



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE



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GRADE

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How to Use the Parent Curriculum Guide:

This guide gives you the tools you need to support your child at home. In this booklet, you'll find strategies based on the DCPS curriculum to help your child meet his or her learning goals. You'll have a better understanding of what your child is learning in school and how you can further learning at home.

What You Can Do:

You play a very important role in your child's academic performance. Here are some things you can do to support learning at home:

- ▶ Let your child know that education is the foundation for success.
- ▶ Know what your child is expected to learn in the 1st grade.
- ▶ Help your child set high short-term and long-term academic goals.
- ▶ Provide a designated time and location to complete homework.
- ▶ Talk to your child about what is happening in school and constantly monitor progress.
- ▶ Advocate for your child.
- ▶ Share your child's strengths with your child's teacher.

Questions to Ask Your Child's Teacher:

When speaking with your child's teacher about academic progress, here are a few questions you may want to consider asking:





















- ▶ What are the learning goals? Can you show me examples of student work that meets the learning goals?
- ▶ May I see an example of my child's work? How does it or doesn't it meet these learning goals?
- ▶ Is my child at or above grade level, what extra support is available? What can I do at home?
- ▶ What classroom routines do you have that should also be used at home?
- ▶ What kinds of questions could I ask my child on a daily basis about your class?

Talking to Your Child:

Good conversations help our children see that we are interested in their lives. Here are a few conversation starters you may want to consider asking

- ▶ Tell me about the best part of your day.
- ▶ What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
- ▶ Can you show me something you learned today?
- ▶ What books are you reading in school? Describe your favorite character? Why do you like that character?
- ▶ What do you think you should do more of at school? What do you think you should do less of? Why?

WHAT MY FIRST GRADER IS LEARNING

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 	MATH 	SCIENCE 	SOCIAL STUDIES 
<p>FALL</p> 	<p>Students learn about fictional and non-fictional characters who faced obstacles and persevered to achieve their goals. Finally, they will apply perseverance to their own lives.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn that science plays an important role in flight. Different forces work together to make objects fly. Flying machines have been invented and modified over time to become the modern-day airplane and how they impacted history.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn that the earth, sun, moon, and stars are celestial bodies in the solar system. People tell stories about them. Stars light up in the night sky when the sun's brightness is gone. The phases of the moon depend on where it is located around the earth. All the planets in our solar system revolve around the Sun.</p> 	<p>Students will learn to solve different kinds of word problems using addition and subtraction with a focus on fluently adding and subtracting from 1-20.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Student will understand place value of numbers to 20 and use place value strategies to add and subtract within 20.</p> 	<p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore objects in the sky and the patterns of the day and night throughout the year.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore how planes and animals behave and use their external parts to grow, survive, and meet their needs.</p> 	<p>What makes America unique? Students demonstrate understanding of symbols, icons, songs, and traditions of the United States and what each represents.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>What made the Maya, Aztec, and Inca civilizations legendary? Students explore how ancient societies and civilizations adapt to and modify their environment to meet the needs of their people.</p> 
<p>WINTER</p> 	<p>Students learn that animals have adaptations to help them protect themselves to survive in their environment. When an animal's environment changes, an animal's adaptations need to change, or the animal will not survive.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn there are different forms of money and ways to earn it, where it comes from, and different ways to manage it. The consequences of earning, saving, spending, and donating money through both literary and informational texts, as well as, the difference between a want and a need.</p> 	<p>Students will order and compare lengths measurements and organize, represent and interpret data with up to three categories.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will use place value understanding and strategies to compare and add within 120.</p> 	<p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore light and sound energy and communication.</p> 	<p>How do we get stuff? Students concentrate on the government and community's role in providing public goods and services to the people and how those goods and services are made.</p> 
<p>SPRING</p> 	<p>Students learn about common American symbols and Americans who have made significant contributions to society. Things and figures can be symbolic and have meaning to people. They make connections to the texts by thinking about their values and what symbols best represent them.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn how our bodies are similar in form and function, how our bodies are different in appearance, and how our bodies change over time.</p> 	<p>Students will learn to tell time in hours and half-hours and learn to recognize coins, their names and their values. Students will learn to compose and decompose shapes.</p> 	<p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore how animals protect their young and how plants and animals have different traits from their parents and from other plants and animals of the same kind.</p> 	<p>Where are we? Students use maps and globes to interpret and demonstrate mastery of information about places and the environment. Students also demonstrate their understanding of geography by labeling maps, planning routes, and locating places on maps.</p> 

ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE WITH MY FIRST GRADER



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Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

FALL



Interview a family member about a time they never gave up. What did they accomplish? What kept them going?

Take a visit to the National Air and Space Museum to learn more about airplanes. Then, go to the public library and select a book on one specific type of airplane and learn about that particular plane!

Select two nights in the month where you observe the sky at night. Draw a map of the night sky from a specific spot in your yard or outside your home. You will want to choose that same spot when you observe the night sky on another night. Do you notice a difference? Did you see more or less stars on one night over the other? Why do you think that is?



Ask your child real world addition problems and have them think through them. Some examples "I have 17 skittles and you have 14. How many more skittles do I have?" or "You have seven toy cars and Mike has five toy cars. How many toy cars do you have altogether?"

Say a teen number and ask your child to tell you the same number as ten and some more. For example, if you say 14, your child would say 10 and 4 more.



Take your child on a visit to the Albert Einstein Planetarium at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum.

Challenge your child to think of ways that items around the house have similar functions to things in nature (e.g., a bicycle helmet is like a turtle's shell). Keep a running list to revisit as he/she thinks of more ideas.



Listen to the Star-Spangled Banner, America the Beautiful, and Lift Every Voice and Sing on YouTube and talk about them with your child, sharing what other symbols, values, and songs represent America for you and your family. Visit the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (free) to see the original Star Spangled Banner up close.

Ask your child to share what they are learning about the ancient American civilizations. How are they similar and different to each other and to us? Visit the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (free) to learn more about the Aztec, Inca, and Maya civilizations.



Keep a reading journal to record how much time you spend reading each day! List titles and your favorite characters from each story. Include character traits that you admire.

Visit your local library to check-out three new books! Visit bit.ly/findmylibrary to find your local library branch.



WINTER



Animals change colors or look a certain way to help protect them in their environment. Choose two habitats and draw what a snake might look like in each habitat. For example, what colors might a snake have in a rainforest, versus a desert?

Write a funny poem titled, "Hey What's Up? I have a Million Bucks!" Write about what you would do with the money.



Use a string to measure objects. Identify objects that are smaller than the string length and larger than the string length. Collect data about the color of leaves on the trees on your street and create a graph displaying the information.



Play a game where you and your child communicate without speaking. Try to think up as many ways to communicate without speaking as you can!



Point out places in your community that are run by the government, such as a Recreational Center, Post Office, or a park. Discuss how private business, like a store, also provide goods and services for the community.



Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit bit.ly/DCPSButterflies for more information.



SPRING



Go on a scavenger hunt around your neighborhood to find as many American symbols as you can. Keep track of your findings by taking pictures, drawing, or making a list.

Select an organ from the human body to study (e.g., heart, brain, stomach, lungs). Go to the library and choose a book on that organ. Draw a picture of that organ and write five facts you learned about the organ's function. You can also check out BrainPop Jr. via Clever to find videos about the human body.



Practice comparing numbers within 100. Ask your child "Which is smaller 45 or 56? Or "I am 54 inches tall. You are 48 inches tall. Who is taller?"

Ask your child to sort out various coins and identify their names. Use questions like can you give me a dime?" "Which coin is worth 25 cents?"



Take a trip to the National Zoo and see for yourself how similar baby animals are to their parents.



Use directional words (i.e., North, South, East, West) as you travel around DC with your child. Point out maps used in the real world and ask them to identify where they are (e.g., DC Metro map, a map/directions app on a smart phone, walking trails maps along city streets)



Visit the National Cherry Blossom Festival bit.ly/DCPSCCherry.

Visit the Kennilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. Look for frogs on a pond tour, offered every weekend at 10 a.m. Visit bit.ly/DCPSKen for more information.

What are your summer plans? Brainstorm five activities you can do together to keep learning over the summer.

