






















Information about 3rd Grade












Unlike second grade, where so much time is spent reinforcing the skills taught in first grade, many new and more sophisticated skills are introduced in third grade. At this level, most students will now have nightly homework assignments, and may be writing book, state, and biographical reports.

Some things you can expect your child to learn this year are (according to the LCS Curriculum for 3rd grade, the book *What Your 3rd Grader Needs To Know*, and www.familyeducation.com):

-  Recognizing subjects and predicates
-  Nouns, verbs, adjectives, conjunctions, pronouns, and contractions
-  Synonyms and Antonyms
-  Plural and singular
-  Writing sentences with subject/verb agreement
-  Use comprehension skills in reading
-  Work out the pronunciation and meaning of unfamiliar words
-  Identify the plot, setting, and main characters of a story
-  Learning how to use a dictionary
-  Writing paragraphs with a topic/main idea sentence and supporting details
-  Add and subtract any number from 100-1,000
-  Multiply numbers to 10's and be able to determine each related division fact
-  Measure using standard and metric units
-  Appreciate local history and national figures
-  Conduct simple scientific investigations
-  The names and locations of the 50 states and capitals
-  Writing a ecosystem report as well as a president report
-  Reading and understanding fractions
-  Solving problems by using area and perimeter
-  The three branches of the US government and the function of each branch
-  The basics of the formation of our country

Information about 3rd Grade



-  Understand the major events leading to the Revolutionary and Civil Wars
-  More extensive discussions about the Native Americans
-  Life cycles of living things
-  Food web and food chain
-  Pollution and the environment (acid rain)
-  Matter—physical changes and chemical changes- solids, liquids, and gasses
-  Water cycle and recycling
-  Weather and clouds
-  Simple Machines and how they work

How Your 3rd Grader Will Grow This Year

Your child has reached third grade. Are the days of block towers, blanket forts, and bathtub lemonade stands gone forever? They need not be.

It is, perhaps, unlikely that your eight- or nine-year-old will be reopening that bathtub lemonade stand anytime soon. Board games may replace blocks and clubhouses may replace blanket forts, but one thing remains constant: Third graders love to engage in play with their parents. In fact, third graders love being with their parents so much, **they view almost any time spent together as play.** This quality, among others, makes the third grade year an **optimum** one for giving your child a leg up in learning. It is a great time to help your child consolidate skills and approach new concepts with enthusiasm.

Relationships

It can be said that 3rd grade is the year of relationships. Eight- to nine-year-olds are, above all, social beings. The introspection that so dominated second grade is gone; the third grader is reaching out to others: to family, friends, environment, and culture. And the quality of these relationships is usually very important to them. There is a new dimension here as well. Third graders are concerned with how others think, **especially adults.**

Information about 3rd Grade



They watch the faces of adults for clues. They search the teacher's face and they check out her body language, as if asking, how is she feeling today? Is she going to be critical? They intuitively absorb nuances of emotion. For this reason, it is critical that adults be honest with this age group. Children can sense when words and body language do not match, and they will have difficulty sorting things out if they are getting mixed and confusing messages.

What the third grader likes best of all is to be with friends. At school, the frequently heard lament is, "Can we please work together?" At home, it's, "Can I please have Juanita over?" Unlike the fickleness of second graders, who go from friend to friend daily, third graders like close friends. Some children want a lot of friends, while others prefer to have one good friend: a bosom buddy,

In school, the group is very important to third graders, and they like working together cooperatively, or with the whole class, in brainstorming or problem solving. They joke with each other; and the sillier the joke the better. Their zeal for life, their cockiness, and their silliness lead to boasting, bragging, and exaggeration.

Naturally sensitive, third graders respond well to the idea of respect. They can identify with the hurt feelings that come with being left out or laughed at (even though they are often the perpetrators of such actions themselves). They are generally compassionate, and therefore ripe to develop attitudes that are more tolerant if these attitudes are insisted upon and modeled by the adults around them. Some third graders are keenly aware of gender differences, and even have some budding sexual feelings. Because of this, they sometimes don't like to sit next to, or be touched at all, by a child of the opposite sex. They don't like to be buddied as partners at school. This too, needs to be addressed. When this has been done, by the spring of the year girls and boys will be comfortable getting together in cross-gender groups to cheer each other on in games and in schoolwork.

Information about 3rd Grade



Hardy, but Impulsive

Third graders seem to have inexhaustible energy even after a long day at school. They run in from school, drop their backpacks, wolf down their snack, and are out again to Rollerblade, play ball, or to a friend's house on their bikes. Because of this excess energy, they love relay races and running games, and have a passion for team sports like soccer and softball.

Active games and running play can help children of this age change gears after they've been concentrating in school for a period of time. Even just changing to a different kind of activity—perhaps one that is creative or involves moving around the room—helps to stabilize.

Dramatic Communication

Your third grader is dramatic! He rolls his eyes when talking with you or his friends; he gestures with his hands. He loves the whole idea of drama, and love to make up and act out plays. One third grade teacher double casts a play each year. Each set of players puts on a performance for the other set. This gives everyone a chance, and they see how differently others interpret and play the characters.

At home, you think your third grader will never stop talking. He talks on and on in a loud voice with exaggerated and dramatic expressions. He tells you what happened to him that day down to the minutest detail. **In fact, third graders are so enthusiastic about wanting to share their experiences that it is painful for them if you don't listen,** or if you shut them down too quickly, or if you just don't have the time. While you probably do not appreciate or require all the details, you may want to store this sharing in your memory for those teenage years when you would do anything for just a little communication!

Firm and Fair

At school, one of the greatest tasks of the third grade teacher is to keep the class under control. Everyone wants to talk; no one wants to listen. The children can whirl themselves into a frenzy—talking, laughing, playing. They need a teacher who is tolerant of high energy, but who is firm and fair, and who can set limits.

Information about 3rd Grade



At home, one of the greatest tasks of the parents of third graders is to listen to them patiently. Another is to help them to order and structure their behavior, which often comes from lack of planning on their part, and a third is to help them to set limits and keep within boundaries. Third graders need parents who are firm and fair. Most of all, this is a year for parents to enjoy their gregarious, energetic, and creative children and to provide the understanding and the trust they need as they approach the next stage of growth, and fourth grade.

The information regarding third grade development came from the book [How Is My Third Grader Doing In School?](#) By Jennifer Richard Jacobson. I strongly encourage all parents to purchase this book. It has a lot of excellent information and resources for parents.