



**New standards are triggering three major changes in instruction:**

1. There is an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that your child can read and understand challenging material.
2. Teachers will provide more challenging reading and ask more questions that will require your child to refer back to a passage he or she has read.
3. In addition to stories and literature, there will be more reading that provides facts and background knowledge in science and social studies.

## SUPPORT YOUR CHILD AT HOME

**Read to your child** for at least 15 minutes each day.

Look for opportunities in everyday places to **build your child's vocabulary**.

Get a library card, and **let your child select books**.

**Use technology** to help build your child's interest in reading.

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR TOMORROW'S WORLD

To better prepare children for the higher demands of college and careers, public schools are improving education with the Hawaii Common Core – learning goals to help all children stay on track to graduate with the skills they need to be successful. Please ask your child's teacher for more information, or visit [bit.ly/CommonCoreHI](http://bit.ly/CommonCoreHI).

## Sample exercise

With Hawaii Common Core, students are being asked deeper, text-based questions.

*Previous ELA question:*

In the story "Casey at the Bat," Casey strikes out. Please describe a time when you failed at something.

### Hawaii Common Core ELA question:

In the story "Casey at the Bat," Casey strikes out. What makes Casey's experiences at bat humorous?

*The Common Core-aligned question challenges students to:*

- Comprehend and analyze a text they have read, instead of immediately writing and talking about their personal experience.
- ELA Standard 3.1 (grade 3) states: "Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as a basis for the answers."
- It is important that students read and understand the text so that the text is able to enrich their discussion and writing about their own experience.

### READ IT

#### "Casey at the Bat"

by Ernest Lawrence Thayer

[www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/casey-bat](http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/casey-bat)

- This is also an equity issue as it allows all students – not just those who may have prior knowledge – to take part in the discussion and writing.

### A sample of what your child will be learning in elementary school:

#### KINDERGARTEN

- Naming upper- and lower-case letters, matching them with their sounds, printing them.
- Comparing the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories, such as fairy tales and folktales.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> GRADE

- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing.
- Identifying the correct meaning for a word with multiple meanings, based on context (e.g., deciding whether the word bat means a flying mammal or a club used in baseball).

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

- Determining the lesson or moral of stories, fables, and folktales.
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials to support that opinion.

#### 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE

- Comparing the most important points/key details presented in two books on the same topic.

- Distinguishing the literal and nonliteral meanings of words, such as something's fishy and cold shoulder.

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Describing the basic elements of stories — such as characters, events, and settings — by drawing on specific details in the text.
- Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling.

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas.
- Producing writing on the computer.

#### 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in written materials or a speech, and distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and sharpening the focus based on the research findings.