

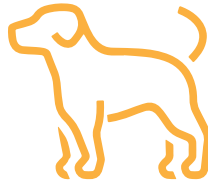


FOCUS AREAS FOR FIRST GRADE:

- ▶ Use language and numbers to describe patterns: for example, how the sun, moon, and stars move across the sky.
- ▶ Understand that weather changes from season to season and that, by observing patterns carefully, people can predict those changes.
- ▶ Understand that individual plants and animals are unique but we can sort them into categories (like *maple trees* or *dogs*) based on their similarities.
- ▶ Explore how light and sound move through different materials. For example, notice how humming causes the throat to vibrate or how sunlight is partly blocked by a curtain.



BY THE END OF FIRST GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Collect data on seasonal changes in the local environment: for example, birds leaving an area or sunsets happening earlier.
- ▶ Use patterns in temperature, rainfall, and snowfall to predict what future weather will be like.
- ▶ Explain how animals use their body parts and senses to meet their needs: for example, how owls use their eyes (seeing) and ears (hearing) to find food.
- ▶ Describe how parents help their babies survive: for example, how birds feed their babies when the babies chirp to say that they are hungry.
- ▶ Build something that can send a signal (light or sound) over a distance.
- ▶ Figure out how an object can help solve a problem: for example, how a heavy box can hold a door open.
- ▶ Think about possible solutions to a problem, like a window that won't stay shut. Use drawing and language to explain how the solutions could work.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ What information about the weather have you been gathering?
- ▶ What changes will we see when winter comes? How do you know?
- ▶ How can we make this chair more comfortable?
- ▶ How do we hear sound?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life
- ▶ Places in the community that can help your child learn science