

Welcome to Third Grade!

Third grade is an important and exciting year. In third grade, students read longer books, write paragraphs, and do more complex math. This is also the year that standardized testing often begins.

Your child will learn a great deal this year, but third grade is about more than academics. In third grade, students develop important social skills. They also become more self-sufficient, responsible, and independent.

In this guide you will find information that will help you help your child have a successful third grade year. Included in this guide are:

- ▶ Tips to help your child build his/her reading, writing, and math skills.
- ▶ Ways to help your child build important social skills—and develop the confidence to handle tougher school demands.
- ▶ Information on the physical, intellectual, and emotional growth of third graders.

**Your involvement and support are
key to your child's success!**



Learning in the Third Grade

Reading

In third grade, students go from learning to read to reading to learn. Students read books, articles, and poems—and they discuss what they read with others.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Read magazines and online articles together and talk about what you both find interesting, funny, or important.
- ▶ Encourage your child to read independently—and ask for your child's thoughts and opinions on what he/she has read.
- ▶ Choose a book series to work through together (e.g., *Captain Underpants*, *Horrible Harry*, *Magic Tree House*). Take turns reading to each other.
- ▶ Have a 20-minute period each night when the entire family reads.

Writing

Third graders write reports, descriptions, and stories. They also edit and proofread their work, which means a lot more grammar rules to remember.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Give your child a journal to write about whatever he/she wants.
- ▶ Encourage your child to read his/her writing aloud to understand natural breaks and flow.
- ▶ Have your child practice typing on a computer at home or at the library.
- ▶ Ask your child to write a story or poem and read it to the family.



Math

Third grade students do addition and subtraction problems with large numbers. They work with fractions and decimals, and they start learning how to do multiplication and division.

Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ While your child is completing routine tasks (e.g., getting ready for school), verbally quiz him/her on multiplication facts (e.g., 4×6 , 9×3). Be sure to keep it fun and pressure-free!
- ▶ Point out decimals in everyday life, such as examining how the gallons and dollars change when you put gas in your car.
- ▶ Show how we use fractions every day. Ask your child to fill a glass half full or cut a sandwich into fourths.

Your child may be learning math very differently from how you learned it. Let your child teach you how he/she does math!

If you or your child need help with a math problem or skill, visit khanacademy.org. This website has many excellent free online math videos.

Support Your Child

Third graders are learning many new skills, and they may become frustrated at times. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement, keep a positive attitude, and be available to help.

If you have concerns about your child's progress, or if you are looking for new ways to help build your child's skills at home, talk to your child's teacher.



Growing Up: 3rd Grade

Your child will develop skills and grow in a number of ways during this important year.

Physical

Third graders are full of energy, but they often don't know when to stop and relax.

Provide your child with an outlet for his/her energy (e.g., a sport, gymnastics, martial arts). Also, make sure that your child gets the recommended 9-11 hours of sleep each night.

Intellectual

Third graders are interested in learning about the world around them and about how things work.

Be prepared to field questions ranging from the human body to how certain technologies work. If you don't know the answers to your child's questions, search for the answers together.

Emotional

Friends are very important to third graders, and they often have a best friend.

Children can sometimes be hurtful to others. If your child experiences rejection or is teased—listen, be supportive, and talk to your child about how to best deal with the situation.

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

Benjamin Franklin



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773-19

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Parent Involvement Guide