

# Getting Started with Embark



Welcome to **Embark**, an age-appropriate early childhood program! Your child's teacher and the Online School will guide you through Embark, which provides high-quality, structured learning experiences that include a variety of hands-on (offline) and online activities. Your child's teacher will provide expert guidance to ensure that your child has appropriate engagement with the curriculum. This Getting Started Guide describes the Embark program and how to make best use of the learning activities and resources that are included.



## LOG IN AND SELECT AN EMBARK COURSE

Log in to the Online School (OLS) with your assigned user name and password. After your school start date, look for the Embark courses in your child's course list.



## EXPLORE THE GUIDES AND ONLINE ENVIRONMENT

Embark includes 18 thematic units and up to 10 subjects or courses. Your child's teacher, the OLS, and Embark Guides will direct you through what to accomplish each day and how to proceed with learning experiences for your child.

### EMBARK FOR ONE-TO-ONE IMPLEMENTATION

Embark includes access to an award-winning early learning program that is used in brick-and-mortar childhood education centers. Some activity instructions in the Embark Guides are written with a group setting in mind, but they can be adapted for one-to-one use. For some activities, such as games, you will be an active learning partner for your child. Consider including your child's friends or family members in these activities. Your child's school may plan group activities as well.

### Resources in the Online School (OLS)

**Lessons** Online lessons and your child's teacher will provide clear instructions regarding what to work on each day. Use the Daily Plan and Progress tools to track what your child has done.

**Assessments** Every lesson module for the core academic subjects (math, language arts, science, social studies, art, and music) includes a set of Assessment Focus Questions. These questions help determine how your child is progressing on each learning objective. As your child completes each lesson module, you will enter responses to each question to report observations of your child's performance on a 3-point scale.



**Guides** Guides contain step-by-step instructions, learning objectives, lists of required materials, advance preparation, and more for every activity. They are available online from within every Lesson Introduction. You can also find links to the guides in the "Resources" section of the Tools Exploration course.



**Hands-On Activities** In the online environment, you will be directed to "Go Offline" when it is time for your child to complete activities away from the computer.



**Online Activities** In the online environment, there are many interactive, engaging activities for your child to complete on screen.

### Core Academic Subjects

In each of the 18 theme-based units you will find...	...with this in the Online School (OLS)	...and each lesson includes this in Embark <sup>12</sup>
language arts 	6 lesson modules 40–60 min. each	2–4 Activities and Guides
math 	6 lesson modules 40–60 min. each	2–4 Activities and Guides
science 	4 lesson modules 40–60 min. each	2–4 Activities and Guides
social studies 	4 lesson modules 40–60 min. each	2–4 Activities and Guides
music 	4 lesson modules 20 min. each	1–3 Activities and Guides
art 	4 lesson modules 20 min. each	1–3 Activities and Guides

### Additionally in the OLS

Tools Exploration	6 lesson modules 20 min. each
Free Reading and Journal Writing	10 lesson modules 30 min. each
Physical Education	~20 min./day at teacher direction; enter attendance
Circle Time	~20 min./day at teacher direction; enter attendance

### Putting It All Together

- ▶ Your child's school and the OLS will provide information about which subjects you will use, what lesson modules and activities to work on each day, and how much time to spend on each part of the program.
- ▶ The Guides offer step-by-step instructions about using the program.
- ▶ Assessments in the OLS help you keep track of completed activities and how well your child is progressing through the program.



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**GET SET FOR LEARNING**

Create an appropriate space dedicated to learning. The learning space requires easy access to a computer and other materials for the program. This space will ensure that the focus is on learning and avoids last-minute searching to gather needed supplies.

In advance, be sure to unpack any Embark materials you receive and organize these items in the learning space. Remember that the Guide for every lesson module includes a list of required materials. These instructions also explain how to use these materials.

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**CELEBRATE LEARNING**

As you finish lesson modules, respond to the assessment questions and mark each lesson complete. If your child is struggling or would benefit from additional reinforcement of concepts or skills, contact your child's teacher about repeating activities or lesson modules at an appropriate time. Use the Progress area to track what your child has finished, and notice how the mastery bar grows throughout the year.

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**HAVE FUN TOGETHER**

Young children are eager to learn and engage with the world around them. Embark offers rich opportunities for multisensory experiences and dynamic multimedia that are memorable and meaningful. Enjoy the shared journey with your child and remember to smile, laugh, question, discuss, explore, expand, and have fun!

The power of online learning is that content can continuously be updated and improved. If you notice an activity or tool that does not look or function exactly as shown in your guide, don't worry! You've found a place where we've enhanced the online experience

**EMBARK THEMATIC UNITS**

**1 I Am Special** Students learn what makes each one of them unique and special.



**2 Family and Friends** Students identify family members and describe relationships.



**3 Weather and Calendar** Students explore the calendar, learn weather vocabulary, and describe weather conditions.



**4 My Five Senses** Students investigate the five senses and explore their surroundings using their senses.



**5 Hats, Shoes, and More** Students learn clothing vocabulary; describe, sort, and compare articles of clothing; and express opinions about clothing.



**6 How Big?** Students investigate differences in physical size and describe two or more attributes of selected objects.



**7 Our World** Students investigate the world around them, learn that the earth is a sphere, and distinguish between land and water.



**8 Looking at Animals** Students explore the animal kingdom, describe and compare the physical characteristics of animals, and organize animals into sets and logical groups.



**9 Is It Real?** Students distinguish between real and make-believe in various media and literature selections.



**10 Where We Live** Students identify and describe various housing styles and different building materials and recognize a home as a place for shelter and safety.



**11 Lunchtime** Students identify, describe, and sort different foods into logical groups. They express food preferences and name healthy choices.



**12 People and Places** Students describe a local community, identify buildings, and name community helpers.



**13 Green All Around** Students observe, compare, and identify plants as living things.



**14 Changing Seasons** Students name the four seasons and contrast weather conditions in different seasons.



**15 From Here to There** Students observe, describe, and investigate movement of objects and compare the force required to move objects.



**16 Earth and Sky** Students identify and name the earth, moon, and sun and their relative size.



**17 What Time Is It?** Students recognize a clock face and digital clock and learn to tell time to the hour. They differentiate before and after and organize daily activities according to time sequence.



**18 American Symbols and Holidays** Students explore selected holidays celebrated in the United States: birthdays, Valentine's Day, Independence Day, and Thanksgiving.