

Early Reading Milestones

Reading skills to look for by the end of Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1



Did you know that your child is already developing skills for reading success? Even in your child's first years in school they are building the foundations for language and literacy. Check out what milestones you can look for in Pre-K, Kindergarten and Grade 1. Keep in mind that every child develops differently, and these milestones may be reached sooner or later depending on the child.

End of Pre Kindergarten (Pre-K) or Transitional Kindergarten Reading (TK) Milestones

Sounds & Symbols

Letter Names

☐

Able to name 15-18 letters of the alphabet

Letter Sounds

☐

Able to identify some letter sounds, especially the sounds in first name

Phonological Awareness

Rhyming

☐

Can rhyme words such as bat, cat, hat

First Sound Matching

☐

Can isolate and match the first sound in words

Letter Sounds

☐

Can combine compound words (butter-fly) and can blend the beginning sound of a word with the rest of the word (f-ish).

Language

Vocabulary

☐

Can identify the names of everyday objects and pictures in books

Oral Language Comprehension

☐

Can understand spoken language in sentences and follow one and two step commands. Can often predict what happens next in a story

End of Kindergarten Reading (K) Milestones

Sounds & Symbols

Letter Names

☐

Recognize, name, and write all 26 letters of the alphabet

Letter Sounds

☐

Can identify letter sounds associated with all 26 letters of the alphabet

Phonological Awareness

Rhyming

☐

Can identify rhyming pairs such as boy/toy and man/fan

First Sound Matching

☐

Can match words with the same beginning sound such as hand/ hair

Deletion

☐

Can delete the initial or final sound in a word, such as changing the word stop to top

Nonword Repetition

☐

Can repeat 1, 2 and 3-syllable nonsense words such as plip and nuffy

Blending

☐

Can combine 3 sounds to form a word such as /f/ /i/ /sh/

Language

Word Matching

☐

Can match commonly associated items when given a choice, such as finding the two things that are alike in a group: shoe, sock and backpack

Following Directions

☐

Can follow 2-step directions such as go to the kitchen and get a plate from the cabinet

Phonics

Nonword Reading

☐

Can read nonwords that follow simple syllable patterns such as ip and zop

Word Reading

☐

Can read simple frequently occurring real words such as my and that



Early Reading Milestones

Reading skills to look for by the end of Grade 1



Keep in mind that every child develops differently, and these milestones may be reached sooner or later depending on the child.

Grade 1 End of Year Milestones

Phonemic Awareness

Deletion



Can delete part of an initial blend or ending sound in a word, such as changing the word scream to cream or bent to ben

Nonword Repetition



Can repeat 3-syllable nonsense words such as quix-flo-gar or thrum-ble-dax

Phonics

Nonword Reading



Can read nonwords that follow the silent e syllable patterns such as dase and stobe

Nonword Spelling



Can spell nonsense words with up to 5 sounds such as sprod

Vocabulary

Expressive Vocabulary



Can identify more uncommon tangible items

Fluency

Word Reading



Can read simple frequently occurring grade level real words such as again and some

Comprehension

Word Matching



Can match commonly associated nouns and verbs when given a choice, such as find the two things that are alike: cherish and admire or bashful and shy

Following Directions



Has an understanding of conceptual vocabulary (first, below, then) and can follow multi-step directions with conditional demands

To learn more about early reading milestones, and how Sprout Labs can help your child become a confident reader, visit sproutlabs.com today!

