

# Activities that Support 3rd Grade Learning

## How Parents Can Help...

### Reading

- Read aloud to your child daily.
- Have your child read to you and check for understanding by discussing the content, characters and setting.
- Provide your child access to reference materials such as a children's dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopedia, atlas and computer. *All of these are available at the library.*
- Encourage the enjoyment of reading by providing a variety of reading materials of your child's choice, for example magazines, series books, library books, books by the same author.
- Monitor your child's independent reading so that selections are within his or her ability level.
- Demonstrate how reading is an important tool in our daily lives, for example signs, menus, labels on products, newspapers, flyers.
- Play reading games with your child, for example word searches, crossword puzzles.
- Let your child see you reading for purpose and pleasure.

### Writing

- Encourage your child to write within the family setting, for example notes, lists, pen pals, letters and journals.
- Provide fun writing tools such as colored paper, pens and markers.
- If possible, provide access to a computer with a keyboard, word processing, spell check and thesaurus.
- Remind your child to carefully proofread all written work for content as well as the correct spelling and punctuation.
- Assist your child in mastering the grade level spelling lists
- Partner read aloud and keep a reading log.
- Write about a trip or special event.
- Keep a word log for spelling and vocabulary.



### Listening & Speaking

- Model and encourage good listening and speaking skills for your child daily.
- Attend live theatre or storytelling events.
- Support your child in memorizing poems, songs, plays and oral reports.
- Let your child express him/herself daily in the family setting.

### Mathematics

- Support your child in mastering addition and subtraction facts and learning multiplication and division facts through 5's.
- Involve your child in mathematical situations when they occur in the family setting, for example time, money, measurement, cooking and problem solving.
- Use beans, coins, drawings and calculators to explain concepts.
- Play math games using playing cards, dice and dominoes together as a family.
- Provide access to math computer games.



### Science

- Visit science centers, museums, interpretive and nature centers.
- Encourage your child to make observations and predictions about things that interest him/her.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers from more than one source.
- Consider a science kit, chemistry set, weather tools, geology set, as a gift.

### History/Social Science

- Support units of study by providing other resources, for example videos, library books, maps, atlas, globe and games.
- Help your child learn about geography, history and culture of the local area.
- Help your child to identify and define landforms such as mountains, valleys and rivers in your travels and on maps and globes.
- Help your child identify and locate his/her own city, county, state, country and continent on a map. Help your child to interpret basic map symbols and scales.
- Show your child how changes such as a new freeway impact the environment.
- Involve your child in historical/social science activities as they occur in the family setting, for example elections, multicultural celebrations, community services and projects.
- Visit local museums.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and seek answers from more than one source.

### Study Skills

- Be aware of grade level and teacher standards. Be aware of units of study and check for understanding.
- Promote and teach self-discipline and good work habits.
- Provide a quiet, well-equipped area for homework and study. Have your child log homework assignments in a log book.
- Check the log book for completion and sign the notebook for verification.
- Make your child responsible for putting all completed work and important papers into a backpack.
- Contact your child's teacher if there are problems completing the homework.
- Lead your child to answers by questioning rather than giving him/her the answers.
- When there are challenges, help your child understand that persistence will bring success.
- Limit television and video games.
- Show your child that you value education by making sure he/she is on time, prepared and ready to learn.
- Attend school functions and conferences. **Make learning a priority in your home!**