

In 1st grade, your child will build on the foundation of skills that were developed last year's work and gain important new skills. One of the most important outcomes for the year is to improve in the areas of adding and subtracting numbers through 20, place value of digits within a given number (e.g. 63 = six tens and 3 ones), Continue to work with measurement units including time and money, And beginning to breakdown shapes in equal parts to represent halves and fourths. Working with multi-digit addition this year will set the stage for 2nd grade, when your child will be working with three-digit numbers and adding and subtracting with larger numbers.

Skills Your Child Will Be Working On

- Solving addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart, and comparing (e.g., a taking from situation would be: "Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples. How many apples did I eat?")
- Adding with a sum of 20 or less, and subtracting from a number 20 or less, for example by using strategies based around the number 10 (e.g., to solve $13 - 4$, one can start with 13, subtract 3 to reach 10, and then subtract 1 more to reach 9)
- Quickly and accurately adding with a sum of 10 or less, and quickly and accurately subtracting from a number 10 or less (e.g., $2 + 5$, $7 - 5$)
- Understanding what the digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value)
- Using understanding of place value to add and subtract (e.g., $38 + 5$, $29 + 20$, $64 + 27$, $80 - 50$)
- Measuring lengths of objects by using a shorter object as a unit of length
- Making composite shapes by joining shapes together, and dividing circles and rectangles into halves or fourths

Learning Activity to Use at Home

Activities that involve money are a good way to develop mathematical reasoning and to reinforce what children are learning in school about numbers and arithmetic operations, such as addition and subtraction.

NOTE: Children can be confused by money. Some might think that the larger a coin is, the more valuable it is—so a penny or nickel would be more valuable than a dime.

Activity: Penny, Nickel, Dime, Quarter

This is a good game to play with the family.

- Have each player roll the die and say the number. Then, give the player that number of pennies. Explain that each penny is worth one cent.
- When a player gets five pennies, replace the pennies with a nickel. Explain that five pennies have the same value as one nickel—that is, five cents. When your child gets five more pennies, replace the pennies with nickel, and the nickel with a dime, and the combination of nickel and dimes that would make a quarter. Help your child to see that the value of five pennies plus the value of a nickel (five cents) equals 10 cents, which is the value of a dime.
- The first player to reach a set amount— one dollar or 100 cents, for example—wins.

Teacher and Parent Conferencing - Topics for ongoing conversations throughout the school year with your child's teacher.

The focus in these early years should be in the development of good mathematical habits. When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In first grade, these include:

- Is your child adding and subtracting numbers from a number 100 or less?
- Is your child understanding the place value of numbers, ones, tens, hundreds?
- Do my child understand how to tell time both using an analogue (face clock) and digital clock?

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?