

# Kindergarten

English Language Arts & Literacy

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in Kindergarten . . .

- Naming upper- and lower-case letters, matching those letters with their sounds, and printing them
- Comparing the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories, such as fairy tales and folktales
- Retelling familiar stories and talking 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 (e.g., "My favorite book is . . .")
- Taking part in classroom conversations and following rules for discussions (e.g., learning to listen to others and taking turns when speaking)
- Speaking clearly to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas, including descriptions of familiar people, places, things, and events
- Asking and answering questions about key details in stories or other information read aloud
- Understanding and using question words (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how) in discussions

## Help Your Child Learn At Home

- ◆ Read with your child every day. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Share your own ideas.
- ◆ Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Keep paper, markers, or crayons around the house for your child to write letters or words or draw a picture about his or her day. Have your child describe the picture to you.
- ◆ Play word games like "I Spy", sing songs like "Itsy Bitsy Spider, and make silly rhymes together."

## College and Career Ready

By implementing the Utah Core Standards, Tooele schools have committed to devoting more time and resources to preparing your child for college and the real world. The rigorous, research-based, and internationally benchmarked standards are designed to:

- Align with the expectations of colleges and the modern workforce
- Build upon states' decades-long efforts to craft high-quality education standards
- Provide a clear understanding of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level
- Give parents and teachers tools to help students stay on the college- and career-ready path

## Utah Core/Common Core Links & Information

Here are a few links containing additional information, including details on what each child will be expected to know and do in each grade, as well as tips for parents:

- [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)
- [www.schools.utah.gov/core](http://www.schools.utah.gov/core)
- [www.pta.org/parentsguide](http://www.pta.org/parentsguide)

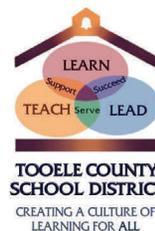
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# Utah Core State Standards



Every Student  
College and Career  
Ready

TOOELE COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kindergarten

# Frequently Asked Questions

## WHEN WILL MY CHILD START LEARNING UNDER THE UTAH CORE STANDARDS?

The Tooele County School District Board of Education approved the following implementation timeline:



### Math

- 2011-2012: Grades K-2, 6-8, and 9
- 2012-2013: Grades 3-5, and 10
- 2013-2014: Grade 11

### Language Arts

- 2011-2012: Grades K-5, and 7-12
- 2012-2013: Grade 6



## HOW WILL THE STANDARDS CHANGE WHAT MY CHILD IS LEARNING?

Utah standards have sometimes been characterized as being “a mile wide and an inch deep”; meaning, many topics are introduced to students without opportunities for in-depth application. The Utah Core Standards focus instruction on critical thinking to better prepare students for real-world challenges. They specify what students need to know and do at each grade level. They allow for deeper instruction, give students more time to master each skill, and introduce each skill in sequence to lead naturally to higher-level thinking and analysis.

## WILL MY CHILD BE ABLE TO TAKE ALGEBRA AND GEOMETRY?

Absolutely – starting in kindergarten. Higher-level math concepts are embedded in K-12 instruction. While math courses offered in secondary schools will no longer carry names to which we’ve become accustomed to, such as algebra or geometry, they will expand upon geometric and algebraic concepts students have been learning all along.

## WILL THE STANDARDS BE TOO RIGOROUS FOR MY CHILD WHO IS STRUGGLING?

No. Teachers will receive ongoing training and support so they can quickly identify students who need additional attention. The standards are few and more in-depth; therefore, teachers will be better able to prevent students from falling behind.

## HOW WILL THE STANDARDS FURTHER MY ADVANCED STUDENT’S PROGRESS?

All Tooele secondary schools will continue to offer Advanced Placement, Concurrent Enrollment, and Honors courses. In elementary school, teachers will receive ongoing training and support to help them tailor instruction to meet the needs of all students and provide greater depth and complexity to advanced learners.

## ARE THE STANDARDS A NATIONAL CURRICULUM?

No. The standards specify what students need to know and be able to do at each grade level to become college - and career-ready. They articulate expectations and results, not the manner in which content is taught.



TCSD is committed to providing educational opportunities to students without regard to race, color, sex, national origin or disability. If you have questions, please contact the Title IX Coordinator @ (435) 833-1900.

# Kindergarten

## Math

## A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in Kindergarten . . .

- Counting objects to tell how many are there
- Comparing two groups of objects to tell which group, if either, has more; comparing two written numbers to tell which is greater
- Acting out addition and subtraction word problems and drawing diagrams to represent them
- Adding with a sum of 10 or less; subtracting from a number 10 or less, and solving addition and subtraction word problems
- Adding and subtracting very small numbers quickly and accurately (e.g.,  $3 + 1$ )
- Correctly naming shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a “diamond” is still a square)

## Help Your Child Learn At Home

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some kindergarten examples might include:

- ♦ Play “Write the next number.” You write a number, and your child writes the next number.
- ♦ Ask your child questions that require counting as many as 20 things. For example, ask, “How many books do you have about wild animals?”
- ♦ Ask your child questions that require comparing numbers. “Who is wearing more bracelets, you or your sister?” (Your child might use matching or counting to find the answer.)

The proceeding was an abridged version of National PTA’s Parents’ Guide to Student Success. Read it in full at [www.pta.org/parentsguide](http://www.pta.org/parentsguide)

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