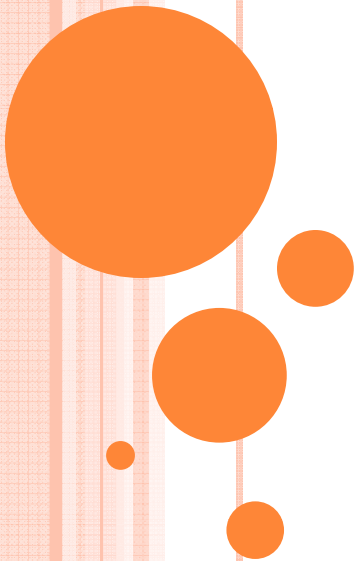


# **BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S LISTENING, TALKING, READING AND WRITING SKILLS**

## **KINDERGARTEN TO SECOND GRADE**



**AMERICAN  
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
HEARING  
ASSOCIATION**

## PURPOSE

This resource was developed to provide information about children's typical development of skills in the areas of listening, talking, reading and writing.

These are general developmental stages. There are variations in typical development.

If you have concerns about your child's skills, consider contacting a speech-language pathologist.



Children learn at different rates.  
The following checklists show  
what most children can do by the  
end of kindergarten, first and  
second grade in the areas of:

- Listening
- Talking
- Reading
- Writing





## CHECKLISTS FOR LEARNING: KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 2



# KINDERGARTEN

## **Listening**

- Follow 1-2 step oral directions in order like “Pick a book and come sit in the chair.”
- Listen to understand age appropriate stories read aloud.
- Follow simple conversation.
- Understands what is taught in class.



# KINDERGARTEN

## Talking

- Answer simple yes/no questions like “Did you eat lunch?”
- Answer open ended questions like “What did you do at school?”
- Retell story, parts of stories or events.



# KINDERGARTEN

## **Talking (cont'd)**

- Talks about things that happened during the day.
- Asks and answers questions, asks for information and makes comments.
- Takes turns and stays on topic when talking.
- Shows interest in what others are saying.
- Starts conversations.



# KINDERGARTEN

## Reading

- Knows that reading a book in English occurs from front to back, top to bottom and left to right.
- Knows that spoken words are made up of speech sounds.
- Finds words that rhyme like cat and hat.
- Knows that some words have the same sound in them like sun, soup and sand.





# KINDERGARTEN

## **Reading (cont'd)**

- Identify upper case (CAPITAL) and lower case letters.
- Knows that letters stand for speech sounds.
- Knows some sight words like “the”, “cat”, and “with”.
- “Read” picture books from memory.
- Tells a story by looking at pictures in a book.



# KINDERGARTEN

## Writing

- Prints first and last name.
- Draw a picture that tells a story; names and writes words about the picture.
- Write upper and lower case letters of the alphabet.



# FIRST GRADE

## **Listening**

- Remembers facts taught in class.
- Understands what's taught in class.
- Follow 2-3 steps in order like “Get a piece of paper, find your pencil and write your name”.



# FIRST GRADE

## **Talking**

- Answers harder “yes” or “no” questions like “Did the girl take her puppy into the house with her?”
- Says all speech sounds clearly.
- Tells and retells a story in the right order.
- Uses complete sentences to talk about ideas.
- Uses most parts of speech or grammar, correctly.



# FIRST GRADE

## **Talking (cont'd)**

- Asks and answers “who”, “what”, “where”, “why” and “when” questions.
- Stays on topic and takes turns when talking with people.
- Gives directions.



# FIRST GRADE

## **Reading**

- Makes up rhyming words.
- Finds all sounds in short words.
- Blend separate sounds to form words.
- Match spoken words to written words.



# FIRST GRADE

## **Reading (cont'd)**

- Identify letters, words, and sentences
- Sound out words when reading.
- Recognizes about 100 common words.
- Easily reads first grade stories.
- Shows understanding of what he/she reads.



# FIRST GRADE

## **Writing**

- Prints clearly.
- Spell commonly used words correctly.
- Begins each sentence with capital letter.
- Ends sentences with a period, question mark or exclamation point.
- Writes short pieces like stories and journal entries.





## SECOND GRADE

### **Listening**

- Follow 3-4 oral directions in order like  
“Stay in your seat, wait for the bus to stop  
and don’t forget your backpack.”
- Understands words about place and time  
like on top of, behind, next to, before,  
after, today and yesterday.



## SECOND GRADE

### **Listening Skills (cont'd)**

- Answers questions about a story.
- Understands what's taught in class.



## SECOND GRADE

### **Talking**

- Answer more complex yes/no questions like “Was the boy in the story telling the truth when he said he was going to a friend’s house?”
- Explains words and ideas.
- Ask and answer who, what, when, where and why questions.
- Uses more complex sentences when speaking.



## SECOND GRADE

### **Talking (cont'd)**

- Give directions with 3-4 steps.
- Use oral language to inform, persuade and entertain.
- Stay on topic, take turns and use appropriate eye contact during conversation.
- Open and close conversations properly.
- Talks for a variety of reasons – to comment on something, to convince someone, and to make someone laugh.



## SECOND GRADE

### **Reading**

- Knows all letters and sounds.
- Links speech sounds to written words.
- Knows many words by sight.
- Finds and uses spelling patterns in words like knowing cat” and “hat” end with the same sounds.
- Re-read and self correct when necessary.



## SECOND GRADE

### **Reading (cont'd)**

- Finds facts to answer questions.
- Uses clues to figure out what words mean like pictures, titles or facts.
- Explains the main parts of a story like the main idea, characters and plot.
- Predicts what will happen in stories.



## SECOND GRADE

### **Reading (cont'd)**

- Reads and retells a story in the right order.
- Reads second grade stories, poetry or plays – silently and out loud.
- Reads smoothly. Doesn't need to sound out a lot of words.
- Reads for fun!



## SECOND GRADE

### **Writing Skills**

- Writes neatly.
- Uses many types of sentences in journals, poetry and short stories.
- Uses capital letters and basic punctuation like commas, periods, and question marks correctly.
- Writes stories that have a beginning, middle and end.





## SECOND GRADE

### **Writing (cont'd)**

- Spells common words correctly.
- Begins to spell more words correctly.



## TIPS TO BUILD SKILLS

- Talk to your child often.
- Read a variety of books to your child.
- Talk about the stories together.
- Talk about how things are the same and different.
- Help your child listen to sound patterns in words
  - rhyming games are good for this.



## TIPS (CONT'D)

- Ask your child to tell you 1 or 2 things that happen each day.
- Talk about new words you hear.
- Give your child pencil and paper to practice writing
- Do projects with your child like arts/crafts, folding laundry or washing the car. As you work together talk about what you're doing. Give child directions to follow.



## IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS A PROFESSIONAL

If you have concerns about your child's speech and language skills, don't hesitate to contact your child's school or a speech-language pathologist.

The earlier you get help, the better!



## A QUALIFIED SPEECH PATHOLOGIST HAS:

- A master's or doctoral degree.
- The Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA.
- A state license (where required).
- Ongoing involvement/ participation in continuing education activities.



## TO FIND AN ASHA CERTIFIED SLP

Go to [www.asha.org/findpro/](http://www.asha.org/findpro/) or call your local school district.

*ASHA appreciates the assistance of  
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