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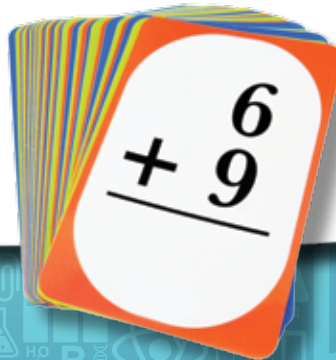
Teacher Created Materials

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Dear Family,

This is an exciting year for your first grader! Many children become readers during first grade. They begin to master useful math skills that will serve them well for life. They are ready for more formal instruction in topics such as science and social studies. They also learn to socialize with a larger pool of children and adults.

You've been your child's primary teacher since the beginning. Now, your child's teacher will play a big role in your child's day. Don't be surprised if your first grader loves his or her teacher! This is the ideal time to build a partnership with the teacher to ensure a love of learning. You have already begun to develop many important skills as your child's first and most important teacher!

This parent guide will give you even more parent-tested ideas. From tips for organizing school materials to strategies for incorporating learning opportunities into your busy day—you are sure to find some ideas that are just right for you.





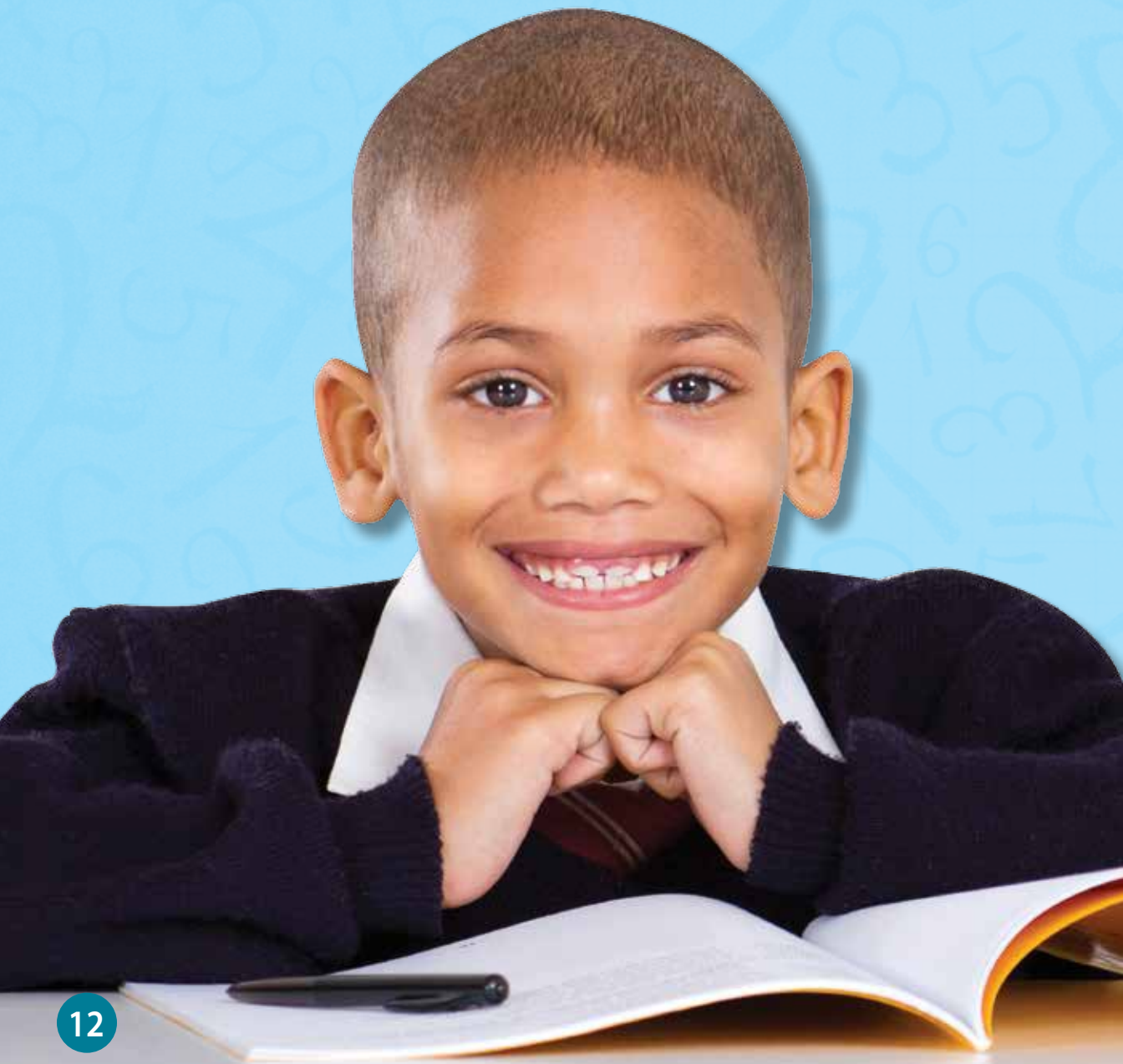
One last thought...


Keep in mind that you are setting the stage for habits that will help your child for the rest of his or her life. This will be a busy and important year, but don't forget to have fun along the way!



Top 10

Things Your First Grader Needs to Know



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1. **Read grade-level books** with ease and understanding
 2. **Read and spell** sight words
 3. **Write complete sentences** with correct capitalization and punctuation
 4. **Count**, read, and write to 100
 5. **Addition and subtraction** facts up to 20
 6. Simple two-digit **addition and subtraction** problems (without regrouping)
 7. **Five senses** (sight, taste, touch, sound, and smell) to observe and describe things
 8. **Living things** and their habitats
 9. **Rules and responsibilities** of being a good citizen
 10. **The United States' holidays and symbols**



Science

All Around

Your first grader has always been a scientist. Curiosity about how things work in the world is natural. During the first grade, your child will be learning about plants, animals, their habitats, the weather, and how to think about investigations and experiments.

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These activities will help your child to think scientifically and critically.

Seasonal Talk

When walking to the bus, park, or store, talk about the changing seasons.

Tracking the Weather

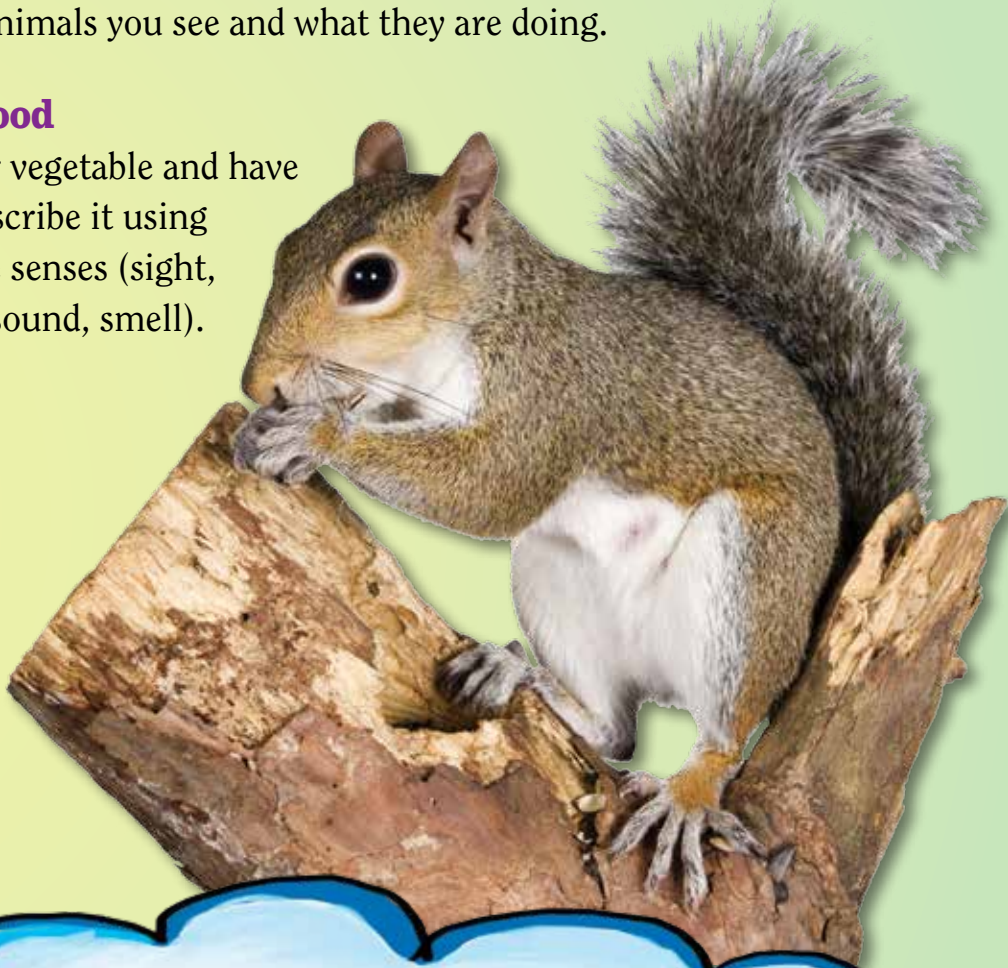
Have your child draw a sun, clouds, rain, or snow daily on a calendar to track the weather.

Animal Watching

When outside, take time to notice the animals in your area. Discuss any animals you see and what they are doing.

Sensing Food

Pick a fruit or vegetable and have your child describe it using his or her five senses (sight, touch, taste, sound, smell).



One last thought...

Enjoy your child's natural interest in all things squishy, wiggly, and crawly. Even things adults may find creepy, may fascinate children. You may find you have a budding scientist in the family.