Kindergarten is the beginning of your child’s elementary school career. By the end of kindergarten, your child will become a reader! A heavy emphasis in kindergarten will be placed on knowing, recognizing, and writing all letters of the alphabet and their sounds. While your child is developing as a reader, focus on helping your child know the role of an author and illustrator in telling a story, and have your child describe how the words and illustrations work together to tell a story or provide information.

Kindergarten is also a huge year to develop your child’s communication skills. Help your child understand how to take turns to allow everyone to speak, as well as understand how his or her personal experiences help to recall and gather information.

**Kindergarten Skills to Master**

By the end of kindergarten, your child should be proficient in the skills in this list below. Library staff have paired free Library resources and activities to aid in the development of each skill. Click on any skill below to find out more: (hyperlinks to everything in blue)

- Ask and answer questions about text and retell stories with details.
- Identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
- Ask and answer questions about words related to feelings and senses.
- Compare and contrast adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.
- Identify main topic and key details in a text.
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- Use drawings, dictations, and writing to express opinions, write information or explanations, or narrate an event while adding details to strengthen writing using basic grammar rules with basic punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
- Explore digital tools to produce and publish writing.
- Determine the meaning of unknown words in kindergarten level books by using context clues, word parts, and noting how words are related.

**Kindergarten Curriculum Information for CMS Schools**

CMS has adopted the EL Education K-5 Language Arts curriculum. This comprehensive literacy curriculum involves three hours per day of content-based literacy, including four eight-week learning modules that will be covered each school year.
Lexile Levels

The EL Education curriculum uses Lexile levels to indicate the complexity of the texts that will be used in each module. This can be confusing to parents and caregivers who may not be familiar with this system. Texts are assigned a Lexile level based on word difficulty and sentence complexity. While the goal is finding books that your child is interested in and excited to read, Lexile levels can be helpful in making sure they are reading literature appropriate to their ability, in terms of vocabulary and comprehension. Keep in mind that when texts are read aloud to kindergarten students in class, the Lexile level is usually two to three grade levels higher than what they are capable of reading independently.

Luckily, it is possible to filter books in the Library’s catalog by Lexile level, and you can learn how to do so [here](#).

Kindergarten Modules and Support

Below you will find the focus and title of each of the four modules that are covered in kindergarten, with links to additional Library resources to support student learning for each one.

Module 1: Building Literacy in a Collaborative Classroom- [Toys and Play](#)
Module 2: Learning through Science and Story- [Weather Wonders](#)
Module 3: Researching to Build Knowledge and Teach Others- [Trees Are Alive](#)
Module 4: Contributing to the Community- [Enjoying and Appreciating Trees](#)

Additional recommended books that are appropriate for kindergarteners can be found [here](#).

Additional Digital Library Resources to Extend Learning:

(Choose Top 4 Library Digital Resources that would be best for Kindergarten)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NC Kids Digital Library</th>
<th>Tumblebooks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overdrive for Kids</td>
<td>Kanopy Kids</td>
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</table>

Additional Resources to Extend Learning (Icons for Read Charlotte, NCDPI, AND CML OneAccess page if not doing Library Resources)

(link to the DPI parent book, Read Charlotte Home Reading Helper)