

Mathematics For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

$$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$$

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Third Grade

In third grade, students develop their complex problem-solving skills and learn to plan ahead. Third-graders apply reasoning to abstract math problems using large numbers and operations such as multiplication and division.



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn in math this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

What Third-Graders Learn and Do



Understand fractions, especially fractions with a numerator of one (for example, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$). Solve problems that involve comparing fractions that have equal numerators (the top number) or denominators (the bottom number).



Connect basic math operations (addition, multiplication, area, simple models) to the shapes they see.



Understand multiplication and division. Use multiple strategies to accurately and quickly solve multiplication and division problems with numbers up to 100.



Explain and compare shapes by looking at their features using logical reasoning.



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

How to Support Your Third-Grader with Math

Do Math at Home

- Point out fractions of items around the house or in your neighborhood.
- Find a recipe and talk about how to cut it in half to serve fewer people or double it to serve more.
- Plan for grocery shopping by discussing portions and amounts of food and ingredients for different meals.
- Explore fractions through everyday experiences, such as dividing a pizza, sharing snacks, or comparing portions in recipes. Label and compare simple fractions like $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$.
- Use playing cards to create fractions by flipping over cards and using the smaller number as the numerator of the fraction. Compare the fractions each player builds. The bigger fraction wins all the cards

Talk with Your Student

- Celebrate flexible thinking: Point out moments when your student changes strategies or uses a new approach to solving a problem.
- Let your student explain or teach you a math idea they learned in class. Encourage your student to share ideas, questions, and strategies they use in math.
- Model curiosity instead of correctness by wondering about things out loud around your student.
- Offer choices during math activities, such as which problem to start with or what tools to use (drawing, objects, paper).
- Support perseverance by praising effort on homework and sticking with a difficult problem.
- Invite your student to create math problems based on their hobbies, routines, or favorite things.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in math. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, culture, and future goals.
- Ask the teacher what students should know and be able to do by the end of third grade. Ask what your student needs to practice or what they can work on next.
- Help your student identify their strengths in math and areas where they feel confident. Share this information with the teacher.
- Ask the teacher how they encourage students to explain their thinking, make choices, and learn from mistakes in math class.
- Discuss collaboration with the teacher. Ask how students work with others to support learning.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

