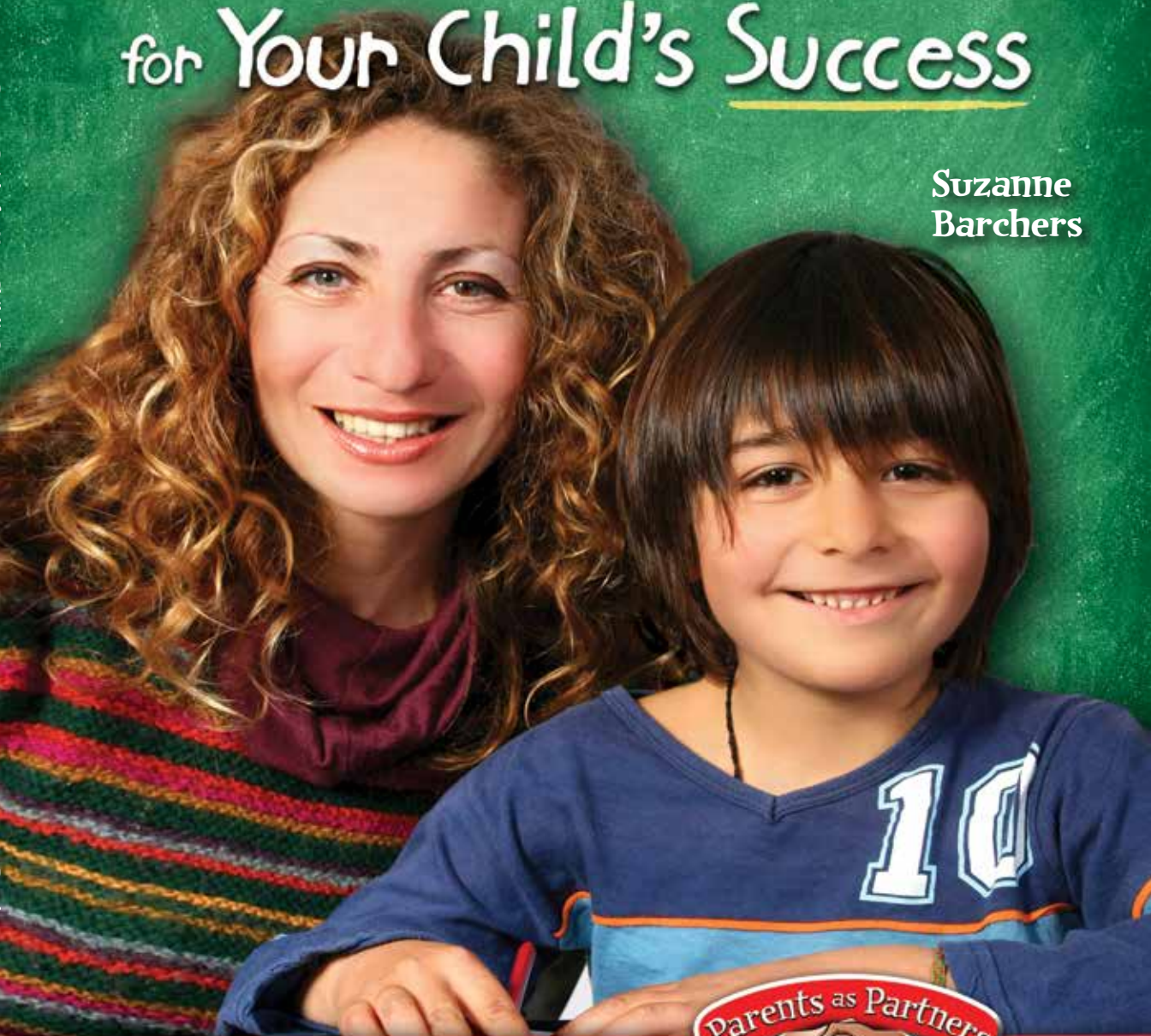


Third Grade Parent Guide for Your Child's Success

Suzanne
Barchers



Teacher Created Materials

Publishing Credits

Dona Herweck Rice, *Editor-in-Chief*
Lee Aucoin, *Creative Director*
Kristy Stark, M.A.Ed., *Senior Editor*
Torrey Maloof, *Editor*
Kristine Magnien, M.S.Ed., *Associate
Education Editor*
Neri Garcia, *Senior Designer*
Stephanie Reid, *Photo Researcher*
Rachelle Cracchiolo, M.S.Ed., *Publisher*

Image Credits

p20: iStockphoto; all other images
Shutterstock.

Teacher Created Materials

5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
<http://www.tcmpub.com>
ISBN 978-1-4333-4773-3
© 2013 Teacher Created Materials, Inc.

The classroom teacher may reproduce copies of materials in this book for classroom use only. The reproduction of any part for an entire school or school system is strictly prohibited. No part of this publication may be transmitted, stored, or recorded in any form without written permission from the publisher.

Table of Contents

Dear Family	2
Home Routines and Habits	4
Top 10 Things Your Third Grader Needs to Know	12
Language Arts Activities	14
Math Activities	24
Science Activities	30
Social Studies Activities	32
Learning on the Go	36
Staying Playful	38
Thank you!	40



A white rectangular paper is pinned to a blue background with a silver paperclip at the top right. A white cloud illustration is in the top left corner. The paper contains text in red and black.

Dear Family,

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

If your third grader hasn't changed schools, he or she should have some close friends by now. That 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 his or her after-school activities. Fortunately, most third graders love school—and still love their teacher. You can help solidify that relationship by staying involved, too.

We know you are a busy parent, perhaps with other children and a job outside the home. This parent guide is organized to give you ideas that you can adapt to make the day smoother and to integrate learning into your routines.



One last thought...

Your child may seem old enough to be very independent. But he or she still needs adults—parents, grandparents, or caretakers—who are working together to ensure that grade three is a year of learning and fun!

A Good Start at Home

Your third grader's teacher will expect students to take responsibility for remembering homework, returning forms, and reminding parents to look over these items. Third graders will be expected to manage their materials efficiently.

Try these ideas to help your child be organized and responsible.

In- and Out-Boxes

Have a place for everything. Create simple in- and out-boxes where homework, field trip, and permission slip papers that need immediate parent attention can be placed.

Schedule It

Take time to set up a schedule together. Post the schedule for your child and caregivers to check.

Time It

Your child can tell time by now, but you can still use a timer so that you don't have to be the timekeeper.

Don't Delay

Encourage your child to take care of tasks promptly.



One last thought...

There will certainly be times when you can't maintain the nightly schedule. However, your child will thrive on whatever routine is possible to maintain.

Homework

Central

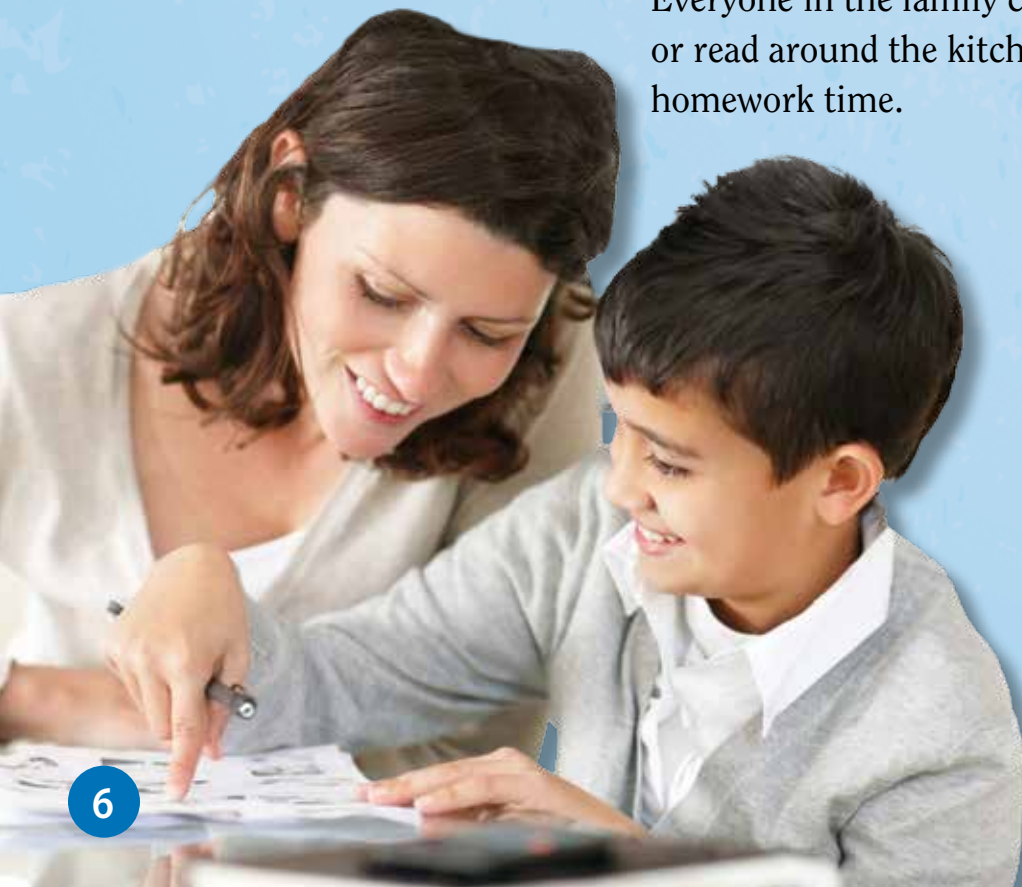
Your third grader may be expected to complete 30 minutes of homework each night. Forming good work habits should be a priority at this age.

.....

These tips will help lay a foundation of a good work ethic for your third grader.

Nightly Homework

Make homework a nightly priority. Everyone in the family can work quietly or read around the kitchen table during homework time.



Be Prepared

Your third grader will be learning many new concepts this year, such as multiplication facts. Make or buy flash cards and practice them each night for a few minutes.

Good Guidance

Your child will sometimes need help with homework. Be the guide on the side and give help as needed.

Role Model

Model good work habits. Catch up on your own work while your child does his or her homework.



One last thought...

Before your young student begins, review the tasks ahead. Then have him or her start with the hardest assignment first. If necessary, establish a small reward system to motivate getting through the challenging parts.

Talk

It Up!

Your child may need some time after school to decompress—it's hard to talk on demand. However, third graders still like talking about school and friends, even if it takes them a while to get started.



The following ideas can help keep the conversations going.

Conversation Starters

- What was one interesting thing you learned today?
- Who helped you at school today?
- Who is your favorite adult at school besides your teacher? The librarian? The principal?

Humorous Happenings

Start the conversation during dinner preparations by talking about some funny things that happened during your day. Your humorous stories can serve as a conversational bridge during dinner.



What surprised you most about your day?



One last thought...

Encourage your child to write down funny things you see. It gives you something to talk about at dinner! And don't worry if English isn't your first language. This is just about having fun with words!

Sleep Smarter

Third graders need lots of sleep. Routine is the key word when it comes to establishing healthy sleep patterns. Take some time to think about the patterns that are in place. A new school year is a great time to improve them.

The chart below shows how much sleep children need.

Age	Sleep Needed
1–3 years	12–14 hours
3–5 years	11–13 hours
5–12 years	10–11 hours



These tips will help your third grader get enough sleep.

Keep Cool

Make sure your child's bedroom is cool, dark, and quiet.

Exercise During the Day

Playing for at least three hours before bed helps your child get ready for sleep. These three hours can be spread out throughout the day!

Keep the Routine

Have your child do the same relaxing things before bed each night, like taking a warm shower or reading. Your child's body will know it's time to get ready to sleep.





One last thought...

Get ready for the next day before you begin the bedtime routine. This will make mornings less hectic and rushed.

Top 10

Things Your Third Grader Needs to Know



- 
1. **Word identification strategies** when reading new words (e.g., root words, chunks, prefixes, suffixes)
 2. **Ways language is used in writing** (e.g., similes, metaphors, personification, imagery)
 3. **Research skills** such as using encyclopedias, nonfiction books, and the Internet for a research project
 4. **Multiplication and division** within 100
 5. **Fractions**
 6. Area and perimeter of **one-dimensional shapes**
 7. The **water cycle**
 8. **Earth** is one of several planets that orbit the sun and that the moon orbits Earth
 9. **Ideas about the government**, civic life, and politics
 10. **Selective societies** in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe
- 

Word Play

By now, your child is probably quite good at telling a joke. Puns, knock-knock jokes, or anything with a punch line are all fair game. Play with language whenever you can!

.....

These word games will help your third grader build his or her understanding of word meanings.

Tongue Twisters

Tongue twisters occur when a beginning consonant or vowel in neighboring words is repeated within a phrase or sentence. For example, *now or never, Peter Piper picked peppers.*

Palindrome

A palindrome is a word or phrase that is read the same forward and backward. For example, *mom, kayak, and radar.*

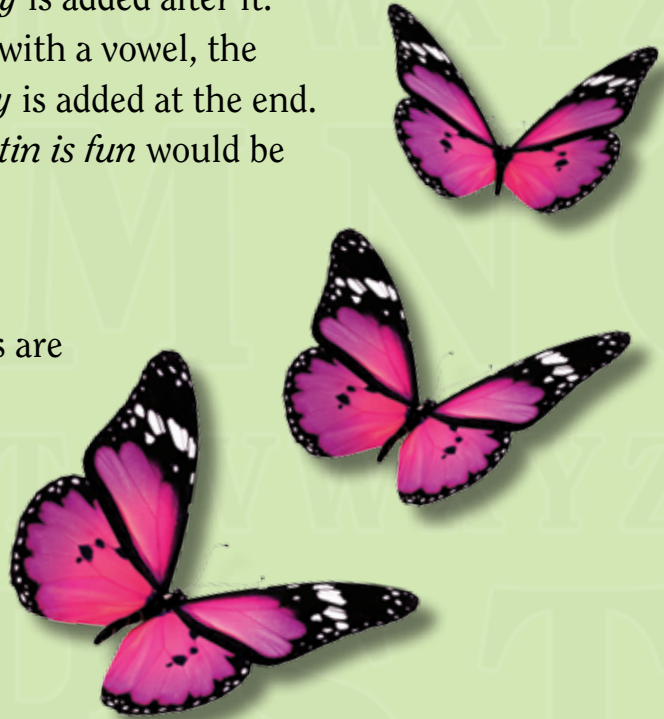


Pig Latin

With pig latin, the initial consonant sound of each word is moved to the end and *-ay* is added after it. However, when the words begin with a vowel, the initial sound isn't moved and *-ay* is added at the end. For example, the sentence *pig latin is fun* would be *ig-pay atin-lay is-ay un-fay*.

Spoonerism

Spoonerisms occur when sounds are switched in a triangle of words with a humorous effect. For example, *butterfly—flutterby; go and take a shower—go and shake a tower; and save the whales—wave the sails*.



One last thought...

Promote word play by sharing riddles, jokes, puns, songs, and poems. Encourage your child to experiment with words!

Reading Rules!

Your third grader will be expected to make a huge leap in his or her fluency and understanding. At this stage, he or she should be able to read a variety of books, including historical fiction, legends, fables, myths, and biographies.

.....

Use the following guidelines to help improve your third grader's reading skills.

Shared Reading

Set a reading time for the entire family. Take turns reading aloud or silently, or catching up on magazines.



Book of the Month

Create a family award for the best book of the month. Take turns reading an assortment of books and vote on which ones have the best writing or illustrations.

Comics

Encourage your child to read the comics from the newspaper or pick up a comic book. Share the best cartoons with the family. Discuss what makes them funny.

Magazines

Subscribe to a magazine that expands your child's interests, such as *National Geographic Kids* or *Zoobooks*.

Book Project

Have your child create a project that represents a recently read book: a map, drawings of costumes, a poster, a postcard, stage setting, or illustrations.



One last thought...

Read aloud every day, even if it is just for ten minutes at the end of the day. This will help your child improve his or her reading skills.

What to Read?

Your third grader should be reading fewer picture books and filling the shelves with chapter books. Involve your child in assessing and organizing his or her book collection.

.....

Here are some great reads for your third grader.

- *Beezus and Ramona* by Beverly Cleary
- *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White
- *Super Fudge* by Judy Blume
- *Captain Underpants* by Dav Pilkey
- *Cowgirl Kate and Cocoa* by Erica Silverman
- *A Bat is Born* by Randall Jarrell
- *Knoxville, Tennessee* by Nikki Giovanni
- *Weather* by Eve Merriam
- *Eating While Reading* by Gary Soto

Here are some ideas for how to find books.

- **Library book sales**
- **Garage sales**
- **Sales at bookstores**
- **Swap books with neighbors**



One last thought...

Organize a book swap and consider trading in picture books for chapter books with friends and family.

Spelling

Strategies

Third graders are expected to write with accuracy. Teaching them a variety of strategies to help them correctly spell words by themselves is essential at this age.

*You can learn together
and have fun with these ideas!*

Patterns

There are common spelling patterns. If your child knows how to spell one word, he or she can spell other words that follow the same pattern.

Spelling Endings

There are a few spelling rules that will help. Keep these useful rules handy.

Does the word end in a silent *e*? Drop the *e* before adding *ing* or *y*.

like → **liking** **nose** → **nosy**

Is the word one syllable, ending in one consonant? Double the consonant and add the ending.

bed → **bedding** **hop** → **hopped**

Is the word one syllable, ending in two consonants? Or does it have two vowels in a row? Just add the ending.

jump → **jumping** **peel** → **peeled**



One last thought...

Even great spellers have to work at memorizing some rules. Don't be afraid to keep a list of frequently misspelled words for quick reference.

Common

Prefixes and Suffixes

Here are some common prefixes and suffixes your child should know. Try putting these on flash cards to help your child memorize them!

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
mis-	wrongly	mistake, misbehave, misunderstand
un-	not	unhappy, unwanted, untie
pro-	favor, forward	proceed, progress, project
re-	again, back	redo, reuse, rewrite
pre-	before	preschool, prehistoric, preheat



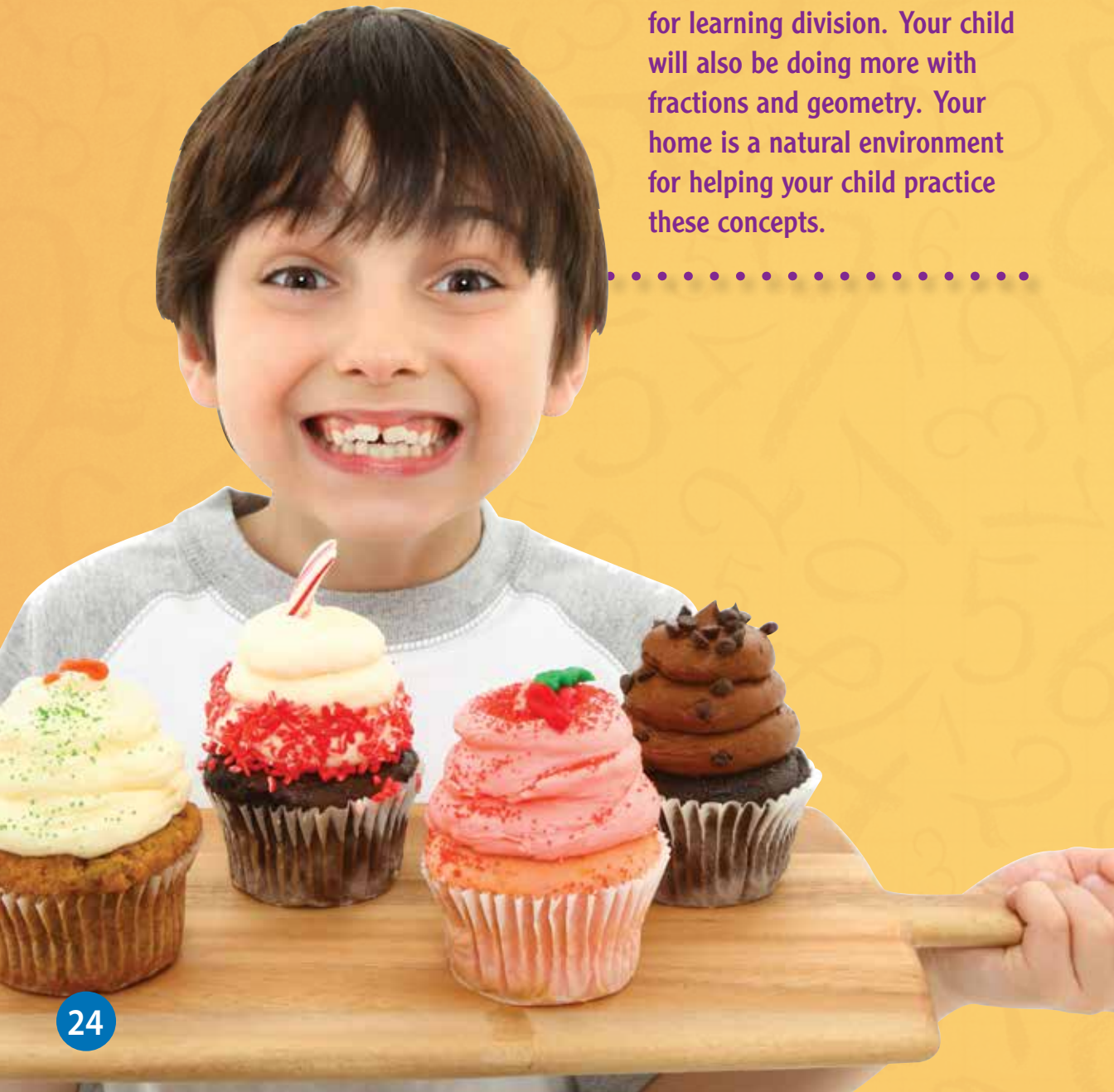
Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-ed	past tense	wanted, played, jumped
-er	more	bigger, smaller, taller
-est	most	biggest, smallest, tallest
-ing	present tense	playing, throwing, crying
-ly	like	friendly, quickly, sadly
-y	being or having	rainy, funny, bumpy
-less	without	thoughtless, careless, fearless
-ful	full of	careful, hopeful, joyful

Math

at Home

Multiplication plays a big role in third grade, setting the stage for learning division. Your child will also be doing more with fractions and geometry. Your home is a natural environment for helping your child practice these concepts.

.....



Here are a few ideas for using math in the kitchen.

How Many?

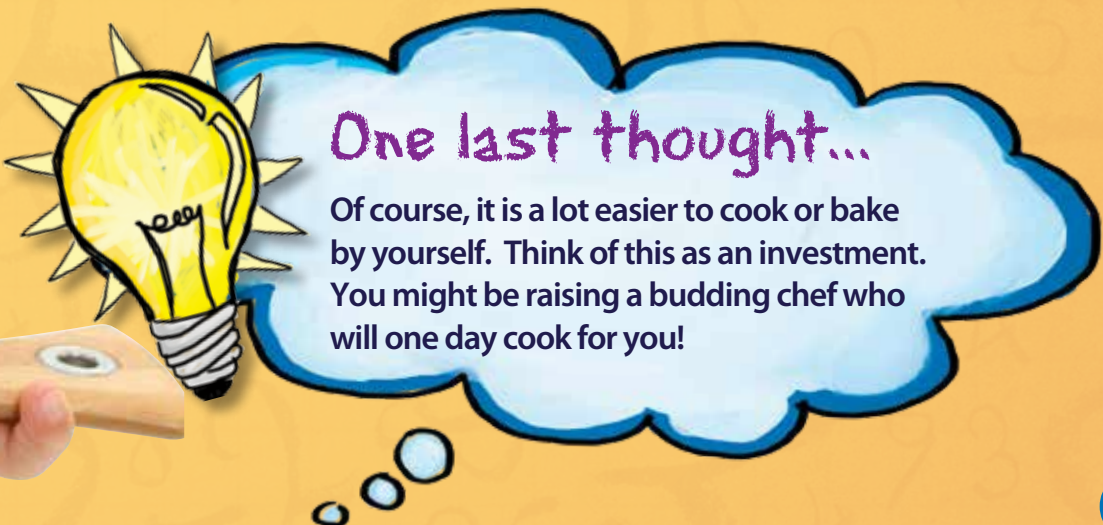
Have your child figure out how many boxes of cake mix it will take to make cupcakes if there are 24 people coming to a party.

Measure It

Involve your child in cooking the family dinner. You can have your child help you by measuring the ingredients. This is a great way to teach about liquid and dry measures.

Double It

Have your child help you plan a big dinner. He or she can help by doubling the recipe.



Math

Rules!

Third grade is the time to get the rules of math firmly in place. Your child will be working on solving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems with a deeper understanding of how everything relates.



These ideas may help
when math homework time comes.

Be Strategic

To solve a word problem, read it aloud two or three times. Is it still too hard? Substitute big numbers with smaller numbers or draw a picture.

Use Tools

Math is more than rote memorization. Use these tools to help understand the problem at hand: counting blocks or toothpicks to show groups of tens, a ruler, coins, etc.

Follow These Steps:

1. Study the examples.
2. Work or explain the examples.
3. Work the problems (encourage legible numbers).
4. Check the work.



One last thought...

Processes change, so offer the way you learned as a child as one way of several. Then ask your child to explain how he or she has been taught. Through the explanation, your child will gain a better understanding of both techniques.

Multiplication and Division Facts

Mastering multiplication and division is a part of third grade math. Help your child conquer this feat by practicing his or her math facts every day! Try putting multiplication facts on flash cards to help memorize them.

	0	1	2	3	4
0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	1	2	3	4
2	0	2	4	6	8
3	0	3	6	9	12
4	0	4	8	12	16
5	0	5	10	15	20
6	0	6	12	18	24
7	0	7	14	21	28
8	0	8	16	24	32
9	0	9	18	27	36
10	0	10	20	30	40



5	6	7	8	9	10
0	0	0	0	0	0
5	6	7	8	9	10
10	12	14	16	18	20
15	18	21	24	27	30
20	24	28	32	36	40
25	30	35	40	45	50
30	36	42	48	54	60
35	42	49	56	63	70
40	48	56	64	72	80
45	54	63	72	81	90
50	60	70	80	90	100

Science

Fun!

Third graders will be exploring more about Earth and the life-forms that inhabit it. They will also learn about the water cycle. That is what third grade is all about—understanding how things react, combine, reform, and change.

.....

These activities will help your child to explore and think more critically.

Animal Habitats

Have your third grader build a habitat. Fill an aquarium with one inch of mud. Collect pond water and let it sit in direct sunlight for a few days. Next, slowly add the pond water to the aquarium through a strainer. Once the aquarium is set up, add tadpoles or other insects.



Kitchen Science

Learn about density by layering liquids. Slowly pour vegetable oil, water mixed with food coloring, and rubbing alcohol into a clear container. Watch the denser liquids sink!

Investigate

If a plant dies, try to figure out the cause. Not enough water? Too much water? Encourage your child to think like an investigator.

Water Cycle

Fill a clear cup with water. Place plastic wrap on top of the cup and seal with a rubber band. Place in the sun and watch precipitation form.



One last thought...

Your third grader probably still likes to make messes—even in the dirt! There is a lot of learning going on, so just enjoy the mess. And then help your inventor do the clean up!

Exploring

Social Studies

Third graders are learning about our country and early explorers. Help your child discover more about the world around him or her, especially beyond the home.

.....

Use the following activities to engage your child in ideas about civic life, politics, and the government.

Newspaper

The daily newspaper is the perfect ongoing history lesson.



- Use the ads to discuss the impact of seasonal trends and sales on the economy.
- Read the sections about local citizens, this day in history, and community announcements.
- Read the editorial cartoons or follow local politics.



Family History

By this year, your budding historian may be expected to contribute to a whole-class project by cooking or creating art. This is a good time to connect your child with your family's traditions including foods, clothing, and holidays.

Good Citizens

Take a walk through your courthouse or city hall and discuss how your local government works—its laws and the roles of citizens.



One last thought...

This is the perfect year to explore your family's history. Consider having your third grader interview a grandparent or great-grandparent to experience some oral history.



Balancing

School and Beyond

Your third grader may be ready for more organized group activities after school or on the weekends. Alternatively, he or she may need time to decompress after a busy day.

Here are some ideas to help your child balance school and beyond.

Community Center

Check out your local community center for a variety of classes designed for kids. Oftentimes they are offered at discounted prices!

Art Fair

Check your city's programs to see if any art fairs or events are scheduled. This would be a great time to expose your child to different kinds of art!

Library Program

Many libraries have programs especially for kids. Look into getting a library card for your child and have him or her get involved at your local library.

School Clubs

Your student's school may offer after-school clubs, such as the chess club, Spanish club, or cooking club.



One last thought...

Your child may be enthusiastic about all kinds of programs, only to declare he or she is ready to quit after a few classes or practices. Ease into long-term commitments so that the risk of frustration, disappointment, or wasted fees is minimized.

Learning on the Go

Whether you are taking a short or long trip, take advantage of this time by linking your trips to the community and its history.

.....

Use these recommendations to take advantage of learning on the go.

Be Prepared

Seek information about a city from the local chamber of commerce. Explore things to see and the history of the area. If you aren't going on a trip, pretend to be a first-time visitor in your own community.

Photographer

Invest in a digital camera to record the trip.

Fortunately-Unfortunately

This is a fun storytelling game. Each person makes up a sentence in the story, alternating between fortunate and unfortunate events.

Read Aloud

Have one person (who is not subject to carsickness) read aloud from a chapter book, a travel guide, or a magazine. Audio books are great for car travel, too.





One last thought...

Put together a travel bag or backpack that holds a variety of materials such as markers, crayons, paper on a clipboard, and word puzzles.



Staying Playful

You may feel like these years are all about studying and mastering skills. Research tells us, however, that play is always important. Through group games, we learn to think strategically, solve problems, and even get some exercise.



Try some of these fun games.

Rainy Day Games

Play old classics such as Musical Chairs, Hot Potato, Guess that Drawing, or Charades.

Outdoor Games

Have your child join the neighborhood children with adult supervision and play some outdoor games such as kickball or Capture the Flag.

Yard Game

Scatter several plastic hoops around the yard. Assign taggers to freeze the other players. Children inside a plastic hoop cannot get frozen, but can only stay long enough to count to 10. Only one child per plastic hoop is allowed.



One last thought...

If you live in a snowy area, try playing Tug of War, dodgeball, or football in the snow! You'll warm up in a hurry from the exercise!

Dear Parent,

Your third grader is becoming more independent in so many ways. Third graders are more confident and curious about everything. It's an exciting stage, and you have so much to explore with your child! We hope this collection of ideas will make the year even better. Thank you for taking the time to browse through them.

Remember, you don't have to be a "super" parent (or grandparent) every minute of the day. Be ready to learn some new things with your child and take time to have fun, too!

*Thank
you!*





Thank you for purchasing this eBook.

This eBook is copyrighted. If you accessed this eBook without making payment, you should be aware that neither the author nor the publisher has received any compensation, and you may be in violation of state, federal, and/or international law.

For further information about our products and services, please e-mail us at: customerservice@tcmpub.com.

“Thank you for helping us
create a world in which
children love to learn!”

