

# FIRST GRADE



# Literacy Skills Checklist

The following items are skills first-grade students need to know in preparation for school in the Fall:

- ✓ Can retell simple stories or what was learned from informational texts.
- ✓ May recall details about the characters, setting, and key action rather than a full summary of the story.
- ✓ Can count the number of syllables in a word.
- ✓ Can blend or break apart the individual sounds (phonemes) of most one-syllable words, like sip and bat.
- ✓ Can read words with long vowel sounds (see, say, so)
- ✓ Begins to sound out more complex words, including words with silent "e" at the end.
- ✓ May know as many as 100 "sight words" — common words kids have to recognize instantly without sounding them out (have, said, where, two).
- ✓ Uses letter-sound knowledge, word parts, and context to identify new words.
- ✓ Monitors own reading and self-corrects.
- ✓ May still read word-by-word, but is beginning to read with more fluency.
- ✓ Is making the transition from emergent to "real" reading.
- ✓ Knows 300 to 500 words, sight words, and easily sounded-out words.
- ✓ Can independently read and retell familiar stories.
- ✓ Notices when a text doesn't make sense, and begins to use strategies such as rereading, predicting, and questioning to understand it.
- ✓ Reads and comprehends fiction and nonfiction and knows the difference between made-up stories and facts.
- ✓ Predicts what will happen next in stories.
- ✓ Thinks about and shares prior knowledge before reading a nonfiction book.
- ✓ Discusses how, why, and what-if questions in sharing nonfiction texts.
- ✓ Can answer simple written comprehension questions.
- ✓ Reads and understands simple written instructions.
- ✓ Engages in a variety of literary activities voluntarily (for example, choosing books and stories to read, writing a note to a friend).
- ✓ Writes about topics that are personally meaningful.
- ✓ Creates own written texts for others to read.
- ✓ Understands that writing goes from left to right and you continue to the next line to keep writing.
- ✓ Able to write simple but complete sentences, and begin to understand when to use capital letters, commas, and periods.
- ✓ Can print clearly and leave spaces between words.
- ✓ Spells correctly three- and four-letter short vowel words.
- ✓ Uses invented spelling based on letter-sound knowledge. Begins to use correct spelling, especially words from a word wall or vocabulary list.
- ✓ Composes fairly readable first drafts using appropriate parts of the writing process (some attention to planning, drafting, rereading for meaning, and some self-correction).
- ✓ Writes for a purpose and produces different types of writing (for example, stories, descriptions, journal entries), showing appropriate relationships between written text, illustrations, and other graphics.

*These literacy tips were created by Fort Worth ISD and align with its literacy curriculum standards.*

