

## Kindergarten ELA Overview...

Kindergarten launches with the introduction of a variety of genres through engaging books. Students begin with identifying letters and the letter sounds and increase their independence to identifying words and sentences within reading and writing. They engage in listening to and reading text and learn decoding, fluency, and comprehension skills. With teacher guidance, they begin to learn how to retell a story and include details, main events, and setting. Students also identify the author, illustrator and some text features. Since Kindergarteners are introduced to such a wide variety of written materials, they begin to compare and contrast across multiple texts.

As writers, the Kindergarten curriculum offers opportunities to develop students' ability to communicate clearly through talking, drawing, and writing. With prompting and support, students are able to state an opinion or preference, compose an informative text with information about a topic of interest, and narrate an experience in writing.

Tools of the Mind and the Literacy Collaborative instructional framework are used to provide both standards-based instruction and attend to students' needs.

**Units of Study:** In order to foster the students' independence as readers and writers the following units are shared across the year. In each unit of study, students are able to apply what they have learned as readers to the craft of writing.

**Working Together in the Classroom:** In this Unit of Study, teachers are creating a classroom community of readers and writers. This is where Reader's and Writer's Workshop expectations are laid out.

**Folktales (Animal):** In this Unit of Study, students will understand that familiar tales are told in sequential and repetitive ways. They will also understand how characters, events, and literary language patterns are added in a cumulative story or tale to teach a lesson.

**Author Study:** In this Unit of Study, students will understand how authors make decisions to tell their stories or give information. The students will also recognize different text structures and organizational patterns.

**Exploring Fiction and Non Fiction:** In this Unit of Study, students will understand what the writer's reason for writing is (purpose). Students will explore the characteristics of each to notice the similarities and differences between the two genres.

**Exploring Characters:** In this Unit of Study, students will understand how an author uses words and pictures to depict characters' feelings, actions, and thoughts.

**Illustrator Study:** In this Unit of Study, students will understand how illustrators make decisions through a process. They will understand the unique features of illustrations to support making meaning of the text.

**Nonfiction Books:** In this Unit of Study, students will understand that non-fiction text is about a specific topic. Students will think about what they already know as well as what is new information.

**Thinking About and Beyond the Text:** In this Unit of Study, students will understand how texts are structured and organized to support their reading comprehension and fluency.

**Units of Study in Writing:** Throughout the year, students will be engaged in the craft and conventions of writing. They will continue to develop their own process for writing.

**Narrative Writing:** This unit includes drawing, dictating and writing about a single event in the correct sequence. Students will also produce simple poems using rhyming words.

**Opinion Writing:** This unit includes drawing, dictating and writing to express an opinion of a topic or a book.

**Informative Writing:** This unit includes drawing, dictating and writing to name and give information about a topic.

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