



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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PARENT CURRICULUM GUIDE



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GRADE





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 Kindergarten.
- ▶ 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 KINDERGARTENER IS LEARNING

	ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 	MATH 	SCIENCE 	SOCIAL STUDIES 
<p>FALL</p> 	<p>Students learn about being a good friend, overcoming differences and challenges, treating others how you want to be treated, and keeping old traditions with new friends.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn that community workers and teamwork are important aspects of any working community. They explore how, where people live also affects where they work, play, and reside within that community.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn that there are different types of weather; the effects that weather has on people and the environment; and about journaling and tracking weather.</p> 	<p>Students will learn to count to ten, match numbers to ten with corresponding quantities of objects and break numbers into number pairs within 10.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will explore 2D and 3D shapes. They will identify and describe shapes and use informal language to describe similarities and differences between shapes.</p> 	<p>Students will engage in many scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore weather conditions, weather patterns, and the effects of the sun.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore how pushes and pulls speed objects up, slow them down, or change directions.</p> 	<p>Can anyone be a hero? Students learn that there are real and fictional good leaders and citizens, and they are perceived as such due to certain qualities.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Do we need jobs? Students learn that there is a wide variety of jobs that people do in a variety of settings and analyze the ways in which people budget.</p> 
<p>WINTER</p> 	<p>Students learn that stories are written with characters, setting, major events with a problem and a solution; authors convey information about characters in a story. Our life experiences naturally lead us to stories we want to share.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students learn that people impact the earth in positive and negative ways, and that it is our responsibility to protect the earth. They also study the modes of conservation—reduce, reuse, recycle—and employ ways to protect the earth, such as by recycling and reusing products.</p> 	<p>Students will compare length, weight, capacity and numbers to 10.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will add and subtract within 10.</p> 	<p>Students will continue to engage in scientific investigations on the effects that pushes and pulls have on the speed of objects.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore how plants and animals meet their needs for their surroundings.</p> 	<p>What makes America special? Students study holidays and symbols specific to the United States through their study of the calendar and through engaging with various texts.</p> 
<p>SPRING</p> 	<p>Students learn that two people from different parts of the world share different experiences and are still able to communicate. Traditions are different around the world and even in the same community.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students understand the life cycles of plants, butterflies, and amphibians; and how plants and animals prepare for seasonal changes.</p> 	<p>Students will learn place value of teen numbers by decomposing them as ten and some more. They will work count to 100 by ones and tens and they will create and compose shapes.</p> 	<p>Students will continue to engage in scientific investigations on how plants and animals meet their needs for their surroundings and the impact humans have on the environment.</p> <p>• • •</p> <p>Students will engage in scientific investigations and investigative phenomena to explore how organisms interact with their environment to meet their needs.</p> 	<p>Where am I? Students use maps and globes to show an understanding of location and direction.</p> 

ACTIVITIES TO PRACTICE WITH MY KINDERGARTENER



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Read together everyday for 20 minutes.

FALL



Make a list and draw pictures of fun activities you can do with new friends. Post the list in your home and circle activities as you do them.

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Look at of the hard workers in your community! What kind of jobs are they doing? Discuss what might be fun or difficult about the different jobs you observe.

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Watch a weather report on the news, then track the weather in your neighborhood for a weekend. Lastly, you can create your own weather report to share with friends and family! Be sure to include some pictures of what the weather was on those days.



Help your child identify quantities by asking them to bring you 4 socks or 7 buttons.

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Find real world objects that look like various shapes. Ask your child if they can find an object that looks like a circle in the room or a rectangle.

Take a walk around outside and discuss the weather that day. Encourage your child to think of ways buildings are constructed to protect us from different types of weather conditions.

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Encourage your child to share their experiences in learning about animal and plant needs, and to teach you what they learned.



Read childrens' books with your child, ask them questions about whether characters are real or fictional and ask them to identify the positive character traits and actions.

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Talk with your child about the jobs that people they know have and the different ways money is used (e.g., spending, saving, sharing.)



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.

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



WINTER



Write and illustrate a funny story about a trip to the park with your family as the main characters! Be sure to draw amazing pictures of the fun times you have at the park.

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Does your family recycle? If yes, think of ways that you can reuse certain items. For example, the back of paper can become coloring paper, or you can create a rocket with toilet paper rolls. If not, create a recycling section where you collect cans, glass bottles, and paper.



Discuss comparisons with your child by asking them which object is heavier or lighter, or asking them which object is longer.



Make up a bedtime story from the perspective of an animal moving into a new exhibit at a zoo.

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Escort your child to the local neighborhood playground or nearby park for them to pick at least two types of flowers. Allow your child to care for the flowers to monitor their life span and create a Notice and Wonder chart.



Keep a calendar in a shared space at home, and practice reading the calendar and marking dates important to your family and community. Ask your student to add holidays with symbols they've discussed in class, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January, President's Day in February, and Emancipation Day in April.



Make a list of special dates, like birthdays, holidays, and other important dates. Then, with your child, list them in calendar order.

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Visit the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Butterfly Pavilion, free of charge on Tuesdays. Visit www.mnh.si.edu for more information.



SPRING



Write and illustrate a short story about a family with different traditions than yours. Include details about what they eat, where they live and go to school, and/or the clothes they wear.

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Butterflies are amazing! Draw a circle and illustrate the stages of a butterfly around the edge. Then find pictures of butterflies in magazines or online to paste onto your creations!



Practice finding number pairs within 10. Ask your child which number pairs with 4 to make 10. Or which number pairs with 7 to make 10.

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Practice counting by tens and ones to 100 with your child. Draw pictures to create objects with shapes. For example, draw a house with a triangle roof and a square base and talk about the new shape that is created.



Ask your child to think of ways to reduce their negative impact on your neighborhood environment (and the plants and animals that live there).

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Encourage your child to share their experiences in learning about how organisms interact with their environment to meet their needs, and to teach you what they learned.



Practice looking at road signs, bus/Metro signs, or maps on a smart phone navigation app or the Metro. Teach your child the street address for your home and their school. Have them use directional words (e.g., left, right, back, forward, near, far) to direct you across the room to a specific object.



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.

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

