

## Essential Skills for Students by Grade Level

Below is a general guide to the key skills students should develop at each grade level, based on U.S. educational standards and developmental milestones.

### Kindergarten (Ages 5–6)

- **Reading:** Letter recognition (uppercase/lowercase), phonics basics, sight words, rhyming, simple sentence reading.
- **Writing:** Write own name, simple words, understand print direction.
- **Math:** Count to 100, identify shapes, compare quantities, basic addition/subtraction.
- **Social Skills:** Share, follow rules, express emotions appropriately.
- **Science/Social Studies:** Community helpers, seasons, weather, five senses [homeschoolacademics.org+1](https://homeschoolacademics.org+1).

### 1st Grade (Ages 6–7)

- **Reading:** Phonics decoding, read short words, simple books, comprehension.
- **Math:** Add/subtract within 20, place value, tell time, measure.
- **Writing:** Form complete sentences, story sequencing, spell common words.
- **Science:** Life cycles, weather patterns, observations.
- **Social Studies:** Family traditions, rules, basic maps/globes [homeschoolacademics.org+1](https://homeschoolacademics.org+1).

### 2nd Grade (Ages 7–8)

- **Reading:** Fluent reading, story elements, compare texts.
- **Math:** Place value to 1,000, regrouping, simple multiplication, money, data graphs.
- **Writing:** Paragraph writing, editing, opinion writing.
- **Science:** Earth materials, habitats, weather changes.
- **Social Studies:** Historical figures, government basics, map skills [homeschoolacademics.org](https://homeschoolacademics.org).

### 3rd Grade (Ages 8–9)

- **Reading:** Chapter books, main idea/details, use text evidence.

- **Math:** Multiplication/division facts, fractions, perimeter/area.
- **Writing:** Informative, opinion, narrative writing with structure.
- **Science:** Forces/motion, ecosystems, simple experiments.
- **Social Studies:** U.S. geography, local government, cultural studies [homeschoolacademics.org](http://homeschoolacademics.org).

#### 4th Grade (Ages 9–10)

- **Reading:** Analyze texts, figurative language, nonfiction skills.
- **Math:** Long division, multi-digit multiplication, fraction operations.
- **Writing:** Multi-paragraph essays, research projects.
- **Science:** Energy, rock cycle, simple machines.
- **Social Studies:** State history, early U.S. history, map reading [homeschoolacademics.org+1](http://homeschoolacademics.org+1).

#### 5th Grade (Ages 10–11)

- **Reading:** Compare texts, theme analysis, summarizing.
- **Math:** Decimals, volume, graphing, fractions in depth.
- **Writing:** Persuasive essays, research writing, grammar application.
- **Science:** Ecosystems, space, human body, energy conservation.
- **Social Studies:** U.S. history (Revolutionary War, Constitution), key events [homeschoolacademics.org+1](http://homeschoolacademics.org+1).

#### 6th Grade (Ages 11–12)

- **Reading:** Deep analysis, literary devices (metaphor, symbolism).
- **Math:** Ratios, integers, expressions/equations, algebra basics.
- **Writing:** Argumentative writing with evidence.
- **Science:** Earth science (rock cycle, weather), cells, physics basics.
- **Social Studies:** Earth science, weather, cells, physics basics [Funcation Academy](http://Funcation Academy).

**Tip:** These are general expectations; actual skills may vary by state or district. Always align with your local curriculum and your child’s developmental pace.

