



# Ellington Public Schools Curriculum Guide

## Kindergarten

The Ellington Public Schools kindergarten curriculum is designed to enhance your child's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. We believe in purposeful play, which will support our kindergarten students acquiring the skills needed to become collaborative and independent learners.

This document provides you with an overview of the skills, topics, and concepts that form the core curriculum at this grade level. The curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and other state and national standards in each content area.

Each child is viewed as a unique person with an individual pattern and pace of growth. Different approaches to learning and skill levels are expected, accepted, and used to design curriculum and instruction.



### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Learning the skills to become readers and writers is the cornerstone of the kindergarten language arts curriculum. The English Language Arts curriculum in Ellington is aligned with the Common Core State Standards and spirals the skills and expectations for reading and writing beginning in kindergarten. Our balanced approach to literacy features multiple opportunities for kindergarten students to engage in activities such as reading workshop, writing workshop, phonics, and shared reading.



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## **READING**

Our kindergarten students will begin to develop the behaviors they will use to grow as readers. Reading instruction is supported through reading aloud, shared reading, and instruction with texts on and just above students' just right reading levels. Our kindergarten students will have opportunities each day to practice independent reading and/or reading with a partner.

## **WRITING**

Our kindergarten students will begin to experiment with writing stories, writing to share information, and writing to share ideas. They will learn to use a writing process as they use a combination of drawing, planning, and writing to express their ideas on paper.

## **PHONICS**

A part of each day is devoted to explicit, direct phonics instruction using the Foundations program. The purpose of word study in kindergarten is to help children understand how letters and words work within the context of reading and writing and to develop their knowledge of words.

## **KEY KINDERGARTEN LITERACY SKILLS**

- Recognize, name, and print both upper- and lower-case letters;
- Practice rhyming words, matching words with beginning sounds, and segmenting sounds;
- Retell familiar stories, talk about stories using details from the text, and discuss information from texts read aloud;
- State an opinion about a topic or book in writing;
- Learn to recognize, spell, and properly use high-frequency words like a, the, to, from, I, is, and are.

## **HANDWRITING**

The Foundations manuscript handwriting program is used.



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## **MATHEMATICS**

The mathematics program maintains a balance between the development of math concepts, basic skills, and problem solving strategies. Students apply their knowledge of basic skills and concepts while working on meaningful and challenging tasks. In kindergarten, students will develop the ability to add and subtract small numbers and solve word problems using addition and subtraction. The Bridges in Mathematics program is used as a resource for mathematics instruction.

## **KEY KINDERGARTEN MATH SKILLS**

- Count objects and compare two groups of objects to tell which has more;
- Add and subtract within 10 using objects or drawings;
- Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value;
- Learn how to solve addition and subtraction word problems using diagrams;
- Correctly name shapes of various size and orientation.

## **SCIENCE**

In kindergarten students develop their understanding of science questions, such as "What happens if you push or pull an object harder?", "What is the difference between living and nonliving things?", and "Where do puddles come from and where do they go?". Through various activities, explorations, and purposeful play, students will begin to build their understanding of complex phenomena in the world around them.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

In social studies, our kindergarten students will engage in a study of themselves, their family, and their school community. Students will develop a basic understanding of family and school structures, rules and consequences in school, and learn how to participate as a member of a school community. They will explore the diversity in how families and communities celebrate holidays and traditions. Additionally, students will explore how weather and geography affect people in different regions of the world.



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## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical education lessons engage students in carefully planned and sequenced movement experiences that teach them about themselves and their world.

## **MUSIC**

The music program fosters an understanding of music and the development of musical skills through singing, listening, playing instruments, and movement.

## **ART**

The art program develops an appreciation of art, introduces design elements, and gives opportunities to create art in a variety of media.

## **HOMEWORK**

Reading and developing literacy skills is a priority in the elementary curriculum. Ideally, students should read outside of school on a daily basis. In kindergarten, the expected length of time at home for either independent reading or being read to is 10-20 minutes each day. To help establish the reading habit, families are encouraged to support this goal by setting aside time each day for reading, including reading to your child.

## **K-6 Digital Tools Log-in & User Support**

[Click here for our family resource for logging into EPS Digital Tools and getting started using various tools](#)