

# PARENT GUIDE FOR KINDERGARTEN MATHEMATICS

## Preparing Florida’s Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today’s workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **kindergarten** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child’s teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child’s learning in practical ways at home.

### LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in kindergarten—along with some important additional skills. **Kindergarten** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Counting to 100 by ones and by tens.



- Understanding relationships between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.



- Representing addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds, acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions or equations.



- Fluently adding and subtracting within five.

Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards for Kindergarten at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)

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## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



When you talk to your child's teacher, don't worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics for your child. In kindergarten, you may ask your child's teacher questions such as:

- How will my child be expected to show his/her work?
- What are some areas where my child is excelling? Where does my child need extra help?

## SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning mathematics at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Counting with everyday activities. Count the number of steps when walking from one place to another, or count the number of items you unload from a backpack or bag of groceries.



Have your child help you sort the laundry into different groups. For example, put all the pants in one pile, shirts in another pile and socks in a third pile. Talk about how one item can belong to different categories. Talk about which groups include more, less or equal numbers of items.



Talk about and create lists that include drawings of items. Label them by writing numbers one to 20. Practice reading the numbers together.



Practice addition and subtraction when involved in everyday activities. Say, "You have 3 crackers. If I give you 2 more, how many will you have?" By the end of kindergarten, your child should be comfortable adding and subtracting numbers within 5.



The concept of "ONE HUNDRED" is important for kindergarteners. Think of ways to incorporate "100" into real-life, meaningful activities. For instance, make a chart and log 10 "bend and stretch" exercise moves every day for 10 days.



Be on the lookout for geometric shapes. The park/playground or the grocery store are good places to search and name circles, cones, squares and rectangles.



Make a point to observe relationships or similarities and differences, such as more/less, above/below, beside/behind, taller/shorter.



If you download apps for your child to play, be careful to choose only those with actual educational value, such as Common Sense Media ([www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org)).

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

**Download the complete Mathematics Florida Standards and other resources for parents at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)**

Questions? Contact [JustforParents@fldoe.org](mailto:JustforParents@fldoe.org)