A Parent's Guide To

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Reading + Writing + Mathematics + Science + Social Studies

Introduction

Research shows that children are more likely to succeed in learning when families actively support them. When you and other family members read with your children, help them with homework, talk with their teachers, and participate in school or other learning activities, you give your children a tremendous advantage. Other than helping your children grow up healthy and happy, the most important thing that you can do for them is help them develop their reading skills. It is no exaggeration to say that how well children learn to read directly affects not only how successful they are in school but how well they will do throughout their lives. When children learn to read, they have the key that opens the door to all of the knowledge of the world.

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. Our goal in this guide is to give you greater visibility into the *Forward* instructional program. We believe that the gains your child experiences in this program will establish the building blocks for his or her love of learning in the months and years to come.

Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum

The **Elementary Integrated Curriculum** blends reading, writing, and mathematics instruction with lessons in science and social studies in a way that spurs creativity and critical thinking skills. Students will receive robust instruction across all subjects in the early grades. The curriculum is built around developing students' critical and creative thinking skills as well as essential academic success skills, which lead to college and career readiness.

The *Kindergarten Integrated Curriculum* incorporates critical and creative thinking skills as well as academic success skills, and paces these into four parts that are each nine weeks in duration. These skills are explicitly taught using concepts and topics identified by part in each content area and provide a focus for integration across content areas. This document provides an outline of these skills and the curriculum concepts and topics that are the focus of instruction for Kindergarten students.

K–5 Instructional Program Goals

Reading

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate, thoughtful communicators, who are capable of controlling language effectively, in the following ways:

- Strategically reading literary and informational instructional-leveled texts with fluency, purpose, and comprehension
- Using skills and strategies widely as tools for learning and reflection
- Understanding and appreciating language and literature as catalysts for deep thought and emotion

Writing

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate, thoughtful communicators, who are capable of controlling language effectively, in the following ways:

- Composing narrative, informative/explanatory, and opinion texts as tools for learning and reflection
- Conducting research and writing projects for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences
- Evaluating relevant information from print and digital sources and using a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing

Mathematics

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to achieving mathematical proficiency in the following ways:

- Developing both conceptual understanding and procedural fluency
- Thinking and reasoning mathematically
- Using mathematics to solve problems in authentic contexts

Science

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to becoming literate in science and technology in the following ways:

- Thinking critically, solving problems, and communicating effectively
- Tackling increasingly challenging issues
- Seeking understanding to support solutions

Social Studies

Students will develop the knowledge and skills essential to developing a balanced and integrated understanding of systems of culture, economics, geography, and politics and the history of their development in the following ways:

- Applying concepts and knowledge of the past to problem solving real-world issues of the present
- Critically examining human interactions and evaluating their role as an effective citizen
- Communicating social studies concepts clearly in multiple formats and putting theory into practice as a citizen

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
ANALYSIS	**COLLABORATION**
✔ Identify and describe attributes. ✔ Compare by identifying similarities and differences. ✔ Sort and classify into categories. ✔ Identify and describe patterns and relationships within patterns.	✔ Demonstrate active listening and empathy in communicating with group members. ✔ Solicit and respect multiple and diverse perspectives to broaden and deepen understanding. ✔ Demonstrate teamwork by working productively with others.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Foundational skills Comprehension of literary text: story elements Phonics Comprehension of text: connections; questions Vocabulary Handwriting	Writing workshop: learning to be a writer Ideas & development: prewriting; drafting; details; words; pictures; lists; notes; making booklets Conventions: editing for spelling; periods and capital letters; letters; beginning sounds; editing checklists	Math routines Directional and positional words Attributes of objects Data collection Counting and comparing Repeating patterns Concepts and skills review Assessment	Questioning & observing Testing; recording; sharing Collecting data Safety Solving problems: identifying; testing; sharing	Leaders; jobs Rights and responsibilities Rules and laws Symbols U.S. monuments Citizenship National holidays American heroes—George Washington; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Rosa Parks

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
FLUENCY	**INTELLECTUAL RISK TAKING**
✔ Generate many ideas. ✔ Represent and describe ideas or solutions in a variety of ways.	✔ Adapt and make adjustments to meet challenges when seeking solutions. ✔ Demonstrate willingness to accept uncertainty by sharing ideas, asking questions, or attempting novel tasks.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Comprehension of literary text Letter-sound relationship Vocabulary Comprehension of informational/explanatory text: generating questions; retelling Phonics	Writing workshop: learning to be a writer Ideas & development: focus on memories; stretching and writing words Word choice; sensory details Organization: beginning, middle, and end Conventions: high-frequency words; editing; revising; sharing	Number concepts: 0–9; representation of counted quantities through 20; one-to-one correspondence Comparison of sets of objects: more, less/fewer, or equal to Representation of numbers through 10 in a variety of ways Ordinal numbers (first through fifth)	Living and nonliving things: identifying needs Describe how animals change as they grow Similarities and differences of plants and animals	Maps and globes: Earth Human-made and physical features used to describe Earth's surface Weather and climate

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
SYNTHESIS	**EFFORT/MOTIVATION/PERSISTENCE**
✔ Organize parts to form a new or unique whole.	✔ Demonstrate strategies to achieve a goal or solve a problem ✔ Self-assess effectiveness of strategies and redirect efforts to achieve a goal or obtain a solution to a problem.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Comprehension of literary text: story map; predicting; retelling; shared inquiry	Writing workshop: narratives; informational/ explanatory writing	Measurable attributes	Tell about water and land covering Earth	Making choices; needs and wants
Letter-sound phonics	Ideas & development: topics and titles; fact vs. feeling; sensory details; using mentor text; revisions and illustrations	Comparison of objects: length and weight; sorting; comparing; estimating by heavier/lighter	Tell when the sun, clouds, and moon can be seen in the sky	Jobs
Vocabulary	Conventions: peer editing for capital letters	Exploration of shapes: composing and decomposing	Tell where the sun is in the sky at different times of the day	Goods and services
Determining meaning of unknown words	Organization: topics; table of contents; questions; pictures; labels	Analysis of visual images	Describe and record weather	Money: value
		Construction of 3-D shapes	Identify and describe observations using the senses	
			Describe objects by their composition and characteristics	
			Identify loud and soft sounds	

CRITICAL THINKING SKILL	ACADEMIC SUCCESS SKILL
ORIGINALITY	**METACOGNITION**
✔ Create a new idea, process, or product using multiple and varied formats. ✔ Plan and formulate a new, unique, or alternative solution to a problem or situation. ✔ Transform an idea, process, or product into a new form.	✔ Examine one's own thoughts and ideas to identify background knowledge. ✔ Explain thinking processes.

Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Comprehension of literary text: shared inquiry; story structure; retelling; elements of poetry; rhythm; rhyme; questioning	Writing workshop: poetry	Part-whole concept (through 10)	Identify and measure solid objects	Measuring time and chronology (schools then and now; goods and services)
Comprehension of informational/explanatory text: main idea; ask questions; text features	Using verbs; comparisons; synonyms; sounds; expressing feelings	Composition and decomposition of numbers	Observe how liquids take the shape of their containers	Communication
Vocabulary	Patterns and repetition; editing; sharing with an audience	Joining and separating	Tell that gases fill their containers	Personal history and ways of knowing about the past
Letter-sound phonics	Features of biographies; asking questions; interviewing a partner	Everyday application of numbers	Tell how water changes by freezing, melting, and boiling	Defining cultures, celebrations, communities, and families
	Organizing and gathering information about a classmate; peer editing		Tell what is in some mixtures	
	Using facts and persuasive words		Tell that a push or a pull can change how an object moves	
			Order objects by how fast they move	
			Identify objects a magnet attracts	