

Common Core Foundations Guide

Countdown2K | astepforward.co

Building Foundations for Success

The Common Core State Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. Countdown2K builds the foundational skills children need to meet kindergarten Common Core expectations in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

Note: Countdown2K focuses on pre-kindergarten foundations. Kindergarten teachers build upon these skills.

ELA

English Language Arts Foundations

Print Concepts (RF.K.1)

Demonstrate understanding of organization and basic features of print

COUNTDOWN2K PREPARES CHILDREN BY:

- ✔ Book handling activities (front/back, top/bottom)
- ✔ Understanding that words are separated by spaces
- ✔ Following words left to right during read-alouds
- ✔ Recognizing uppercase and lowercase letters

Phonological Awareness (RF.K.2)

Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds

COUNTDOWN2K PREPARES CHILDREN BY:

- ✔ Rhyming word games and recognition
- ✔ Beginning sound isolation practice
- ✔ Syllable counting and clapping activities
- ✔ Sound blending and segmenting activities

Phonics & Word Recognition (RF.K.3)

Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills

COUNTDOWN2K PREPARES CHILDREN BY:

- ✔ Letter-sound correspondence activities
- ✔ High-frequency word exposure
- ✔ Consonant sound recognition
- ✔ Name recognition and spelling

Reading Comprehension (RL.K & RI.K)

Ask and answer questions about key details

COUNTDOWN2K PREPARES CHILDREN BY:

- ✔ Story retelling practice
- ✔ Character and setting identification
- ✔ Question and answer discussions
- ✔ Making predictions about stories

Writing (W.K)

Use drawing, dictating, and writing to compose

COUNTDOWN2K PREPARES CHILDREN BY:

- ✓ Name writing practice
- ✓ Letter formation activities
- ✓ Drawing to tell stories
- ✓ Dictating ideas to adults

Speaking & Listening (SL.K)

Participate in collaborative conversations

COUNTDOWN2K PREPARES CHILDREN BY:

- ✓ Circle time discussions
- ✓ Following multi-step directions
- ✓ Turn-taking in conversations
- ✓ Speaking in complete sentences

Math

Mathematics Foundations

Counting & Cardinality (K.CC)

KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS

- K.CC.1** Count to 100 by ones and tens
- K.CC.3** Write numbers 0-20
- K.CC.4** Understand relationship between numbers and quantities
- K.CC.5** Count to answer "how many?"
- K.CC.6** Compare two groups of objects

COUNTDOWN2K FOUNDATION

- ✓ Counting to 20 (foundation for 100)
- ✓ Number writing practice 0-10
- ✓ One-to-one correspondence activities
- ✓ Counting collections and answering "how many?"
- ✓ More, less, same comparisons

Operations & Algebraic Thinking (K.OA)

KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS

- K.OA.1** Represent addition and subtraction
- K.OA.2** Solve addition and subtraction word problems
- K.OA.3** Decompose numbers less than 10

COUNTDOWN2K FOUNDATION

- ✓ Adding one more/taking one away activities
- ✓ Story problems with objects
- ✓ Number bond introduction
- ✓ Part-part-whole exploration

Geometry (K.G)

KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS

- K.G.1** Describe objects using names of shapes
- K.G.2** Name shapes regardless of size or orientation
- K.G.4** Analyze and compare shapes

COUNTDOWN2K FOUNDATION

- ✓ Shape hunts and identification
- ✓ Shape sorting activities
- ✓ Positional word practice (above, below, beside)
- ✓ Building with shapes

Measurement & Data (K.MD)

KINDERGARTEN STANDARDS

- K.MD.1** Describe measurable attributes
- K.MD.2** Compare two objects with measurable attribute
- K.MD.3** Classify and count objects into categories

COUNTDOWN2K FOUNDATION

- ✓ Comparing sizes (bigger/smaller, longer/shorter)
- ✓ Sorting by attributes (color, size, shape)
- ✓ Counting and graphing activities
- ✓ Non-standard measurement exploration

Standards for Mathematical Practice

The Mathematical Practices describe how students should engage with mathematics. Countdown2K introduces these habits of mind:

- **Make sense of problems and persevere:** Multi-step activities with increasing challenge
- **Construct viable arguments:** Explaining thinking during activities
- **Use appropriate tools strategically:** Selecting materials for activities
- **Look for and make use of structure:** Pattern recognition activities
- **Reason abstractly and quantitatively:** Number sense and counting with objects
- **Model with mathematics:** Using manipulatives to represent problems
- **Attend to precision:** Careful counting and accurate responses
- **Look for and express regularity:** Noticing what repeats in patterns

Pre-K to Kindergarten Progression

Countdown2K Builds

- Counts to 20
- Recognizes letters A-Z
- Identifies basic shapes
- Writes first name
- Recognizes rhymes



Kindergarten Expects

- Counts to 100
- Knows letter sounds
- Analyzes shapes
- Writes simple sentences
- Blends sounds to read

For Pre-K Teachers

Use this guide to communicate with families and kindergarten teachers about the foundational skills children develop through Countdown2K. These skills create a strong base for Common Core success.

- ✓ Share this guide at kindergarten transition meetings
- ✓ Include in student portfolios for kindergarten teachers
- ✓ Use during parent conferences to explain readiness preparation