.
- Participates in shared research projects.
- Applies legible and fluent printing skills when completing written assignments.
- With guidance and support from adults, uses digital tools to produce and publish writing.

Math

Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Represents and solves addition/subtraction word problems within 20 using objects, drawings or equations.
- Solves word problems using addition of three numbers with sums to 20.
- Applies addition and subtraction properties (commutative/associative).
- Relates counting to addition and subtraction.
- Adds and subtracts within 20 using strategies.
- Fluently adds and subtracts within 10.
- Understands the meaning of the equal sign (6=6, 7=8-1, 5+2=4+3)
- Determines the unknown number in addition and subtraction equations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten
- Counts to 120 starting at any number less than 120.
- Understands the count sequence to 120 (reads, writes, represents).
- Understands two-digit numbers as tens and ones.
- Compares two-digit numbers using <, =, >.

Source: Families, Schools, Communities Learning Together - Special Edition: Guide to Developing Grade-Level Brochures for Parents. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Fall 1999
• Adds within 100 using models and strategies based on place value.
• Mentally adds and subtracts multiples on 10.

**Measurement and Data**
• Measures and compares objects by using repeated lengths.
• Tells and writes time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks.
• Organizes, represents and interprets data with up to three categories.

**Geometry**
• Describes and classifies common shapes using attributes.
• Composes 2-D and 3-D shapes.
• Partitions shapes into equal parts and describes using halves and fourths.

**Mathematical Practices**
• Understands the problem situation: makes sense of problems; reasons abstractly and quantitatively.
• Represents the problem situation: models with mathematics; looks for and makes use of structure.
• Solves the problem: uses appropriate tools; uses repeated reasoning.
• Checks that the answer makes sense: critiques the reasoning of others; attends to precision.
• Communicates understanding of our country.
• Locates features on a variety of maps and/or globes.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
• Performs the hop with take-off and landing on the same foot and maintains form for three consecutive hops in a forward direction.
• Performs the underhand toss with pendulum arm motion and follows through toward target.
• Identifies the heart as a muscle that grows stronger with physical activity.
• Demonstrates safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors during active participation.

**VISUAL ARTS**
• Uses the language of art when describing works of art.
• Uses basic art skills and techniques to produce quality works of art.
• Creates art that expresses original ideas.
• Demonstrates the ability to explain the meaning in works of art.

**MUSIC**
• Moves expressively.
• Uses a singing voice.
• Performs a steady beat.

**BEHAVIORS OF LIFELONG LEARNERS**

**Collaborative Worker**
◆ Cooperates with others.
◆ Demonstrates respect and compassion for others.

**Community Contributor**
◆ Takes responsibility for self and materials.
◆ Accepts responsibility for actions.
◆ Demonstrates self-control.
◆ Participates appropriately in group discussion.

**Quality Producer**
◆ Initiates and completes tasks on time.
◆ Strives for accuracy, quality and neatness.

**Complex Thinker**
◆ Thinks, questions, and solves problems in a variety of ways.
◆ Demonstrates curiosity in learning.
◆ Demonstrates a willingness to try new experiences.

---

**SCIENCE/HEALTH**
• Observes through hands-on exploration.
• Compares similarities and differences.
• Communicates observations.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
• Explores the importance of families and examines different types of families in different times and places.