

Parent Expectations for Third Grade Literacy

Third grade is a pivotal year in literacy development for your child.

Most third graders are comfortable with the conventions of language and by the end of third grade they will be using reading and writing for their own purposes.

- They can find out about a topic.
- Then they can state in their own word what they learned.

What to expect in Reading and Writing:

- Most third graders are discerning readers and writers.
- They read thoughtfully, comprehending shades of meaning.

They reveal a deep understanding of the text:

- Make comparisons among books.
- Question author's perspectives.
- Interprets the significance of stories.
- Identifies characteristics of certain authors.
- Frequently their responses are personal.

Third graders read stories they enjoy:

- Non-fiction builds vocabulary and introduces students to major concepts they will study in more depth in later grades.
- Books challenge them with new words and important ideas that they can use in their writing.

Through their reading they can become experts on topics that interest them:

- Taking notes on what they read.
- Composing elaborative narratives.
- Writing lengthy reports.

Most third graders communicate in writing:

- Compose songs and plays.
- Write longer pieces and take on harder topics.
- Embed their writing with more details.
- Use language to paint a picture or set a mood.
- Play with language and make conscious word choices.
- Use their imaginations to develop characters and make a world more dramatic.

Most third graders are eager to talk about what they are reading and learning and apply it

to their own work:

- The connection between reading and writing is stronger in third grade.
- If students discover a literary feature they try it in their own writing.

Developing Literacy Habits

Third graders should read both fiction and non-fiction:

- Read and compare several works by one author.
- Read and compare several works by the some genre.
- These studies enable students to articulate and categorize their observations as well as sharpening their skills at interpreting, analyzing, and synthesizing what they read.

Most reading should be done independently:

- Select books they can read on their own.
- Provide extended time for reading.
- This reading time becomes rich sources of new vocabulary.

Third graders still need to hear teachers/parents read books aloud to them:

- This expands their vocabulary.
- Learn the ebb and flow and language by listening to good literature.

Third graders should also write daily:

- Have response partners.
- Enjoy hearing their writing read aloud.
- Expect to stretch themselves by writing; narrative accounts, responses to literature, reports, and procedures.
- Revise their first drafts by themselves; as well as with feedback from classmates.

Third graders no longer use drawings as a key element to convey meaning:

- May use drawings to illustrate stories, use charts or diagrams to add information to reports.

