LANGUAGE ARTS
What should my child be working on during the first nine weeks of school?

• Increasing listening vocabulary and beginning to develop vocabulary of object names and common phrases
• Recognizing rhyming words
• Using books and other written materials to engage in pre-reading behaviors (e.g., identifying the front cover, back, and spine of a book)
• Distinguishing between elements of print including letters, words, and pictures
• Naming at least 20 uppercase and at least 20 lowercase letters in the language of instruction
• Asking and answering appropriate questions about a book
• Writing own name (first name) using legible letters in proper sequence
• Understanding of print directionality including left to right and top to bottom
• Blending syllables into words (e.g., /Ma/-/ry/=Mary; /pen/-/cil/=pencil)

MATH
What should my child be working on during the first nine weeks of school?

• Counting items from 1-10, with one count per item (one-to-one correspondence)
• Counting up to 10 items and demonstrating that the last count indicates how many items were counted (cardinality)
• Using the verbal ordinal terms (e.g., first, second, last, etc.)
• Sorting objects that are the same and different into groups and using language to describe how the groups are similar and different
• Demonstrating use of location words (e.g., in, on, under, beside, inside, behind, above, below)
• Describing, naming, and creating common shapes (e.g., circle, square, rectangle, triangle)
• Recognizing and comparing heights or lengths of people or objects (e.g., shorter, longer, taller, etc.)
• Rote counting from 1 to 30
• Recognizing one-digit numerals, 0 through 9
• Using language to describe concepts associated with the passing of time (e.g., yesterday, tomorrow, in the morning, faster, slower, etc.)
• Recognizing and creating patterns
• Sliding, flipping, and turning shapes to demonstrate that the shapes remain the same
**Parent Guide to Pre-K First 9 Weeks**

**Questions to Ask Your Child’s Teacher**

- How is my child’s behavior?
- How is my child doing socially? Emotionally?
- In what areas is my child doing well?
- In what areas does my child need improvement?
- Is my child performing on grade level?
- What can we do at home to provide extra help?
- How did my child do on the CIRCLE assessment, and what do these results mean?

**How Can I Help My Child Learn at Home?**

- Promote independence by encouraging your child to do activities independently (e.g., dress, clean up, and feed themselves).
- Expose your child to a variety of experiences by visiting the zoo, library, parks, and museums.
- Help your child learn numbers and letters by singing songs and chants.
- Expand your child’s vocabulary by talking and reading to your child every day.
- Model and help your child to learn how to write his or her name.

**Beyond Academics: Social & Emotional Behavior**

Here are some milestones your child should be meeting:

- Follows classroom rules and routines with occasional reminders from the teacher
- Takes care and manages classroom materials
- Regulates own behavior with occasional reminders or assistance from the teacher
- Remains attentive to personally chosen or routine (teacher-directed) tasks until completed
- Remains focused on engaging group activities for up to 20 minutes at a time
- Interacts with a variety of playmates and may have preferred friends

**Tools for Success**

- **HISD Pinterest Boards:** Pinterest.com/HISDechDept/
- **Frog Street Parent Portal:** http://portal.frogstreet.com/online_library/dashboard/bilingual/family_connections
- **Children’s Learning Institute:** cliengage.org/public/parents
- **Frog Street Parent Library:** TinyURL.com/FSbookLibrary