



We are thankful that you have selected Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix as your school of choice and are excited to partner with you in your child's education for many years to come.

Please look over the “**Skills to Practice Before First Grade**” checklist below. We encourage you to take the time between now and the end of July to ensure your child is ready for first grade. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Mila Gianforte, our first grade Faculty Lead, at mgianforte@archwaynorthphoenix.org, or Ms. Bethany Hunter, our Dean of Academics, at bhunter@archwaynorthphoenix.org.

Skills to Practice Before First Grade

Academic Skills

- Recognize all 26 uppercase and lowercase letters, and produce sounds for each letter
- Write their name with uppercase and lowercase letters
- Hold pencil with a sustainable and comfortable grip
- Write words so that the letters sit between the lines
- Recognize basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, rectangle)
- Count aloud by 1's to 20
- Count with one-to-one correspondence
- Understand basic concept of addition of numbers less than 10
- Identify each sound in a consonant-vowel-consonant word, such as /c/ /a/ /t/
- Read words with consonant-vowel-consonant pattern (example: cut)

Daily Life Skills

Ability to:

- Show control in play
- Tie shoes
- Focus for 20 minutes on non-technology activities
- Button, zip and snap independently
- Learn and follow routines and three-step instructions
- Respond appropriately to redirection
- Listen without interrupting and wait their turn to speak

We use the Spalding Writing Road to Reading Curriculum. We highly recommend that you practice the **Spalding Phonogram flashcards** with your scholar at home. Use the Great Hearts' [phonogram videos](#) to help pronounce the sounds correctly or purchase the Spalding App.

Recommended Reading List

Below is a list of books that we read during Kindergarten at Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix. We recommend that you read and discuss these books with your child.

Little Bear, Little Bear's Visit, and Father Bear Comes Home by Else Homelund Minarik

Mouse Soup by Arnold Lobel

Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton

Mouse Tales by Arnold Lobel

Grasshopper on the Road by Arnold Lobel

Helpful Links

[Family Resources](#) Page

Archway Classical Academy North Phoenix [Facebook](#)

Athenaeum [After-School Program](#)

Athenaeum [Summer Camp](#)