



# DALLASTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## PA Common Core State Standards

### English Language Arts Parent Tips – Kindergarten

#### What are Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards were created to clearly communicate what is expected of students at each grade level.

- The standards were coordinated by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices (NGS Center) and the Council for Chief School Officers (CCSSO) as well as committees of teachers, administrators and other interested parties.
- Pennsylvania adopted the state standards on July 1, 2010. The standards were created to support the needs of PA students. All standards in K-5 are to be in place for the 2013-2014 school year with standards in grades 6 -12 in place by the 2014-2015 school year.

#### Why do we need common educational standards?

Every child across the country deserves to be given the tools they need to be successful and competitive in post-secondary education and the workforce.

- The Common Core provides a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.
- The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that students need for success in college and the workforce.

#### What are the principles of the Common Core?

- Students **achieve at high levels**.
- Students must be **college and career ready**.
- Students will have **continuity of curriculum** no matter where they go to school.
- Curriculum is rich in **content knowledge** within and across grade levels.
- Students read **increasingly complex texts** with **increasing independence**.

#### What will my child be working on in Kindergarten?

- Naming and writing upper- and lower-case letters and printing them.
- Matching letters to sounds and stretching out unfamiliar words when reading and writing.
- Comparing the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.
- Reading common sight words: the, of, you, are, she, my and more.
- Retelling familiar stories and asking and answering questions about stories read to them using details from the text.
- Using a combination of drawing, dictating and writing to describe an event, including his or her reaction to what happened.
- Stating an opinion or preference about a topic or book in writing ("My favorite book is . . .").
- Taking part in classroom conversations and following rules for discussions (taking turns, listening).
- Speaking clearly to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas, including descriptions of familiar people, places, things and events.
- Understanding and using question words (who, what, where, when, why and how) in discussion.
- Learning to recognize, spell and properly use those sight words that hold the language together (examples: a, the, to, of, from, I, is, are).

## What can I do at home to support my child?

1. Read with your child every day for at least 15 minutes. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite part. Share your own ideas.
2. Ask your child to retell a story in his or her own words by telling what happened first, second, third, etc.
3. Ask your child to think about what the message of a story may be or what he or she learned from an informational book or article.
4. Be sure to visit the local library for a library card. Not only can your child borrow books from the library but the library has a wealth of on-line resources that are available if you have a library card. Visit the Kaltreider Library, Martin Memorial Library or the Jacobus Library as well as visit [www.yorklibraries.org](http://www.yorklibraries.org).
5. Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day. Keep crayons, markers and paper around for your child to draw pictures or write words about his or her day.
6. Play word games like I Spy, sing songs like “Itsy, Bitsy Spider”, and make silly rhymes together.
7. Look for opportunities in everyday places to build your child’s vocabulary.

## What questions should I ask my child’s teacher?

It is important for you, as the parent, to build a positive relationship with your child’s teacher. You can do this by talking to your child’s teacher regularly about how your child is doing. Do not wait for progress reports or parent teacher conferences.

Kindergarten conversations can focus on:

- Using knowledge of letters and letter-sound correspondence to figure out how to spell words as they sound.
- Reading and understanding a story designed for early readers.

Ask the following questions:

- Is my child learning to read and write?
- How is my child doing in writing? (Ask to see a sample.)
- What are my child’s strengths and weaknesses?
- What can I do at home to make sure that my child is successful?
- If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a topic, are there resources to help with learning inside and outside of the classroom?

## Resources

Pennsylvania Common Core Standards: <http://www.pdesas.org/Standard/CommonCore>

Common Core State Standards Homepage: <http://www.corestandards.org>

Parent’s Guide to Student Success: <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>