

Family Guide: Learning in Third Grade



About Third Grade:

Third grade students are becoming self-sufficient problem solvers and self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own learning. Voice and choice help students to think about what works best for them in their learning. Student development is supported through a workshop model where students spend the majority of their time independently practicing skills and strategies in literacy and math. In social studies and science, students explore their curiosities to answer questions using an inquiry based approach in researcher's workshop. Students engage in performance tasks, which allows them to demonstrate their learning in meaningful and authentic ways.

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- **What Your Child Should Know & Be Able to Do**
- **Activities to Support Learning**
- **Education Words**
- **Questions to Ask your Child's Teacher**

LITERACY

In third grade, students grow as readers in order to learn about various topics and organize their writing to persuade others. Third graders work collaboratively with their peers in order to accomplish tasks and communicate clearly both verbally and in the written form. Students engage more fully in the complete writing process with an added emphasis on drafting and revising their work based on self-reflection and peer feedback. They begin to write chapter books and organize information based on their research findings. In reading, students make predictions about characters and relate to lessons characters learn. Through exposure to a variety of texts and authors, students begin to select their favorite books to read and explore.

Reading

Students in 3rd grade should be able to read and understand grade level text by:

- Applying a variety of reading strategies (ask questions, infer, summarize, visualize) to monitor comprehension
- Describing characters using details from the text
- Determining theme and central idea of a text
- Applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills (break down words into smallest unit of meaning) to decode words
- Summarizing key ideas and details in a text
- Locating important information and specific details to answer a question or to explain a topic

Writing

Students in 3rd grade should know and be able to:

- Write for a range of authentic tasks, purposes and audiences
- Engage in the writing process (plan, organize, strengthen writing through revising and editing)
- Write in a variety of modes including narrative, opinion, informative/explanatory
- Include organization, transitions, and appropriate word choice to enhance writing
- Use a variety of tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers
- Participate in shared and independent inquiry and writing projects



MATHEMATICS

Third grade students explore and apply a variety of mathematical strategies, while also thinking critically about ways to solve problems. Students will learn the concepts behind multiplication and division. Third graders will apply problem-solving skills and strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up to 100. Students will work collaboratively to solve real world problems and begin to understand fractions.

Students in 3rd grade should know and be able to:

- Multiply and divide fluently within 100, using varied strategies
- Solve two-step word problems using the four operations
- Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental math and estimation strategies
- Develop an understanding of fractions as numbers
- Understand how area and multiplication are related
- Measure and find the perimeter and area of 2D figures



ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

Literacy

- Encourage your child to read a book of their choice each day
- Ask about the books your child is reading
- Share your reading life with your child
- Talk with your child to expand their vocabulary (don't be afraid to use words they don't know, you can explain them)
- Model writing in the real world (such as grocery list, thank you notes, emails, journaling, activities on a calendar)
- Learn about an interesting topic with your child by reading books, looking online and exploring places together

Mathematics

- Encourage a growth mindset about mathematics
- Encourage students to use math in their everyday activities
- Talk with your child about all the ways you use math in your daily life
- Play board, card or dice games with your child (such as Uno, Monopoly, Yahtzee and Checkers)
- Create and solve your own story problems
- Measure and count as you cook and bake together

EDUCATION WORDS

Denominator: The denominator is the bottom number in a fraction. It shows how many parts the number is divided into.

Digit: Any of the symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

Four Operations: Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

Inquiry-based Learning: Inquiry promotes engagement, curiosity, and experimentation. Students are empowered to explore topics through questioning, investigation, and research.

Mathematical Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, efficiency, and flexible use of strategies in solving math problems.

Numerator: The numerator is the top number in a fraction. It shows how many parts we have.

Performance Task: A real world task that requires students to apply their knowledge and skills that have been learned to show understanding.

Place Value: Every digit in a number has a place value based on its position in the number. (In the number 548, the digit 5 is in the hundreds place and its place value is 500. The digit 4 is in the tens place, and its place value is 40. The digit 8 is in the ones place, and its place value is 8.)

Reading Fluency: Fluency includes accuracy, rate and expression when reading out loud.

Social and Emotional Learning: Learning to effectively manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

Workshop Model: The workshop framework is designed to offer a simple and predictable environment. The workshop typically includes a mini-lesson (teacher led instruction), independent work time, small group instruction, individual conferring (teacher meets with student), and sharing.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

- What can I do to help my child succeed in school?
- How does my child work with others during group activities?
- What classroom activities seem to keep my child best engaged in learning?
- What kind of books is my child reading during independent reading time?
- What should my child be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
- What topics is my child writing about?
- How does my child approach complex math tasks? What are some suggestions for me to encourage them in learning challenging content?
- How can I support a positive approach to learning?
- Is my child able to demonstrate to you that they understand what they are learning about? If not, what challenges are they facing?
- What are my child's overall strengths at this time?
- What are my child's overall challenges at this time?
- What specifically can I do at home to support my child's overall learning and growth?