

Darlington Community School's Parents' Guide to First Grade

Traits Exhibited by Many Five- to Seven-Year Olds

All children develop differently but you may notice the following traits as your child attends Kindergarten, or First Grade.

- Has a strong attachment to their home and family
- Has a short interest span
- Has an awareness mainly of themselves and their own desires
- Has a preference for imaginative, make-believe play
- Has a sense of curiosity, a desire to explore their expanding world
- Typically sleeps about 11 hours daily
- Has a desire for repetition of enjoyable experiences
- Can be easily upset by changes in routine or environment
- Tattling is a pronounced characteristic.
- Boys and girls play together readily
- Depends on adults to meet physical and emotional needs
- Has a need for patient understanding and close supervision

This year your child will learn to:

Art

- Use materials purposefully and safely
- Understand color, shape and line as elements of art
- Express self through art media
- Reflect on works of art

Language Arts/Reading

- Use language to convey appropriate message
- Listen when others are speaking
- Contribute ideas to discussions
- Follow verbal directions
- Use story mapping to analyze text
- Read for information and enjoyment
- Begin to read with fluency, self-correct decoding errors using phonics and context
- Use picture clues, letter-sound relationships (phonics), high frequency words and prior knowledge to read and understand texts
- Make predictions about a variety of texts
- Write stories, personal thoughts
- Orally summarize fiction and non-fiction after reading
- Recognize and read 226 high frequency/sight words
- Recognize that words may have different contextual meanings
- Research topics of interest

Mathematics

- Use problem-solving strategies
- Understand and communicate mathematical ideas
- Recognize numbers and be able to count to 100
- Use manipulatives to add and write number sentences to 20
- Understand and use basic units and processes of measurement (rulers, thermometers, balances, clocks, etc)
- Recognize basic shapes
- Understand and use position words: inside, outside, between, above, below, behind, in front of
- Use manipulatives to show and understand patterns
- Understand and use graphs
- Count by 2's, 5's and 10's
- Work with money (pennies, nickels, dimes)
- Recognize two- and three-dimensional figures
- Add and subtract whole numbers up to 20
- Understand and use fractions ($\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$)
- Use language to explain problems and solutions

Music

- Sing alone and with others a variety of songs
- Sing with syllables (so, mi, la)

- Echo rhythms and melody patterns
- Play classroom instruments to show understanding of high and low
- Play classroom instruments to show understanding of short and long
- Respond to music with appropriate movements
- Recognize basic music symbols
- Listen respectfully to others' performances

Physical Education

- Use a variety of basic motor movements (walk, skip, hop, jump, leap, gallop, run)
- Use a variety of basic non-locomotor movements (bend, twist, turn)
- Use a variety of basic object control skills (throw, catch, kick, strike)
- Name and use parts of the body for directed movement activities
- Understand and display sportsmanship
- Use feedback to improve performance
- Understand the relationship between physical activity and good health
- Understand the purpose of rules in games
- Understand the social contributions of physical activity (respect, cooperation, teamwork)
- Engage in activities that increase respiration and heart rate
- Engage in activities that develop flexibility, muscular strength and endurance
- Perform fitness activities including jumping jacks, push-ups, sit-ups, etc.
- Be able to do a two foot jump

Science

- Know that changes on the earth can be observed (night/day, daily weather, seasons)
- Understand patterns and cycles of weather
- Understand where natural resources are located and how they are used
- Know that plants and animals both need water, animals need food to eat, and plants need light
- Know that objects can be described and classified by their composition (wood, metal, etc.) and by their physical properties (color, size, shape, etc.)
- Know that everyone is constantly learning
- Use simple science equipment
- Conduct simple science experiments and communicate results
- Know that all organisms have life cycles
- Understand how technology is used in daily life and in people's careers

Social Studies

- Understand that people are alike and different in many ways
- Learn about democratic principles
- Learn about famous Americans in history
- Understand environment affects people's lives
- Understand how people can affect the environment
- Understand the US is a multi-cultural society
- Understand that we depend upon workers who produce goods or services
- Know the physical and human characteristics of a local community
- Know ways that people solve common problems by cooperating and working in groups
- Know how various American holidays reflect the shared values, principals, and beliefs of the diverse American society
- Understand directions (North, South, East, West)
- Understand that there are other countries in the world
- Use maps and globes to locate settings of stories or discussions

Information and Technology

- Use computers to practice math and reading skills
- Understand basic computer functions and terms
- Be able to use the computer for basic word processing
- Understand that technology use is widespread (toys, careers, home appliances, cars)
- Understand that information is organized in the library in a logical manner
- Choose appropriate library materials
- Use reference materials
- Recognize that graphics and pictures can convey a message

Self-Directed Learning

- Follow school and classroom rules
- Use self-control
- Show respect for others
- Work to solve own problems
- Work cooperatively with others
- Work independently to a greater degree as the school year progresses
- Use time productively
- Make plans and organize before working

- Work quietly when directed
- Complete work in a timely manner
- Evaluate own work

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