

Grade 2: Module 1: Unit 1

Overview for Families

Notes to Teacher:

Making connections between home and school is vitally important in supporting students' learning. The following suggestions and materials represent some of the ways you can support these connections during this unit.

Suggestions:

- Copy the attached family letter and send it home with students after teaching Lesson 1 (this letter can be used as is, or as a model). Consider having the letter translated for families whose first language is not English.
- Send home copies of any texts and/or materials for use with at home activities. For example, you may send home a copy of the text *What Does School Mean to You?* for students to read to their family members.
- Encourage students to share any at-home learning with the class. They can do this orally or by sharing their writing, pictures, or artifacts. Example: Consider providing time for students to share a connection between their guardians' experience and their learning.
- Invite parents to send in memories of their own schools growing up, including what classes they took, what materials they used, and how they spent their time. Make a board in the classroom or hallway to keep these memories to share with students and teachers at other times of the day.
- Create a special time during circle or morning meeting for students from other backgrounds to share a schooling experience that may be different from that of the school they are in now.
- Depending on the needs of your students and the expectations of your school community, you may wish to assign additional homework. Consider more open-ended activities that help students read, think, talk, write, and ask questions about the topic versus those that simply test students on their content knowledge (see suggested activities in the family letter).
- If using EL Education's K–2 Reading Foundations Skills block, consider sending home a copy of the student decodable reader used each week.

Dear Family,

During Unit 1 of this module, your student will begin studying aspects of school through text. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion around the module guiding question: "What is school, and why are schools important?" I am writing today to explain what your student will be learning, describe the activities that will support this learning, and suggest how to support this learning at home. I hope that you will plan to join us at the end of our deep study to celebrate all of your student's learning!

What will your student be learning?

Students begin the study of schools by considering what makes a place a school and why schools are important. The learning will focus on these ideas:

- Schools are places that build knowledge and skills, foster character and relationships, and help students create high-quality work.
- Schools are different, but they all serve an important purpose for the community.

During the Reading Foundations Skills block, students review foundational reading skills from first grade (e.g., common vowel teams and open and closed syllables). The learning for Unit 1 will focus on:

- A vowel sound can be made by different common vowel teams
- A closed syllable ends with a consonant making the vowel sound short
- An open syllable ends with a vowel making the vowel sound long

How will your student be learning?

Throughout the unit, your student will read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions about what school is and why schools are important. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Listening to read-alouds of a variety of texts about school
- Singing songs about school
- Engaging in conversations with classmates
- Writing and drawing about why schools are important
- Vocabulary activities with words from texts

What can you do to support your student's learning at home?

Here are a few activities that you can do at home with your student to support his or her learning:

- Ask your student to talk with you about the following question: Why are schools important?
- Read books and sing songs about schools around the word from home or at the library.
- Tell your student about your experiences in school as you were growing up.
- Encourage your student to read the weekly Decodable Student Reader or a letter book to you every night.
- Write the high-frequency words on cards and practice reading them fluently (*live, walk, two, new*).
- Make up sentences with the common vowel teams -ay (play, stay) and -ai (maid, braid) and have your student write the sentence down.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss your student's learning.

Sincerely,

____TEACHER NAME HERE____