LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Teaching and Learning

Family Roadmap to Math Success in Louisiana

Grade 1 Overview

In grade 1, children build a stronger understanding of numbers and how they work. They practice counting to 120, reading and writing numbers, and comparing two-digit numbers. They also become more fluent with addition and subtraction within 20 and start using place value to add and subtract numbers up to 100. Students solve simple word problems using objects, drawings, or equations with a symbol to represent the missing number. They explore shapes by building and taking apart both flat and solid figures. In measurement, they learn to compare lengths, tell time to the hour and half-hour, and organize information into simple charts and graphs.

By the end of the grade, your child will be able to:

- Fluently add and subtract within 10.
- Identify equivalent sums or differences of one-digit numbers. Ex. 6 - 2 = 2 + 2
- Determine the missing number in an equation with numbers less than or equal to 10. Ex. 8 + ? = 10; 5 = □ - 3.
- Given a two-digit number, mentally find 10 more or 10 less.
- Count to 120 by 5's.
- Read and write numbers through 120.
- Compare numbers up to 100, identifying whether one number is *greater than, less than,* or *equal to* another.

How can families help at home?

- Ask questions like: "Mom has 5 socks and finds 3 more. How many socks did she find in all?"
- Give quick daily challenges, like: "We had 12 strawberries. I ate 10. How many are left?"
- Play card or dice games to practice adding and subtracting numbers under 10.
- Count objects in the home beyond 20 (e.g., steps, coins, snacks).
- Practice counting by fives using objects or visual aids (e.g., blocks, grapes, or leaves).
- Practice breaking apart the number ten when adding or subtracting to find the unknown number.
- Practice writing numbers by stating a number up to 120, and have your child write the number.
- Use flashcards and have your child state the number up to 120.
- Practice comparing numbers up to 100 by writing two numbers and asking if one of the numbers is greater than, less than, or equal to the other number.

Building reasoning and problem-solving through word problems

Working through word problems helps students develop both their mathematical vocabulary and their reasoning abilities. Word problems support critical thinking, improve problem-solving strategies, and help students apply math concepts to real-world situations. Here are example word problems that first-grade students might work on:

- Jake has 9 baseball cards. His brother gives him 6 more. How many baseball cards does Jake have now?
- Becky has 14 cookies. She gives 5 to her friend. How many cookies does she have left? Write an equation to show how many cookies Amanda has left.
- There are 8 bees on a flower. 5 more bees join them. How many bees are on the flower now? Write an equation to show how many bees there are now.
- Jolie made 16 bracelets. She kept 7 and gave the rest to her friends. How many bracelets did she give away?
- Eli measures his marker and finds it is 7 blocks long. His eraser is 3 blocks long. Which is longer? How many more blocks long is the marker than the eraser?

Family Engagement Tips

- Talk positively about math and encourage your child to maintain a growth mindset.
- Encourage your child to share/show you a different way to solve a math problem than you are familiar with and explain the reasoning for their approach.
- Celebrate mistakes as learning opportunities. Remind your child that making mistakes is part of learning and praise their efforts.
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher to learn what your child is learning and how to support it at home.
- Create a learning space for your child with supplies such as paper, pencils, rulers, calculators, and age-appropriate math manipulatives.

How does grade 1 math build on kindergarten?

Grade 1 math builds on what children learned in Kindergarten. After learning to count, recognize numbers, and use objects to add and subtract, children are ready to build on those skills. In grade 1, children start using easy mental math strategies, like counting on or making ten, to solve problems. They learn to read and write numbers up to 120 and begin to understand place value, seeing how tens and ones make up a number. With this understanding, they add and subtract two-digit numbers, solve simple word problems, and write equations to show their thinking. They also learn what the equal sign really means and continue connecting objects, drawings, and equations to help math make sense.

Math Conversations

Communicate with your child about math using open-ended questions:

- What strategy did you use to solve the problem?
- Is there another way to solve it?
- How do you know your answer makes sense?
- How could you check your work?
- Can you make a number sentence to show what you did?
- What would happen if you added one more (or took one away)?

Online Resources

- Family Math Resources
- Family Literacy Resources
- School System Parent and Family Engagement Resources