



# Guidelines for a First Grade Classroom

## Best Practices

The teacher...	Why is this important?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ infuses lessons with fun and enthusiasm.</li> <li>✓ encourages children to talk about and relate to the Superkids characters and Big Topics throughout the school day.</li> </ul>	Motivation is a key factor in learning to read. Children love the Superkids characters and are naturally interested in the Big Topics, which are common and relevant themes first graders should know about and understand.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches the program for 120 minutes each day.</li> <li>✓ utilizes all components of the program, including Word Work, Reading, and Writing.</li> </ul>	<i>The Superkids Reading Program</i> is a comprehensive curriculum that integrates Word Work, Reading, and Writing. Lessons are thoughtfully designed to systematically and explicitly build reading and writing skills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches the lessons in order, according to the Scope and Sequence.</li> </ul>	Instruction is cumulative and lessons build upon and reinforce one another.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches Word Work each day before Reading and Writing.</li> </ul>	Word Work informs both Reading and Writing instruction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches the Daily Warm-Ups each day.</li> </ul>	Daily Warm-Ups provide distributed practice of word work skills and serve as a daily informal assessment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches all steps in each lesson.</li> </ul>	Each step of a lesson has its own purpose and helps build skills cumulatively and to mastery over time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ keeps up a steady pace of one lesson per day.</li> </ul>	<i>Superkids</i> provides 180 lessons, which include two weeks of review at the beginning of the year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ reads aloud often to children to build content knowledge and vocabulary.</li> <li>✓ engages children in rich discussions about what they've read.</li> </ul>	Children need to listen to and talk about authentic texts that expose them to vocabulary and content they can't yet access in their own reading. They also need many opportunities to express their ideas and opinions and learn from their peers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ uses the Read-Aloud Books and the Super Smart Digital Read-Alouds for every unit.</li> </ul>	<i>Superkids</i> read alouds are aligned with the Big Topics and help build a breadth and depth of knowledge on these common and relevant themes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ listens to children read on a regular basis, using the decodable texts <i>Superkids</i> provides.</li> <li>✓ encourages children to decode, rather than guess, when they come to a word they don't know.</li> </ul>	While children are first learning to read, they need many opportunities to apply the phonetic patterns they are learning to connected text. <i>Superkids</i> decodable texts allow this because they include only the phonetic patterns children have been explicitly taught during Word Work.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ uses the <i>Superkids</i> Reader stories, Super-Duper Magazines, and Decodable Library Books for every unit.</li> </ul>	<p>The purpose of <i>Superkids</i> texts is twofold. First, they allow children to practice and apply the phonetic patterns they are learning to engaging, connected text. Second, they are aligned with the Big Topics and help build knowledge on these essential themes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches children to use comprehension strategies as they read to help make sense of the text.</li> </ul>	<p>Utilizing research-based strategies, such as monitoring comprehension, activating background knowledge, and making inferences, helps children understand text more deeply.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ engages children in daily writing activities.</li> <li>✓ follows the writing lessons to build knowledge of common text types and writing composition skills over time.</li> </ul>	<p>Children need many opportunities to apply what they are learning to their writing to build writing fluency. They also need explicit instruction in common text types, writing composition, and the steps in the writing process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ differentiates instruction for children who need more support, on-level support, and more challenge, as well as multilingual learners.</li> <li>✓ differentiates whole-group lessons using point-of-use tips in the Teacher's Guides.</li> <li>✓ meets with small groups to read <i>Superkids</i> texts or reinforce skills using the activities in the various Teacher's Guides.</li> </ul>	<p>First graders can vary widely in their word work, reading, and writing skills. They need instruction that is tailored to meet their specific needs. Differentiation is built into <i>Superkids</i> in several ways: point-of-use tips, small-group work, and corresponding Differentiated Instruction and Multilingual Learner Teacher's Guides.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ provides meaningful independent work and gives feedback.</li> <li>✓ utilizes independent work that is aligned with instruction and provides opportunities for extra practice.</li> </ul>	<p>Children need opportunities to practice and reinforce skills they are learning. Meaningful independent work, not busy work, can help build mastery over time. Children also need feedback and correction to ensure they are working with accuracy.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ uses Benchmark Tests at the beginning, middle, and end of year.</li> <li>✓ uses Progress Tests after each unit.</li> <li>✓ informally assesses children through observation and review of daily work.</li> </ul>	<p>Assessing children regularly reveals their areas of strength and where they may need more support. This information is crucial for grouping students and differentiating instruction appropriately. <i>Superkids</i> provides both formal and informal assessment opportunities to assist in this process.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ teaches lessons using the print components as well as the digital resources on MyZBPortal.com.</li> </ul>	<p>Materials and resources can be displayed on teacher whiteboards or screens to help make lessons more engaging and dynamic.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ encourages students to practice skills by playing games and engaging in activities in <i>Superkids</i> World.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Superkids</i> World games and activities provide extra practice and help build excitement and engagement in the program.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ creates a strong home-school connection by sharing information and updates with families and caregivers via MyZBPortal.com</li> </ul>	<p>A strong partnership with families and caregivers helps them stay engaged in their child's learning. MyZBPortal.com provides them with tools to stay updated, as well as help reinforce concepts and skills at home.</p>