



## Introduction

*Look at me—I'm in Grade 1!* In Grade 1, all students take the following required subjects: art, English language arts and literature,\* mathematics, music, physical education and wellness, science, and social studies. Students in Francophone schools or French immersion programs take a mandatory French language course.

**\*Note:** English language arts and literature may have different points of entry in Francophone schools or French immersion programs based on a school authority's decision and/or policy.

## Art

*How do I create things?* In Grade 1, your child will create visual art by using a variety of media and techniques and will begin to think about what visual symbols mean. Through the four major components of the art program, they will explore form and function and develop decorative styles.

## What Your Child Is Learning

In the Grade 1 Art program, your child will draw and paint and explore printmaking, sculpture, fabric arts, photography, and computer graphics. They will interpret and communicate with visual symbols, appreciate the cultural aspects of art, and relate art to their life. Through reflection, depiction, composition, and expression, they will notice that objects have form and function and they will develop unique decorative styles for their creations. Still curious? Refer to the [program of studies](#) for more information about Grade 1 Art.

## English Language Arts and Literature

*What are words and how can I use them? How can I speak well with others and know I am using the right words?* Grade 1 students see why words are important and how words can be used to create beautiful stories. Your child will experience the fun of communicating, learning, and expressing themselves.

## What Your Child Is Learning

Your child will learn to

- speak about experiences and information, using appropriate vocabulary, volume, and speed
- retell the main idea, characters, and details in a story or poem
- show understandings of letter-sound relationships and automatic recognition of words
- combine ideas in logical sequences to speak and write in complete sentences
- begin sentences with a capital letter and end them with a period, a question mark, or an exclamation mark
- organize ideas to create stories and poems or to record factual information

For more information about Grade 1 English Language Arts and Literature, refer to the [new curriculum](#).

## Mathematics

*I'm learning addition and subtraction facts.* Your child will learn to compare quantities and solve problems using addition and subtraction. They will gather data, identify and sort shapes, and learn about cycles of time.

## What Your Child Is Learning

Your child will learn to

- recall addition number facts to a sum of 20 and related subtraction facts
- identify and sort 2-D and 3-D shapes
- order objects according to length, area, and capacity
- identify cycles of time from nature and calendars

For more information about Grade 1 Mathematics, refer to the [new curriculum](#).



## Physical Education and Wellness

*Staying active keeps my body healthy and strong!* Your child will see the importance of establishing healthy habits and building friendships. They will grow to appreciate the importance of physical activity, while discovering essential life skills, such as cooperation, leadership, fair play, and teamwork.

### What Your Child Is Learning

Your child will learn to

- recognize that changes in the body can result from participating in physical activity
- demonstrate various ways of moving safely through space during physical activity
- practise words and actions that support friendship
- examine decision making in food selection
- practise ways to express, request, obtain, or refuse consent relating to personal boundaries
- explore that money has value and purpose in everyday living

For more information about Grade 1 Physical Education and Wellness, refer to the [new curriculum](#).

### Exemptions from Physical Education

Exemption from physical education may be given

- for medical conditions, when a certification from a medical practitioner is sent to the principal with a statement of activities the student can't participate in
- for religious beliefs, when a statement in writing from a parent is presented to the principal
- when appropriate facilities can't be accessed

When a student is exempted, they will participate in other activities consistent with the aim and outcomes of the program, where appropriate.

## Science

*Do you know why fall is my favourite season of the year?* Grade 1 Science will foster your child's natural sense of wonder about their world while they learn about the seasons and living things.

### What Your Child Is Learning

Your child will learn to

- analyze measurable properties of objects and physical changes
- investigate characteristics of movement
- analyze seasonal changes and their effects on plants and animals
- investigate plants and animals and the relationships among them
- order and follow instructions
- describe the steps of an investigation and make predictions, observations, and conclusions

For more information about Grade 1 Science, refer to the [new curriculum](#).

## Social Studies

*What makes a community? How do I fit in? What are some stories of the past?* Your child will grow to understand the benefits and responsibilities of living in a community, while appreciating the differences in others. They'll also explore the history of your family and community.

### What Your Child Is Learning

Your child will discover the importance of strong communities. They'll consider their own growth and how they are affected by community members. They'll see the many aspects of communities, including community history, and explore your family history. Your child will accept and identify with those around them, while growing to understand their own responsibilities as an individual. For more about Grade 1 Social Studies, refer to the [program of studies](#).



## Common Questions

### How can I be involved in my child's school?

You and the staff at your child's school are partners in providing a positive learning environment for your child. You can be involved in your child's education in many ways. It is important to get to know your child's classroom teacher(s) and the school principal by attending parent-student-teacher meetings. You could also attend or volunteer at school events such as open houses, information sessions, parent advisory meetings, concerts, and special events. Often schools have newsletters that provide updates on upcoming events in the school. In this way, you will have a better idea of school rules, program expectations, discipline policies, and grading practices. [School councils](#) provide another way for you to become involved in the school. The school council works together with school staff to support and enhance student learning. Contact your child's school to get more information on ways you can be involved.

### How can I help my child with homework?

You, as a parent, play a key role in supporting and reinforcing your child's learning. It is important for you to talk with your child's teachers about their expectations for the work they assign. Keep in touch with the teachers about your child's progress, including successes and achievements, not just concerns. Knowing what the teachers expect and how they organize the classroom learning experience will help you to help your child. Don't be afraid to ask the teachers questions when you are unsure of the tasks and work assigned. Communication with teachers will help you and your child prioritize and organize the homework and studying they must do. Visit the school website or talk to the school office staff to find out the best way to communicate with your child's teachers.

Once you have determined what school work or skills your child must work on at home, set aside a time and place where there are few distractions and spend time with your child. Be positive and encouraging about learning to help

your child feel confident and enthusiastic about success. Remember that success can look different for each child. Talk to your child about school work, help your child set realistic goals, and discuss progress in an encouraging way. Connect your child's school work with everyday life, and use these opportunities to problem solve in everyday situations. As you support your child through encouragement and guidance, homework and studying can become a positive experience with lifelong rewards. Developing strong homework and study habits early in life will build a strong foundation for your child's future learning.

### I want to know more about English as an Additional Language

Many children born in Canada speak a language other than English at home, and many students move here from countries where English is not the main language. Children/students who are learning English at the same time they are learning the content of their school subjects are called English as an additional language (EAL) learners. Schools provide supports and programs to help EAL learners develop English so they can do well in all of their school subjects.

EAL learners receive supports in the classroom, such as

- pictures, diagrams, and charts to help them understand what they read or hear
- books and other written materials that match their reading abilities and interests
- direct teaching about English grammar and vocabulary

Some EAL programs or courses in junior high school and senior high school help students learn English while they learn about Canadian culture, values, customs, and social expectations.

Every year, schools measure the English language proficiency of children/students who are EAL learners. Schools use this information to decide what sort of



supports each child/student needs. Many schools use the *Alberta K–12 English as an Additional Language Proficiency Benchmarks*, available through the [Supporting English as an Additional Language Learners](#) web page, to find out an EAL learner’s English level in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The school will tell you about your child’s progress in developing English proficiency. You are encouraged to

- contact the school to ask questions
- provide useful information about your child
- volunteer at the school

### **How Can I Support My Child in Learning English?**

It may take several years for your child to become fluent in English. The English used for talking with family and friends usually develops more quickly, while the English used for reading, writing, explaining, and discussing topics in school subjects usually takes longer. Every child learns English at their own speed.

Helping your child maintain their home language(s) will support them to learn English and all languages better. You can help your child continue building their home language(s) through family games, stories, and songs.

If you are new to Alberta and want to learn more about the school system here, you might wish to visit [Choosing a School in Alberta](#).

For more information about EAL supports that could help your child learn English, contact your child’s school.

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### **Where can I get more information?**

Learn more about your child’s education by visiting <https://new.learnalberta.ca/parents/>.

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