

# ParentPowered Sample Messages: English Language Arts, PK - Grade 1



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**FACT:** Back to school means new learning adventures! Asking your child about things they are excited to do in school builds their conversation skills.

**TIP:** Ask questions about school in the morning. Try: "What's one new thing you're excited to do in school? What's something you want to learn more about?"

**GROWTH:** Keep asking questions about school. Now ask a silly question. Try: "If you could ride an animal to school, what animal would you pick? Why?"

**Preschool**  
**Speaking & Listening**



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**FACT:** Finding and naming the upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet helps kids learn to read. Get a head start on this skill with letter games at home.

**TIP:** As you do laundry, use the tags and logos to have your child go on an alphabet hunt. Can they find an A? How about B, C, or D? How far can they get?

**GROWTH:** Keep learning to recognize and name upper- and lowercase letters. As your child finds each letter, challenge them to tell you the sound it makes.

**Kindergarten**  
**Reading: Foundations and Phonics**



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**FACT:** When you ask your child questions about details in books (like who is in it and where they are), you help them understand what they read.

**TIP:** After you and your child read a book, ask about the characters. Ask, "Who was in that story? What did they do? What happened to them?"

**GROWTH:** Keep asking about the details in books. Now after a book, ask about the setting, "Where did that story take place? What was it like there?"

**Grade 1**  
**Reading: Literature**

# ParentPowered Sample Messages: Math & Science, PK - Grade 1



**FACT:** Kids are natural observers! When children can observe and describe what they SEE, FEEL, or HEAR they're using their senses to build key science skills!

**TIP:** After school, invite your child to go on a senses scavenger hunt. Can they find something that FEELS soft? LOOKS shiny? SMELLS sweet? SOUNDS noisy?

**GROWTH:** Keep using senses! Now, before eating a meal ask your child to describe how it LOOKS and SMELLS. Have them try a few bites. Ask, "How does it TASTE?"

**Preschool**  
**Scientific Reasoning**



**FACT:** "Counting on" helps kids build a strong understanding of numbers. When kids "count on," they begin counting forward from a number other than 1.

**TIP:** Count on as you stir things you're cooking. Count 1, 2, 3 stirs, then pass the spoon to your child so they can jump in with 4, 5, 6. Keep going!

**GROWTH:** Keep counting on to build math skills! Now count the blue things you see together on the way home. "One, two... Do you see any? Three! Four!"

**Kindergarten**  
**Numbers, Counting & Cardinality**



**FACT:** Asking kids to make predictions like, "What will happen if I leave this ice cube outside?" builds thinking skills. Thinking skills are key for science.

**TIP:** Play a prediction game as you do the dishes. Have your child find three items that they predict will SINK in the water. Test each one. Were they right?

**GROWTH:** Keep making predictions. Now ask your child to find three items that they predict will FLOAT in the sink. Ask, "Why do you think that will float?"

**Grade 1**  
**Critical Thinking Skills**

# ParentPowered Sample Messages: English Language Arts, Grades 2 - 4



**FACT:** Second graders learn new words best when they use the words in real life. Having lots of chances to use new words is key for building a strong vocabulary.

**TIP:** When you're outside, **OBSERVE** the sky together. Say, "OBSERVE means we're going to watch really closely." What do you see when you observe the sky?

**GROWTH:** Keep using new words! Now encourage your child to call out things they'd like to **OBSERVE** on the way home. Pause to **OBSERVE** each thing!

**Grade 2  
Language**



**FACT:** Writing is a habit. And it's a good one! When kids get in the habit of writing at home, they get better and better at putting their thoughts into words.

**TIP:** When you make plans, give your child the job of writing them on the calendar. Encourage them to use careful handwriting so everyone can read their writing.

**GROWTH:** Keep making writing a habit! Give your child the job of writing out your shopping list. Slowly tell them each item you need so they can write it down.

**Grade 3  
Writing**



**FACT:** Describing how something looks, tastes, or feels brings kids' writing to life. After all, ice cream is good, but creamy and sweet ice cream is better!

**TIP:** During dinner, take turns describing how food on the table feels or tastes. Try, "This bread is soft and fluffy." Or, "This carrot is sweet and crunchy."

**GROWTH:** Keep describing things! Now put your child in charge of writing a grocery list. For every food, have them add a detail -- apples become juicy apples!

**Grade 4  
Speaking and Listening**

# ParentPowered Sample Messages: Math & Science, Grades 2 - 4



**FACT:** In math, kids learn to measure things using rulers. Using a ruler helps kids understand length. This is important for math and science!

**TIP:** Let your child bring a ruler to the store. As you shop, ask them to measure items like a can of soup. No ruler? Try a house key—it's about 2 inches.

**GROWTH:** Keep measuring length! Now at dinner ask your child how long they think the forks are. Measure to find out. How close was their guess?

**Grade 2**  
**Measurement & Data**



**FACT:** In math, third graders learn all about right angles. Right angles are 90-degree angles, like the corner of a square. Right angles are key to geometry.

**TIP:** As you get the mail, challenge your child to count the right angles on a piece of mail. Remind them to check the envelope, stamp, and letter, too!

**GROWTH:** Keep finding right angles. Now see how many right angles you can find around the house. Check out counter tops, doors, pictures frames, and more!

**Grade 3**  
**Geometry**



**FACT:** When kids multiply numbers by 100, 1000 or 10,000, they learn more about place value. Learning about place value helps kids work with BIG numbers.

**TIP:** While setting the table, multiply by 100. While setting out plates, ask: "How many would we have if we had 100 times as many? What about 1000 x as many?"

**GROWTH:** Keep exploring large numbers. At dinner, ask: "What if there were 10,000 times as many people at the table? How many people would there be?"

**Grade 4**  
**Numbers & Operations in Base Ten**