



WHAT KINDER KIDS SHOULD KNOW

Kindergarten SURGE Standards™

Skills Used for Readiness, Growth & Excellence

A colorful, family-friendly guide to the foundational knowledge, skills, and learning habits children build in Kindergarten.

START STRONG. SURGE AHEAD. ACHIEVE.™

The SURGE Standards™

Skills Used for Readiness, Growth & Excellence

S	Skills Build the essential academic and learning skills children need for success.
U	Used Apply new learning through reading, writing, math, investigation, conversation, and play.
R	Readiness Develop strong foundations that prepare children for the next level of learning.
G	Growth Practice, feedback, curiosity, and persistence help every learner make progress.
E	Excellence Build confidence, independence, and the ability to use learning in meaningful ways.

For families: These standards are written in everyday language as guiding examples of important Kindergarten learning. They are informed by grade-level expectations and are designed to make school readiness easier to understand and support at home.

Reading, Language & Writing

READ IT • SAY IT • WRITE IT

Reading Foundations

A Kindergarten SURGE reader is learning to...

- Name and recognize uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Connect letters with their most common sounds.
- Hear and identify sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of simple words.
- Blend sounds together to read simple words.
- Recognize frequently used words automatically.
- Understand that print moves from left to right and carries meaning.

Reading Comprehension

Children learn to think and talk about what they read and hear.

- Retell important events in a story in order.
- Identify characters, setting, and major events.
- Tell the main topic or important idea of a text.
- Ask and answer questions about a story or informational text.
- Use pictures and words together to understand meaning.
- Make simple predictions and connections using clues from the text.

Writing & Communication

Young writers and speakers learn to share ideas clearly.

- Write first name and practice writing last name.
- Form recognizable uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Use drawings, labels, words, and simple sentences to communicate an idea.
- Leave spaces between words.
- Begin using capital letters and ending punctuation.
- Listen, take turns, ask questions, and speak clearly during conversations.

Mathematics

COUNT IT • BUILD IT • SOLVE IT

Numbers & Counting

A Kindergarten SURGE mathematician is learning to...

- Count objects accurately by matching one number to each object.
- Recognize, read, write, and represent numbers.
- Compare groups and describe which has more, fewer, or the same.
- Understand that the last number counted tells how many objects are in a group.
- Compose and decompose small numbers in different ways.

Adding & Subtracting

Children build early problem-solving skills using concrete models.

- Join groups to model addition.
- Separate groups to model subtraction.
- Solve simple story problems using objects, drawings, or numbers.
- Explain an answer using words, pictures, or models.

Shapes, Measurement & Patterns

Children notice and describe the math all around them.

- Identify and describe common two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes.
- Compare objects by attributes such as length, height, size, or weight.
- Sort and classify objects by shared characteristics.
- Recognize, copy, extend, and describe simple patterns.
- Use position words such as above, below, beside, inside, and outside.

Science & Social Studies

EXPLORE IT • DISCOVER IT • CONNECT IT

Science Explorers

Kindergarten scientists observe, investigate, and describe the world.

- Use the senses safely to observe and describe objects.
- Sort objects by observable properties.
- Explore how pushes and pulls can change the way objects move.
- Recognize living and nonliving things.
- Describe basic needs of plants and animals.
- Observe weather, seasons, and patterns in nature.
- Use simple tools, pictures, and words to record observations.

Community & Citizenship

Children begin understanding their classroom, community, state, and country.

- Explain why classrooms, families, and communities have rules.
- Practice responsible citizenship through kindness, fairness, and responsibility.
- Recognize community helpers and describe the jobs people do.
- Identify basic needs and wants.
- Use simple time words such as yesterday, today, tomorrow, past, and present.
- Recognize important state and national symbols and celebrations.
- Use simple maps and location words to describe places.

Ready-to-Learn Skills

CONFIDENCE + INDEPENDENCE + KINDNESS

Kindergarten success includes more than academics. SURGE learners also practice routines, communication, independence, and perseverance.

■ Follow one- and two-step directions.	■ Participate in classroom routines.
■ Work independently for short periods.	■ Take turns, share materials, and cooperate with others.
■ Ask for help appropriately.	■ Use words to express needs and ideas.
■ Make safe choices with body and materials.	■ Take care of personal and classroom belongings.
■ Try again when learning feels challenging.	■ Celebrate progress and show pride in learning.

The Kindergarten SURGE Check

- I can recognize letters and use letter sounds to read simple words.
- I can tell important parts of a story or text.
- I can use pictures, words, and simple sentences to share an idea.
- I can count, compare groups, and solve simple addition and subtraction situations.
- I can identify shapes, patterns, and ways objects can be measured.
- I can observe and describe the world around me.
- I can explain basic classroom and community expectations.
- I can follow routines, work with others, and keep trying.

START STRONG. SURGE AHEAD. ACHIEVE.™

Family note: Children develop at different rates. Use the SURGE Standards to celebrate growth, notice strengths, and identify skills that may benefit from additional practice.