



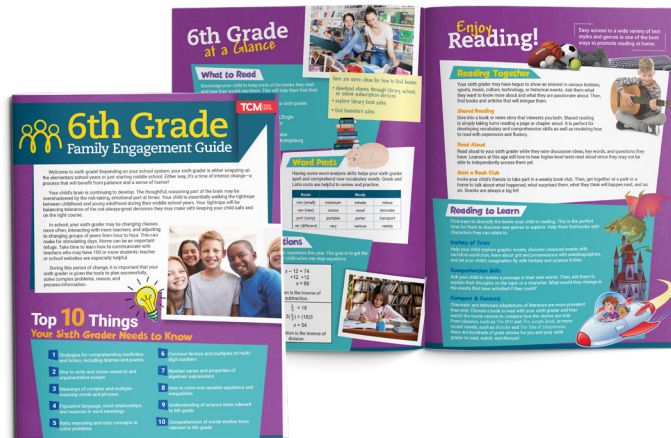
Family Engagement Guides

Activities 6th Grade

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6th Grade

Family Engagement Guide

Welcome to sixth grade! Depending on your school system, your sixth grader is either wrapping up the elementary school years or just starting middle school. Either way, it's a time of intense change—a process that will benefit from patience and a sense of humor!

Your child's brain is continuing to develop. The thoughtful, reasoning part of the brain may be overshadowed by the risk-taking, emotional part at times. Your child is essentially walking the tightrope between childhood and young adulthood during their middle school years. Your tightrope will be balancing tolerance of the not-always-great decisions they may make with keeping your child safe and on the right course.

In school, your sixth grader may be changing classes more often, interacting with more teachers, and adjusting to changing groups of peers from hour to hour. This can make for stimulating days. Home can be an important refuge. Take time to learn how to communicate with teachers who may have 100 or more students; teacher or school websites are especially helpful.

During this period of change, it is important that your sixth grader is given the tools to plan successfully, solve complex problems, reason, and process information.

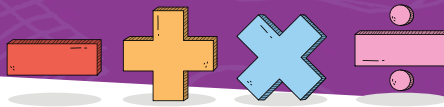


Top 10 Things Your Sixth Grader Needs to Know

- 1 Strategies for comprehending nonfiction and fiction, including dramas and poems
- 2 How to write and revise research and argumentative essays
- 3 Meanings of complex and multiple-meaning words and phrases
- 4 Figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings
- 5 Ratio reasoning and ratio concepts to solve problems
- 6 Common factors and multiples of multi-digit numbers
- 7 Number sense and properties of algebraic expressions
- 8 How to solve one-variable equations and inequalities
- 9 Understanding of science texts relevant to 6th grade
- 10 Comprehension of social studies texts relevant to 6th grade

Math Is Everywhere

Your sixth grader has acquired many important foundational math skills. This is a great time to demonstrate how math connects to the real world.



Basic Number Sense

Helping your child keep a strong grasp on their basic arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) will help them as they move into pre-algebra, algebra, and beyond.

Budgeting

Involve your sixth grader in planning parts of your budget or in setting up their own budget. They can work toward saving for larger items or events, spending on entertainment, or donating to a good cause.

Discount Mania

When shopping, ask your child to search for sales and use mental math to find the prices of items after they have been discounted by varying percentages. You can also encourage them to help you find coupons or online coupon codes and calculate the potential savings.



Keep It Engaging!

Have fun with math riddles to sharpen critical thinking. Try some of these:

- How many times can you subtract 5 from 25? (*Once. After the first time, it is no longer 25.*)
- Two U.S. coins total 55 cents. One is not a nickel. What are the two coins? (*A half-dollar and a nickel; the question just said one is not a nickel.*)
- How is the moon like a dollar? (*They both have four quarters.*)

Steps for Helping

Follow these steps to help your child complete their math homework.

- 1 Talk through any examples in the assignment together.
- 2 Ask your child to explain how they have been taught, and look at their teacher's examples.
- 3 Have your child solve each problem. Encourage them to show their work!
- 4 Check each problem together.

Note: There are multiple ways to solve most math problems. You may have learned a different way that works for you. Encourage your child to find the ways that work best for them!

