



Ridge Street Elementary School

Learning At Home Plan

I. Literacy

Core Knowledge K-2

Overview

CKLA K-3 is based on decades of cognitive science research revealing that reading is a two-lock box, a box that requires two keys to open. The first key is decoding skills, which are addressed in CKLA's Skills strand. The second key is oral language, vocabulary, and background knowledge sufficient to understand what is decoded. These are covered in the Listening & Learning strand. Together, these two strands unlock a lifetime of reading for all children. Using this approach, CKLA not only meets the **Common Core State Standards**, it exceeds them.

The Skills Strand

The Skills strand teaches reading and writing in tandem. Children practice blending (reading) and segmenting (spelling) using the sound spellings they have learned. Decodable stories are introduced in the sixth of the ten units for kindergarten. In K-2, stories are 100% decodable—made up entirely of words and sound spellings the students have been taught, or "tricky words" that also have been explicitly taught. By grade 3, students have mastered the code, so they will find any text "decodable." Handwriting, spelling, and the writing process are addressed in the Skills strand. The Skills strand was designed to be fully in accord with the findings of the **National Reading Panel** and it is aligned with the goals put forth in the "Reading Foundational Skills" section of the **Common Core State Standards**.

The Listening & Learning Strand

Decoding is essential, but so is the ability to comprehend what has been decoded—and that depends on language and content knowledge. The Listening & Learning strand lessons, comprised of teacher read-alouds, class discussions, vocabulary work, and extension activities, build on the research finding that students' listening comprehension outpaces their reading comprehension throughout elementary school. These read-alouds and exercises are organized in 11-12 **domains** per grade. Each domain is dedicated to a particular topic—such as the five senses, Native Americans, early Asian civilizations, or insects—and the class stays focused on that topic for 10-15 days of instruction. In addition, the domains are carefully organized to build on each other within and across grades. This focused, coherent, systematic approach is the most efficient and effective way to build students' knowledge and vocabulary. It is interesting and engaging too, as the content goes well beyond standard early grades language arts fare to include important historical and scientific events, ideas, and people.

Expeditionary Learning: Grades 3-8 Literacy

Cultivating student success, Expeditionary Learning schools are outperforming state and district averages on standardized tests and closing critical achievement gaps. In many US cities, our schools are the highest performing public schools, and in our high schools, 100 percent college acceptance is the standard. For our students, the benefits are clear. Students in our schools:

- Graduate with the academic knowledge, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving capacity needed to succeed in college and beyond
- Hold themselves and their peers to high expectations for quality work, commitment to learning, and character
- Take leadership roles in their schools and communities
- Engage their families and communities in their learning by leading family conferences and making formal presentations to expert panels
- Complete projects that challenge them to do the work of professionals—scientists, historians, mathematicians, writers, and artists
- Work with experts and conduct field research to produce high quality academic products that meet professional standards
- Contribute to their communities through meaningful service embedded in the curriculum
- Benefit from learning in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe, marked by kindness, respect, and responsibility
- Find joy in learning

Helping Your Children At Home in Literacy:

Based on Research from the Council of the Great City Schools

Kindergarten:

1. Read to your child and have him or her read to you every day for at least 15 minutes. Pick out the words that might be new to your child or words that have multiple meanings or complex meanings. Discuss those words and how they add to what the writer is saying.
2. Ask your child to retell a story in his or her own words by telling what happened first, second, third, etc.
3. Ask your child to think about what the message of the story may be or what he or she learned from an informational book or article.
4. Look for opportunities in everyday places to build your child's vocabulary.
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
6. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

First Grade:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy family time while experiencing the joy of reading together.
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
6. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Second Grade:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Have your child respond to the reading by writing a reflection log.
5. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy family time while experiencing the joy of reading together.
6. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
7. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Third Grade:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Have your child respond to the reading by writing a reflection log.
5. Ask questions about the characters, setting, plot, theme, or moral of the story. Have your child find evidence from the text to answer the questions.
6. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy family time while experiencing the joy of reading together.
7. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
8. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Fourth Grade:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. Ask your child what he or she learned from the reading and how that knowledge can be used in real life.
4. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
5. Have your child respond to the reading by writing a reflection log.
6. Ask questions about the characters, setting, plot, theme, or moral of the story. Have your child find evidence from the text to answer the questions.
7. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy family time while experiencing the joy of reading together.
8. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
9. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Fifth Grade:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. Ask your child what he or she learned from the reading and how that knowledge can be used in real life.
4. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
5. Have your child respond to the reading by writing a reflection log.
6. Ask questions about the characters, setting, plot, theme, or moral of the story. Have your child find evidence from the text to answer the questions.
7. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy family time while experiencing the joy of reading together.
8. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
9. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Sixth Grade to Eighth Grade

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This reading time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. Ask your child what he or she learned from the reading and how that knowledge can be used in real life.

4. Make time for conversation at home. Discuss current events, shared interests, and future aspirations for education and career.
5. Have your child respond to the reading by writing a reflection log.
6. Ask questions about the characters, setting, plot, theme, or moral of the story. Have your child find evidence from the text to answer the questions.
7. Visit museums, zoos, theatres, historical sites, aquariums, and other education places to help build your child's exposure to new knowledge and vocabulary.
8. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select book in which they are interested to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
9. Use technology to build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

II. Mathematics

Math in Focus (Grades K-8)

Discover Meaning in Math

The analytical and problem-solving skills honed in math class are vital for every student's future success. Still, numbers and symbols are confusing when young learners don't have a grasp of what they actually mean.

The Singapore Math® Approach has been successful because it helps students discover meaning in math, which leads to positive attitudes about math and increased confidence as they grow in the subject.

Math in Focus® (Grades K-8) instills those skills during the most crucial learning years by:

- **Using a concrete-pictorial-abstract learning progression**
- **Anchoring learning in real-world, hands-on experiences**
- **Establishing foundational independent, problem-solving skills**
- **Ensuring mastery of more complex math concepts**
- **Developing the ability for students to monitor their own thinking**

Math Priority Standards by Grade “*What Your Child Needs to Know...*”

Kindergarten:

- Know number names and the count sequence.
- Count to tell the number of objects.
- Compare numbers.
- Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from.
- Work with numbers 11–19 to gain foundations for place value.
- Describe and compare measureable attributes.
- Classify objects and count the number of objects in categories.
- Identify and describe shapes.
Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes.

First Grade:

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Understand and apply properties of operations and the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with addition and subtraction equations.
- Extending the counting sequence.
- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.
- Measure lengths indirectly and by iterating length units.
- Tell and write time.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Second Grade:

- Represent and solve problems involving addition and subtraction.
- Add and subtract within 20.
- Work with equal groups of objects to gain foundations for multiplication.
- Understand place value.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract.
- Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.
- Relate addition and subtraction to length.
- Work with time and money.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Reason with shapes and their attributes

Third Grade:

- Represent and solve problems involving multiplication and division.
- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division.
- Multiply and divide within 100.
- Solve problems involving the four operations, and identify and explain patterns in arithmetic.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers.
- Solve problems involving measurement and estimation of intervals of time, liquid volumes, and masses of objects.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition.
- Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures.
- Reason with shapes and their attributes.

Fourth Grade:

- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.
- Gain familiarity with factors and multiples.
- Generate and analyze patterns.
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.
- Solve problems involving measurement and conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of angle and measure angles.
- Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.

Fifth Grade:

- Write and interpret numerical expressions.
- Analyze patterns and relationships.
- Understand the place value system.
- Perform operations with multi-digit whole numbers and with decimals to hundredths.
- Use equivalent fractions as a strategy to add and subtract fractions.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to multiply and divide fractions.
- Convert like measurement units within a given measurement system.
- Represent and interpret data.
- Geometric measurement: understand concepts of volume and relate volume to multiplication and to addition.
- Graph points on the coordinate plane to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Classify two-dimensional figures into categories based on their properties.

Sixth Grade:

- Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
- Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
- Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
- Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.

- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Develop understanding of statistical variability.
- Summarize and describe distributions.

Seventh Grade:

- Analyze proportional relationships and use them to solve real-world and mathematical problems.
- Apply and extend previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide rational numbers.
- Use properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations.
- Draw, construct and describe geometrical figures and describe the relationships between them.
- Solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.
- Use random sampling to draw inferences about a population.
- Draw informal comparative inferences about two populations.
- Investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

Eighth Grade:

- Know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers.
- Work with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Define, evaluate, and compare functions.
- Use functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.
- Investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

Helping Your Children At Home in Mathematics:

Based on Research from the Council of the Great City Schools

Kindergarten:

1. Use everyday objects to allow your child to count and group a collection of objects.
2. Encourage your child to construct numbers in multiple ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make 10? Answers might include $5+5$, $6+4$, $8+2$, etc. Have your child explain his or her thinking.
3. Have your child create story problems to represent addition and subtraction of small numbers. For example, “*Ann had eight balloons. Then she gave three away, so she only had five left.*”
4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

First Grade:

1. Look for everyday opportunities to have your child do mathematics. For example, if you open a carton of eggs and take out seven, ask, “How many are left in the carton?”

2. Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of a number. When I add five to it, I get 11. What is the number?"
3. Encourage your child to read and write numbers in different ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make the number 15? 15 can be $10+5$, $7+8$, $20-5$, or $5+5+5$.
4. Have your child create story problems to represent addition, subtraction, and comparisons. For example, "I have seven pennies. My brother has five pennies. How many pennies does he need to have the same number as I have? He needs two more pennies."
5. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
6. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Second Grade:

1. Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of a number. It has 5 tens, 3 hundreds, and 4 ones. What is the number? 354." Or, using a deck of cards, deal two cards and ask your child to add the two numbers. You can also identify a target number and ask your child to either add or subtract to obtain that target number (use a target of 20 or less).
2. Have your child explain the relationship between different numbers without counting. For example, 147 is 47 more than 100 and three less than 150.
3. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
4. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Third Grade:

1. Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of two numbers whose product is between 20 and 30. How many pairs can you think of that would satisfy this problem?" Have your child explain the solutions. How does he or she know that all the number pairs have been identified?
2. Encourage your child to write or describe numbers in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to make 1450? $1450 = 1$ thousand, 4 hundreds, 5 tens, and 0 ones, or $1000 + 450$, 14 hundreds and 50 ones, 13 hundreds + 15 tens, etc.
3. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups to have students demonstrate how many $\frac{1}{4}$'s are in a whole, how many $\frac{1}{4}$ cups you need to make $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups, and how many times you have to refill a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup measure to make $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups.
4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Fourth Grade:

1. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups so students see how many times you have to refill a $\frac{1}{4}$ cup to equal a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup or how many $\frac{1}{3}$'s are in two cups. Have

students describe two fractions that are equal using a measuring cup (filling a $\frac{1}{4}$ measuring cup twice is the same as filling one $\frac{1}{2}$ measuring cup).

2. Have your child write or describe fractions in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to make $\frac{3}{4}$? Answers could include $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ or $3 \times \frac{1}{4}$

3. Ask your child create and describe equal fractions. For example, have students take a sheet of paper, fold the paper in half, and then unfold and shade $\frac{1}{2}$. Then have students take the same sheet of paper and fold the paper in a half again. Unfold the paper and have students discuss the number of parts that are now shaded. Encourage your child to talk about ways to show that $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$. (Students may continue this process creating other equal fractions.)

4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.

5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Fifth Grade:

1. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, have your child divide a candy bar (or a healthy snack) between three people. Ask, "How much does each person receive?" (Each person would receive $\frac{1}{3}$). Suppose there are three candy bars that you plan to share with two friends. Have your child describe the amount that each person will receive.
2. 2. Have your child explain how to write fractions in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to write $\frac{4}{3}$? He or she could answer $4 \div 3$, $1 \frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3}$, $2 \times \frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{8}{6}$, $4 \times \frac{1}{3}$, etc.
3. 3. Ask your child to give you a fraction equal to a decimal. For example, what are two fractions that can be used to represent 0.6? Answers could include $\frac{6}{10}$, $\frac{60}{100}$, $\frac{12}{20}$, or $\frac{3}{5}$.
4. 4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
5. 5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Sixth Grade:

1. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, have your child divide a candy bar (or a healthy snack) between three people. Ask, "How much does each person receive?" (Each person would receive $\frac{1}{3}$). Suppose there are three candy bars that you plan to share with two friends. Have your child describe the amount that each person will receive.
2. 2. Have your child explain how to write fractions in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to write $\frac{4}{3}$? He or she could answer $4 \div 3$, $1 \frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3}$, $2 \times \frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{8}{6}$, $4 \times \frac{1}{3}$, etc.
3. 3. Ask your child to give you a fraction equal to a decimal. For example, what are two fractions that can be used to represent 0.6? Answers could include $\frac{6}{10}$, $\frac{60}{100}$, $\frac{12}{20}$, or $\frac{3}{5}$.
4. 4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Seventh Grade:

1. Ask your child to calculate the unit rates of items purchased from the grocery store. For example, if 2 pounds of flour cost \$3.00, how much does flour cost per pound?
2. Have your child determine the amount of ingredients needed when cooking. For example, if a recipe calls for 8 cups of rice to serve 4 people, how many cups of rice do you need to serve 6 people?
3. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
4. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Eighth Grade:

1. Ask your child to do an Internet search to determine how mathematics is used in specific careers. This could lead to a good discussion and allow students to begin thinking about their future aspirations.
2. Have your child use magazines, clip art, and other pictures to find and describe examples of similar and congruent figures 3. Using different objects or containers (such as a can of soup or a shoebox), ask your child to estimate surface area and volume, and check the answer together.
4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
5. Prompt your child to face challenges positively and to see mathematics as a subject that is important. Avoid statements like “I wasn’t good at math” or “Math is too hard.”
6. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort, and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Additional Resources

1. For more information about Ridge St. visit: www.nps.k12.nj.us/ridgest.
2. For more information on the Common Core visit: www.corestandards.org
3. For more information on the Parent Roadmaps from the Council of the Great City Schools visit: www.cgcs.org/domain/36
4. For more information on Core Knowledge visit: www.coreknowledge.org
5. For more information on Expeditionary Learning visit: www.elschools.org
6. For more information on Math in Focus visit: www.hmhco.com/Math_in_Focus
7. For more information on how to support your child in ELA and Math, visit: <http://www.nps.k12.nj.us/resources/learning-at-home/>

