

Literacy 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!

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Third Grade

In third grade, students develop more complex problem-solving skills and begin to plan ahead. Third-graders build their vocabulary and learn to read and write longer words with more complex spelling patterns. They also engage with a wider range of texts for different purposes.



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

What Third-Graders Learn and Do



Read, notice, and think about details from a variety of books, poems, and texts about their world.



Search for answers from different sources, such as books, videos, or websites.



Use detailed descriptions and try different styles of writing when creating stories, informational pieces, and other types of texts.



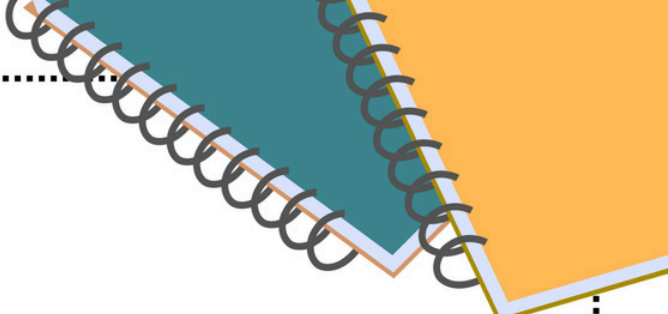
Build and use more complex vocabulary.



Share and present their thoughts and summarize what others say.



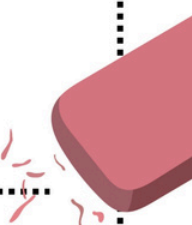
Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



How to Support Your Third-Grader with Literacy

Promote Literacy at Home

- Play media detective by looking for a topic in a variety of sources: books, videos, appropriate websites, and more. Talk about the purpose of each source, who created it, and how helpful it was to learn about the topic.
- Make your student's favorite stories come alive by acting out different characters, using different voices, or singing the parts out loud.
- Read nonfiction sources like newspaper or magazine articles. Talk about what happened, in what order, and why.
- Help your student to select books or videos based on their interests. Ask them what connections they can make between what they read, listen to, or view and their own life.
- Ask your student what they learned after they listen to a speaker, watch a video, have a conversation, or read a billboard.



Talk with Your Student

- Discuss what your student is reading and how it connects to their world. Encourage them to share ideas and questions about what they read.
- Compare and contrast the different kinds of writing that your student completes for school.
- Ask your student to share something they recently wrote. Ask why they wrote it and what they are proud of.
- Model curiosity by wondering about things out loud around your student.
- Support perseverance by praising effort on homework and sticking with a difficult task.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in reading and writing. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, and future goals.
 - Ask the teacher what students should know and be able to do in reading and writing 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 reading and writing and areas where they feel confident. Share this information with the teacher.
 - Ask the teacher how they encourage students to explain their thinking in class discussions about texts and in writing.
 - 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).
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