



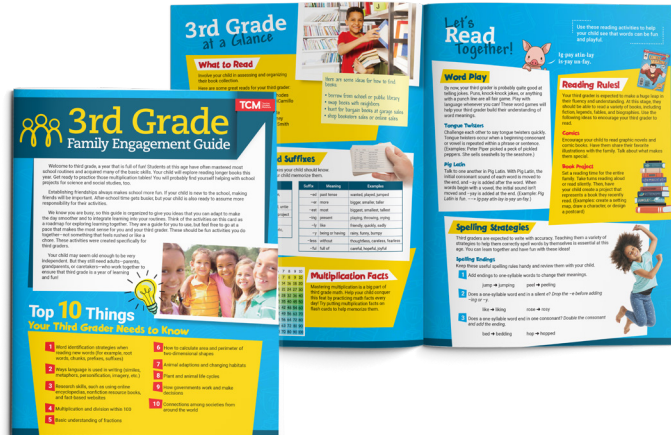
# Family Engagement Guides

## Activities Grade 3

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# 3rd Grade

## Family Engagement Guide

Welcome to third grade, a year that is full of fun! Students at this age have often mastered most school routines and acquired many of the basic skills. Your child will explore reading longer books this year. Get ready to practice those multiplication tables! You will probably find yourself helping with school projects for science and social studies, too.

Establishing friendships always makes school more fun. If your child is new to the school, making friends will be important. After-school time gets busier, but your child is also ready to assume more responsibility for their activities.

We know you are busy, so this guide is organized to give you ideas that you can adapt to make the day smoother and to integrate learning into your routines. Think of the activities on this card as a roadmap for exploring learning together. They are a guide for you to use, but feel free to go at a pace that makes the most sense for you and your third grader. These should be fun activities you do together—not something that feels rushed or like a chore. These activities were created specifically for third graders.

Your child may seem old enough to be very independent. But they still need adults—parents, grandparents, or caretakers—who work together to ensure that third grade is a year of learning and fun!



## Top 10 Things Your Third Grader Needs to Know

- 1 Word identification strategies when reading new words (for example, root words, chunks, prefixes, suffixes)
- 2 Ways language is used in writing (similes, metaphors, personification, imagery, etc.)
- 3 Research skills, such as using online encyclopedias, nonfiction resource books, and fact-based websites
- 4 Multiplication and division within 100
- 5 Basic understanding of fractions
- 6 How to calculate area and perimeter of two-dimensional shapes
- 7 Animal adaptations and changing habitats
- 8 Plant and animal life cycles
- 9 How governments work and make decisions
- 10 Connections among societies from around the world

# Math at Home!

Multiplication plays a big role in third grade, setting the stage for learning division. Your child is doing more with fractions and geometry. Your home is a great place to help your child practice concepts through activities like those included here.

## Math in the Kitchen

These ideas encourage your child to use math while they are helping you in the kitchen!

### How Many?

Have your child figure out how to change a recipe for different numbers of servings. (Example: The cake mix will make 24 cupcakes. What if we only want 12 cupcakes? How much butter do we need?)

### Measure It

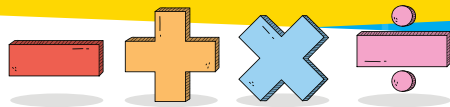
Involve your child in cooking the family dinner. Have your child measure the various ingredients. This is a great way to teach the differences between liquid and dry measures.

### Read the Package

While you're cooking or baking, have your child read the nutritional facts on the packaging. Ask them questions about how many servings there are, how big the servings are, how many calories are in the food, and so on. Guide them to use the nutritional information to make healthy food choices!



## Math Rules!



Third grade is the time to get the foundational skills of math firmly in place. Your child is working on solving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems with a deeper understanding of how everything relates. These ideas may help when it is time for math homework.

### Be Strategic

Encourage your child to read aloud word problems they have to solve. They may need to reread them several times to focus on the question being asked. This may help them figure out the important information to work with to solve the problem. You can also suggest they replace larger numbers with smaller numbers to figure out the steps in solving each problem.

### Use Tools

Math is more than memorization. Use math tools in your home to help your child understand the problems they are solving. You may be able to find shape blocks (geometry), rulers (measuring), and coins (money) in your home. Making math hands-on will help students remember what they have learned.

### Steps for Helping

Follow these steps to help your child solve their math homework problems:

- 1 Together, talk through any examples in the assignment.
- 2 Explore different ways of solving a math problem.
- 3 Have your child solve a problem. Encourage complete work that shows their thinking.
- 4 Check each problem together.

