

# Welcome to Fifth Grade!

Fifth graders continue to develop their skills as they start preparing for middle school. They do more reading, more difficult math, and they have more homework. Balancing it all isn't always easy, but there are lots of ways that you can help.

Your child will learn a great deal this year, but fifth grade is about more than academics. In fifth grade, students work on their social skills, and they start to deal with more complicated issues and concerns.

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

- ▶ Tips to help your child build his/her skills in language arts and math.
- ▶ Ways to provide guidance as your child matures socially.
- ▶ Information on the physical, intellectual, and emotional growth of fifth graders.

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



## Learning in the Fifth Grade

### Language Arts

**Fifth graders read fiction and nonfiction books. They learn how to analyze and summarize what they read—and they write reports and work on long-term projects. Fifth graders also write multi-paragraph narratives and create works of fiction.**

### Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Ask your child about what he/she is reading in school and for pleasure. Encourage independent reading by getting books at the library on topics of interest to your child.
- ▶ Have family reading time—30 minutes when everyone in the family reads.
- ▶ Read the same texts together and discuss what you both find most important and interesting. These can be books, online articles, short stories, or poems.
- ▶ Come up with an interesting question and challenge your child to find the answer online.
- ▶ Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading articles, magazines, and books, and talk during dinner about the interesting things you've learned.
- ▶ Support all kinds of writing. Have your child write thank you notes, exchange emails with a relative, or write a poem or short story to read to the family.
- ▶ Encourage your child to write in a journal about things that happen, and about his/her feelings.

*Large assignments and projects can sometimes seem overwhelming to students. Help your child break these down into more manageable parts. Set up a calendar so that large assignments and projects are completed over a period of time, not at the last minute.*



### Math

**In fifth grade, students add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions and decimals. They also use their math skills to solve multi-step real life problems involving measurement, time, and money.**

### Ways to Help at Home

Include your child in everyday situations involving math. For example, ask your child to help you:

- ▶ figure out how much money to leave for a tip.
- ▶ determine how many miles your car gets to a gallon.
- ▶ decide which item is a better value – the less expensive smaller box of cereal or the bigger box that costs more.
- ▶ determine how to alter a recipe's ingredients to get the right number of servings.

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

### Support Your Child

Fifth graders are learning many new skills, and they can 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 more ways to help build your child's skills at home, talk to your child's teacher.

## Growing Up: 5th Grade

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

### Physical

As children grow and mature, they are frequently hungry, tired, achy, and just plain cranky.

Keep healthy snacks stocked and available for your child. Also, make sure that your child gets the recommended 9-11 hours of a sleep a night.

### Intellectual

Fifth graders have longer attention spans, allowing them to concentrate on one thing for a long period of time.

Increased attention span doesn't just apply to homework. Set guidelines and time limits on video game playing, TV viewing, and internet use.

### Emotional

Fifth graders are often self-conscious about their appearance and concerned about what their peers think of them.

Reassure your child that he/she looks great, and help your child find something that he/she is good at, enjoys doing, or has a passion for.

*"If you can give your son or daughter only one gift, let it be enthusiasm."* Bruce Barton



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Support Your Child

# 5th Grade



Parent Involvement Guide

## Provide Guidance

**While in previous years your child was striving for independence, your child may now be striving for group acceptance. Peer relationships are very important to fifth graders, and your child might begin feeling the pressure to fit in.**

## Talk about differences

Students this age have a wide variety of maturity levels, both physically and emotionally, with some students already showing signs of puberty. Talk to your child about differences and about the changes he/she may be experiencing.

## Stay close, but don't push

Engage in daily conversations with your child. Tell him/her about your day or about something interesting you read online. Your child may not be enthusiastic about having meaningful conversations with you every day, but that's okay.

## Talk about tough issues

As your child approaches middle school, there are a number of issues that you should talk about—bullying, peer pressure, smoking, drugs, and alcohol.

Make sure your child knows where you stand on these issues—and that you are always available to listen and answer questions.

