



Charleston Day School

Summer Learning Challenge 2026 Rising 1st Grade

Dear Parents of Rising First Graders,

Summer break is finally here! Can you believe it! You're officially on your way to first grade! To help you keep growing and learning all summer long, we've created a Summer Learning Challenge just for you. Inside, you'll find one fun activity for each day of summer break. Try to complete as many as you can, but don't forget to play, enjoy time with your family, and read, read, read!

You will also find two pages of Kindergarten "Look-Out Words" and one page of Kindergarten "Heart Words" along with a page outlining ideas for how to practice them. The more comfortable your child is reading and writing these words, the more confident they will be as their reading and writing skills progress in first grade!

Some challenges your child will be able to do on his/her own, while others are perfect for sharing with a family member or friend. Learners will practice reading, writing, math, movement, and even some imaginative thinking. We hope you try as many as you can – but remember, it's also important to relax, play outside, enjoy time with family, and of course, read lots of great books. Refer to the glossary page for activity explanations if you get stuck. We are already looking forward to welcoming your first grader to Charleston Day School in August. We can't wait to hear all about your summer adventures and the fun they had with this challenge!

Happy summer and happy learning!

The First Grade Team

June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Play "I Spy" but you can only use POSITIONAL words to describe what you see. (under, besides, above, next, to, left, right, between, around) Example: I spy with my little eye something is under...."</p>	<p>Read a picture book in the bathtub. When you're finished, look around the bathroom and see how many things are made up of two syllables. example: bathtub, window, towel</p>	<p>Draw a triangle. Make it into something else. Draw a circle. Make it into something else. Label your creation.</p>	<p>Grab a sock and put it on your hand to make a sock puppet. Let your sock puppet read a book to you about pets. What rhymes with pet? What rhymes with dog? What rhymes with cat?</p>	<p>Go outside and draw a BIG number line from 0-25 with sidewalk chalk. Count by 5's and circle those numbers. Start at 0 & hop to the numbers you circled.</p>
<p>Take out all of the shoes in your closet. Arrange them in pairs and count by twos. How many groups of two do you have? Practice tying your shoes.</p>	<p>Count the number of chairs in your house. Which room has the most chairs? Which room has the fewest chairs? Write a greater than math sentence to show your answer. example: $5 > 2$</p>	<p>Find a partner. Grab a penny, nickel and a dime. Put them out in order. Mix them up. Have the other person put them back in their original order. Add more coins and keep playing. Switch roles.</p>	<p>Count the number of windows in your house. Use tally marks as you count in each room. Is your total number odd or even number? Write odd 0-20 Write even 0-20</p>	<p>Read a picture book wearing sunglasses. Write down the name of the author and illustrator. Circle the capital letters in the names.</p>
<p>Go outside and read a book of poems or a poem from your shared reading folder. Write 5 words that follow the floss rule. example: spill</p>	<p>Write some number sentences with 2 parts that equal to 10. Now write some with 3 parts. $\text{_____} + \text{_____} = 10$ $\text{_____} + \text{_____} + \text{_____} = 10$</p>	<p>Grab some coins. Make an AB pattern, ABC pattern. Draw your patterns and label the pattern rule.</p>	<p>Write the months of the year. Circle the months that have holidays. (tell someone about the holidays) Underline the capital letters.</p>	<p>Read a picture book. Count the number of words in the title and count the number of pages in the book.</p>
<p>Draw a picture of a friend. Label your picture. Use at least three colors and details.</p>	<p>Write a story about a trip to the beach. Make sure it has a beginning, middle, and end.</p>	<p>Write all the color words in a crayon with the right color. Read them to yourself in the mirror.</p>	<p>Write twelve compound words. Pinch your nose and read them out loud.</p>	<p>Rainbow write ten look out words. Pick one sight word and use it in a complete sentence.</p>
<p>Make a list of 25 words or more that begin with the same letter your first name begins with.</p>	<p>Put these words in ABC order: waves, beach, sun, pool, hat, towel, watermelon</p>			

July

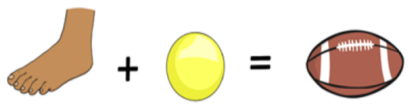
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Rainbow write: put saw goes are who down our now these does with done	On a piece of paper draw a ten rod and ones to represent these numbers. 16 23 12 18 10 35 20 13	Read a picture book. Draw and label a picture of the setting (where the story took place).
Close your eyes, stand on one foot and count by 2's. How far did you get? Try the other foot. Did you get as far? Try it again with 5s and 10s.	Put these words in ABC order: red, orange, blue, yellow, green, purple, aqua, white. Now draw a rainbow and label it.	Spread out a beach towel to sit on and read your favorite poem out of the shared reading folder. Write 5 words that follow the vce spelling pattern. (line, bake)	Make a list of 25 words or more that begin with the same letter your last name begins with.	Draw a picture of what you PREDICT the weather will be tomorrow. Make a list of the type of clothes you should wear in this weather.
Read a picture book and write 5 words that are closed syllables. example: mom	Use the < or > sign to show which number is greater 10__12 13__17 11__10 19__16 15__14 18__20	Create a schedule for your day. Write what time you will start and end each activity.	Write the letters in the alphabet. Write a word that begins with the same letter underneath. Aa Apple	How many addition sentences can you write that are equal to 10? Write them in 2 ways (horizontally/vertically). 4 + 6 = 10 7 + 3 10
Read a picture book. How many sight words are on the first page? How many look out words are on the last page?	Make a fort and read a picture book. Tell what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.	Label the vowels and consonants in these words: napkin, hiccup, muffin. Divide the words using the rabbit rule.	What is 10 more than: 6, 13, 68, 41 What is 10 less than: 29, 85, 97, 12	Write the names of your family members. How many letters are in each person's name? Draw a ten frame to show each number.
Estimate how many doors you think you have in your house. Use tally marks to count how many. Was your guess reasonable?	Unscramble these: labkc hwthe hwen nwod elub dasi mrof kema neth esmo upprep hsote	Write a fairytale about a cat and dog who are best friends. Use illustrations to tell more about your story. example: "Once upon a time..."	What is the shortcut way to write the date? If today is Monday, what was yesterday? What will tomorrow be? Circle the r control vowel in Thursday. Write 5 words that each have an r-controlled vowel.	Work a puzzle by yourself. Break it apart when you are finished and flip over the pieces. See if you do it by just looking at the shapes.

August

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Write these numbers in order from greatest to least:</p> <p>41, 23, 77, 10 38, 52, 14, 60 54, 92, 42, 73 16, 86, 99, 26 25, 18, 36, 55 63, 21, 82, 44</p>	<p>On a piece of paper draw a ten rod and ones to represent these numbers.</p> <p>16 23 12 18 10 35 20 13</p>	<p>Write these words on a piece of paper: cap, not, fin, cub, rob, dim, rat, hop, kit, tap, mat</p> <p>Now write those same words but add an -e to the end of each word.</p> <p>Read the old word and the new word to someone.</p>	<p>Write a fairytale about a fish and crab who are best friends. Use illustrations to tell more about your story.</p> <p>Example: "Once upon a time..."</p>	<p>Write down all of the doubles math sentences up to 10+10. Now write doubles +1.</p> <p>Example: If 3+3=6, then 3+4=7 If 2+2=4, then 2+3=5</p>
<p>Read a picture book. Tell what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.</p>	<p>Play a board game with your family. Ask each person their age. The oldest person gets to go first.</p>	<p>How many words can you think of that begin with "th", "sh", "ch" and "wh"? Write them.</p>	<p>Draw a clock that shows 3:00, 7:00 and 10:00. Now draw another clock that shows these times to the half hour.</p>	<p>Find some opposites in your house. Walk around and spot them. Make a list of ten that you found. For example: loud/quiet, hard/soft, or big/small</p>
<p>Go to bed early! First grade is coming! 😊</p>	<p>1st Day of First Grade!</p>			

Glossary/Key Phrases for CDS Rising First Graders

Compound Word



foot + ball = football

Compound words are two little words that come together to make a big new word

R-controlled

vr

A syllable with at least one vowel followed by r. The vowel sound is "controlled" by the r.



star
vr


her
bird
born
burn

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Magic E

vce


A syllable with a long vowel followed by a consonant and final silent e.



cake
vce


made
kite
bone

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Floss Rule

Double the **f, l, s,** and **z** when they come **after a short vowel sound** at the **end of a one-syllable word**.




-ff	-ll	-ss	-zz
staff	ill	grass	jazz
cliff	bell	dress	fizz
off	dull	kiss	buzz
cuff	spill	loss	fuzz

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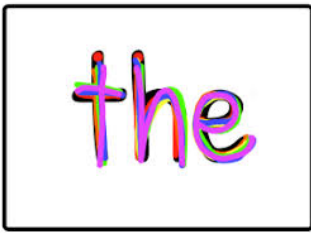
Rabbit Rule

Whenever you have two or more consonants stuck between two vowels you want to divide them up so that each vowel has its own consonant.



rabbit

muffin	kitten
puppet	button

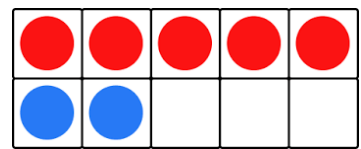


Rainbow Write

Write the word using a pencil and then trace the word using at least three different colors

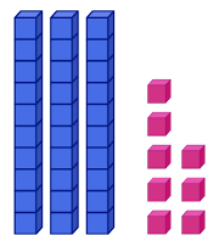
Tens Frame

7



Tens Rod and Ones

$30 + 8 = 38$



Look Out Words & Heart Word Fun!

The more of these words we know, the better readers we become!

Included in this packet are two important word lists from this year:

1. **Look Out Words** — These words appear often in our reading, so we look out for them!

2. **Heart Words** — These tricky words don't follow regular spelling patterns, so we learn them by heart.

Please practice **reading and writing** these words over the summer. Make it fun!

- ★ Write words with a white crayon on a piece of white paper. Water paint over them to reveal the word.
- ★ Pick one day to go over all of the words flashcard style! Pick the words that were missed and use them for the rest of the week to review.
- ★ Play Look Out/Heart Word Flip— each player turns over a card and whoever reads the word first wins both cards.
- ★ Make an extra set of cards and play Go Fish.

Heart Words

look	who	any
are	your	want
said	many	come
his	to	do
goes	very	from
have	has	they
put	were	some
is	the	gone
you	was	done
does	of	our

Look Out Words

am	got	red
black	one	good
help	seven	not
these	that	pink
with	no	those
me	for	eight
play	two	so
find	away	he
saw	by	white
on	went	us
and	can	dad
nine	then	go
see	four	if
big	mom	purple
had	down	I

yes
brown
tan
in
her
up
make
she
this
my
when
now

five
get
but
at
it
six
green
him
out
gray
three
will

blue
like
ten
came
all
yellow
how
here
we
be
orange

Suggested Summer Reading Rising 1st Grade

Bestselling author, Brandon Mull, has been quoted as saying, “While growing up, some of my most memorable experiences during those long summer breaks happened inside the pages of a book.” What better way to pass the time than peeling open the cover, smelling the print as it wafts off the page, putting your nose right up to the illustration, and not coming up for air until you have made it to the very last page!

We know we plan to escape with a good book in our hands and maybe our toes in the sand this summer. To help you with your child’s reading escape, we have put together a suggested reading list. The books are divided into genres and contain some of our favorite reads! There are books for your child to read independently, books for you to read together, and books for you to read to your child.

The list is by no means complete or exhaustive of ALL the good books out there, but rather a guide to help you both get started! Feel free to choose other books. The goal is to read!

While we are not requiring a set number of books or certain types of books to be read over the summer, we do encourage you to make reading a DAILY, fun part of your child’s summer experience. We can’t wait to see you in August!

Happy summer and happy reading,

The First Grade Team

Picture Book Ideas for Summer Reading

This is a mix of different books for you to check out if you find yourself at the library or a bookstore. Read anything you enjoy or have at home! Consider crossing off the books on this list as you read them and make a list of others you read this summer, too. We would love to know what you read with family and friends over the summer!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 100 Mighty Dragons All Named Broccoli by David LaRochelle | Knight Owl by Christopher Denise |
| Acorn Was a Little Wild by Jen Arena | Line Up! Animals in Remarkable Rows by Susan Stockdale |
| Chez Bob by Bob Shea | Little Rosetta and the Talking Guitar by Charnelle Pinkney Barlow |
| Baabwaa and Wooliam by David Elliott | A Llama Is Not An Alpaca by Karen Jameson |
| Dear Mr. G. by Christine Evans | Not A Monster by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez |
| Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann | Nubby by Dan Richards |
| Elena Rides by Juana Medina | Okra Stew by Natalie Daise |
| A Ball for Daisy by Chris Raschka | Once Upon A Book by Grace Lin and Kate Messner |
| How This Book Got Red by Margaret Chiu Greanias | Rise to the Sky by Rebecca Hirsch |
| I Am A Dragon by Sabina Hahn | Snake's Big Mistake by Sarah Kurpiel |
| Invasion of the Unicorns by David Biedrzycki | Tea With an Old Giant by Jane Yolen |
| Jumper by Jessica Lanan | Thank a Farmer by Maria Gianferrari |
| Just A Worm by Marie Boyd | What's Inside a Caterpillar Cocoon by Rachel Igotofsky |

Series Ideas for Summer Reading

- Charlie and Mouse by Laurel Snyder Elephant & Piggie by Mo Willems Mercy Watson by Kate DiCamillo
Henry and Mudge by Cynthia Rylant Magic Tree House by Mary Pope Osborne Mr Putter and Tabby by Cynthia Rylant Adventures of Otto by David Milgrim Fox series by Corey R. Tabor
The Very Fluffy Kitty Papillon by A.N. Kang Memoirs of a (Hamster, etc) by Devin Scillion Ivy & Bean by Annie Barrows
Diary of a Pug by Kyla May
Who Would Win by Jerry Pallotta