

Checklist for Schools

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Hi my name is Shaylynn Mack. I am a student at the University of Mary. I am currently in my Block 1 Practicum at St. Mary's Grade School in the first grade class. I am perusing my degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education with a minor in Special Education.

Parenting:

Under this section one of the bullet points in providing families with information on child development. I decided to come up with an informational handout to be sent home with the students for the families to read and have for reference. This is always a question that professionals get asked all the time, "Is Tommy doing what he should be doing for his age"? "How do I know what Sara is supposed to be doing when she's in first grade?" This can be difficult for us to always explain, so a handout that can be sent home to the parents and guardians is a great way of answering some of those questions right away. The handout can also become more detailed if decided and throughout the school year change it and update it as they are learning new things and improving on things. I would use this handout in my classroom right away in the school year. Send this home with the children within the first week or month of school. The parents or guardians then have it for reference at any time during the year. Also with this needs to come an invite of communication. If they have any questions, be open and be able to explain each one of them.



1st Grade

What are the Developmental Milestones for a 1st Grader?

Physical:

- Hand eye coordination is improved
- Large motor skills are improving with more coordination
- Fine motor skills refined
 - Handwriting
 - Cutting with scissor
- Full of energy, has trouble sitting still

Cognitive:

- Begin to reason and think logically
- Decision making is hard because they don't want to miss something
- Read sight words and begin to sound out other words
- Will start to show specific learning strengths (visual, auditory, tactile, kinesthetic)
- Begin to know a sense of time (second, minute, hour, days, weeks, months, year)

Language:

- Start to read by recognizing letter and sound relationships
- Know thousands of words
- Be able to write letters and numbers without reversing them
- Enjoys talking about books or experiences

Social & Emotional:

- Independent but seek approval
- Aware of their own feelings and others
- Begin to be competitive in games and activities
- Friendships are built easily but also broken easily
- Difficult accepting criticism or punishment

Resources:

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/signs-symptoms/developmental-milestones/developmental-milestones-for-typical-first-graders>

<https://www.education.com/reference/article/first-grade-milestones-your-child-track/>

Communicating:

When it comes to communicating with families, it is very important not only for bad behavior or concerns for the child but also for positive things and accomplishments. I have included an example I would use in my classroom for when I see the students doing something good. This can include many things, getting an assignment done that I knew they would struggle on, helping classmate or friend, helping me or another teacher, being nice and sharing. This is a very important thing to do with your children. This little paper would be a great way to congratulate them on what they have done without drawing attention to them and making others jealous. Only the student and I need to know they got one. The parents really enjoy seeing these come home. It reassures them that their child is doing a good job in school and behaving while helping other students and teachers.

Caught Being Good

Presented to: _____ Date: _____

For: _____

Signed: _____

Caught Being Good

Presented to: _____ Date: _____

For: _____

Signed: _____

Learning at Home:

In the Learning at Home section there were so many ideas I was thinking of but the one I decided to choose was a letter to go home to the parents or guardians to help with their child's reading logs that will be sent home. The children will bring their reading logs home with a book and each night the parents and child should read and mark it off on the sheet. I really like this idea and will be using it in my classroom. Reading with their parents is a great way to encourage reading and a great way for them to learn how to be a good reader. The letter explains what they are needing to do and how it will be beneficial to the students. The second page is the reading log. On there, it has a spot to fill out the name of the book, when they read, how did they read, and then initials of who they read with.

Dear Families,

Lately in 1st grade class we have been working really hard on our reading skills. Today I am sending home their first reading log. This is for you and your student to work on important skills that go along with becoming a good reader.

There are a few options you and your student can use. Children not only become good readers by reading themselves but also by listening to good readers. You may choose between three options:

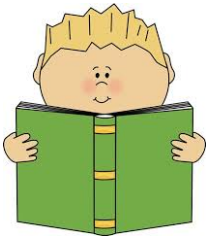
- 1) **Read to you**
- 2) **Read with your child** (switching who reads)
- 3) **Listen to you read**

Each time you read make sure you mark it down. When the log is filled up, your student will get the chance to win prizes. Also remember that when you're reading, ask them questions before, during, and after to check for understanding. This is another important skill when it comes to becoming a good reader.

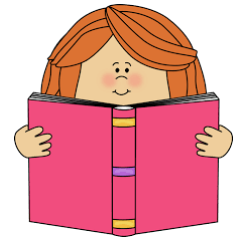
Have fun reading together!

-Ms. Mack





My Reading Log



	Date	Title	Minutes	Read to, Read with, Listen to	Initials
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					
18					
19					
20					

Volunteering:

The volunteering section was one of my favorites because it promotes parental involvement. I provided a flyer that could be posted and sent home to each student for Game Day in our first-grade class. This would be a Game day for the children to enjoy with their parents being involved all while enjoying the weather of spring. This is encouraging family members to get involved and have fun while doing it. I will use this in my classroom around March or April. That is the time that they students start to get antsy so it would be a great time to get them out and having fun with their parents or family members.

Spring Game Day

The 1st Grade class is
Looking for Volunteers!

We need your
help. If you are
interested in
helping with any
part of field
day contact me
at the school or
email me at:
sgmack1@umary.edu

We are having
a fun day full
of games,
activities,
snacks, and
lots of fun!

WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!



Decision Making:

For the Decision Making section, I decided to put together a flyer to either be posted or sent home with the children for their parents or guardians. I came up with the idea of once every quarter to have a night where parents could come together to discuss different things, socialize, and be informed on different things within the community or just have a speaker come and talk with them. This is an important thing for adults to do who have students in school. They have similar questions and concerns all while being able to be educated on many things that come with parenting. The flyer I designed would be having a professional come and speak to the parents about services and opportunities for support within the area. She works with child with disabilities but it is relevant information for everyone. I would use this in my classroom someday and set times each quarter to have a parents night with different activities and speakers coming each time.

Parents Night

Date: March 20, 2017

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Where: Custer Elementary, Mandan

Who: Pam Mack

Pam Mack is the Advocacy Director for the North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project. She will be talking about resources and services that are available for children.

We Welcome all families to join us in this great opportunity to learn and socialize with other families in your community.

Childcare will be provided in the gym with different activities for your children. Snacks will be available for all!

Collaborating with Community:

In the Collaborating with the community section on point they had listed was staff and students participating in youth-service learning and what better way than clean up your school and community. I made a little reminder note to be sent home to remind the students and parents of the big day we have planned for Earth Day which is coming up. This is a great opportunity to teach young children on how to clean up the community as well as ways to keep in clean and do things within the community. This would be sent home to each child a week or so before earth day as just a reminder. Throughout the week of earth day there will be discussion and activities leading up to the event of earth day. It is important to teach them how to keep our environment looking nice and clean.



References

K. (2012, August 20). First Grade Milestones: Is Your Child on Track?

Retrieved March 03, 2017, from

<https://www.education.com/reference/article/first-grade-milestones-your-child-track/>

Morin, A. (n.d.). Developmental Milestones for Typical First Graders.

Retrieved March 03, 2017, from

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/signs-symptoms/developmental-milestones/developmental-milestones-for-typical-first-graders>