

## PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### Preparing Florida's Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **fourth grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

### LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in fourth grade—along with some important additional skills. **Fourth grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Determining the theme of a story, drama or poem based on details in the text, and summarizing the text.
- Conducting a short research project that builds knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- Explaining how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.



- Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.



Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards for Grade 4 at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)

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## TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



Remember, you are your child's first and will always be his/her most important teacher. Think about a conference as a "team meeting" in which you will discover the special contributions each of you can bring to your fourth grader's success.

Ask the teacher for examples of reading materials that could support learning. Together, look at an example of something your child has written. Ask the teacher what this work tells him/her about your child's start on the journey to becoming a confident reader and communicator.

## SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning English language arts at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



Encourage your child to use book trailers to select a first, second and third choice to read. Ask him/her to tell you why and how each video made a book sound interesting. Go to the library to check out and read those top choices.



Check out records for temperature and precipitation in your area. Study an example together. Investigate what the numbers, symbols or lines represent.



Involve your child in cooking. Show him or her the importance of reading product labels and recipes and applying information to choices and food preparation.



Document a family event by turning it into a news story.



Encourage your child to create his own birthday, get-well and holiday cards, practicing his or her best cursive handwriting skills.



Listen to/watch an in-depth television or internet video report on a topic that concerns your family. Afterwards, have your child review the main points the report covered.



Hold game nights regularly.



Be frequent visitors to your local public library. Let him/her see you choosing, checking out and enjoying books.



Provide opportunities for your child to keep an electronic diary.



Start a family book club.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

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Questions? Contact [JustforParents@fldoe.org](mailto:JustforParents@fldoe.org)