

How can I help my third grader?

Third grade is a bridge between the primary and intermediate grades. Children are at different points along this bridge throughout the year. Some children are already becoming quite independent while others still need a good bit of assistance, reminders, and encouragement with subject matter, homework, and organization.

1. Establish a routine for reviewing your child's homework folder, having your child complete homework, and reviewing and signing the homework book. Assist your child in making sure that he or she is packed up and ready for the next school day.
2. Encourage neatness and accuracy in homework. Check over your child's homework, but have your child find the mistakes. Say, "There is a mistake somewhere in this area. See if you can find it."
3. Establish a daily reading routine with/for your child and stay involved in your child's reading. Encourage bringing a book to and from school daily. Ask him or her about his independent reading book. Enjoy a book or part of a book with your child. Help your child find books that interest him or her and are at the appropriate level for independent reading, but don't discount books that are too difficult...read these books together. Encourage "thinking during reading" by reading together and by **occasionally** asking questions and modeling your own thinking:

Predict... "What do you think will happen next? Why?"

Infer... "I think the author is trying to tell us something."

Summarize... "What's happened so far in the story?"

Connect... "This reminds me of..."

Monitor... "Wait...I am confused I need to look back/read on."

Please do this naturally and only occasionally. Most important is that you and your child enjoy reading together.

4. Stay involved in your child's learning. Rather than ask, "What did you do/learn today?" (to which most children respond, "Nothing!") say, "Tell me something you learned/did today in math..."
5. Encourage math fact practice as necessary. Memorization of multiplication facts this year will help to build math confidence and will lay the foundation for working with multi-digit problems in the future.

READING WEBSITES

<http://home.comcast.net/~ngiansante/index.html> -

This is leveled book list to help you find books that are just right for your child

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>

Updated weekly, students can read age appropriate items about science that is in the news.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/index.html>

True to their reputation, this website has interesting graphics and stories of high interest for older readers. Sit down with your student and find out all sorts of fun information. ...More on reverse

<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/>

This is also a wonderful site for current events. After visiting this site with them, you'll have a great springboard for discussion.

WRITING WEBSITES

<http://www.paragraphpunch.com/>

This is a WONDERFUL site for writers needing to focus on paragraph formation. Parents will have to preview the site so they can familiarize their students as to where the process begins on the page. The site explains the process of thinking about a given writing prompt, takes them through the pre-writing phase and offers tips along the way.

http://www.harcourtschool.com/activity/language_arts/pmp/interactive_guide/g03/g03home.htm

This website reviews the proofreading skill and then delivers sentences for proofreading without clues. If students really rewrite the sentences, this is good keyboarding practice also.

MATH FACT SITES

www.mathsisfun.com/numbers/math-trainer-multiply.html

Get in some serious multiplication table training. Responds to your answers so it will train your weaknesses. Use 3 sessions of 5 minutes each per day for best results.

<http://www.math-drills.com/multiplication.shtml#Frenzy>

Provides free printable fact worksheets for all fact families. This link is for multiplication but the homepage at www.math-drills.com gives you access to fact practice for all operations.

www.mathfactcafe.com/

Provides free and printable math worksheets for elementary grades. Math worksheets, flashcards, time, money, word problems, and games.