



Parents' Guide to Third Grade

Some Developmental Characteristics Displayed by Many Eight-Year-Olds

- ☉ Are outgoing, lively, and evaluative.
- ☉ Show a high level of energy and are willing to tackle almost anything, including the new and difficult.
- ☉ Tend to be less cautious than at age seven and can be prone to accidents.
- ☉ Sleep approximately 10 hours daily.
- ☉ Show a new characteristic – a judgmental, evaluative attitude. Now children begin to judge and consider what happens to them and are concerned about the “why” of events.
- ☉ Display enormous curiosity in nature, manufactured things, and people.
- ☉ Show increased self-confidence and maturity.
- ☉ Are friendly and cooperative. The peer group is the sun their world revolves around. Friendships tend to be closed and more exacting.
- ☉ Generally enjoy and look forward to school for social and academic reasons.
- ☉ Really like table games, such as cards, checkers, and Monopoly; but still might not be able to lose gracefully.
- ☉ Frequently like to read for fun – comics, childhood classics, joke books, and mysteries, to name a few.
- ☉ Some may be writing for entertainment – anything from short stories to poems and letters.

Source:

*Families, Schools, Communities
Learning Together - Special Edition:
Guide to Developing Grade-Level
Brochures for Parents.*
Wisconsin Department of Public
Instruction, Fall 1999

GRADE THREE LEARNER EXPECTATIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: Foundational

- Reads and understands grade level text with accuracy and fluency (rate, automaticity, expression, phrasing, and purpose).

Reading: Literature

- Asks and answers questions, referencing the text to demonstrate understanding of key details.
- Recounts stories to determine central meaning both orally and in writing.

Reading: Informational

- Asks and answers questions, referencing the text to demonstrate understanding of key details in informational texts.
- Determines the main idea and key details by using text features to locate and gain information.
- Compares and contrasts important points and key details of two texts on the same topic, while distinguishing point of view.

Writing

- Writes opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative pieces with clear development and organization.
- Develops and strengthens writing by planning, revising, and editing.
- Participates in shared research projects that build knowledge on a topic.
- Applies legible and fluent printing/cursive writing skills.
- Uses technology to interact and collaborate with others and applies keyboarding skills to produce and publish writing.

Language

- Demonstrates the conventions of grammar and usage when writing.

- Demonstrates the conventions of capitalization and punctuation when writing.
- Applies grade level words and spelling patterns when writing.

Speaking and Listening

- Takes part in conversations about grade level topics and texts.

MATH

Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Explains products and quotients in multiplication and division problems.
- Uses multiplication and division to solve word problems.
- Understands and applies properties of multiplication and division.
- Multiplies and divides within 100 using strategies.
- Fluently multiplies two one-digit numbers.
- Solves multi-step word problems using four operations.
- Identifies and explains arithmetic patterns using properties of operations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten

- Uses place value to round to the nearest 10 or 100.
- Adds and subtracts within 1000 using place value and properties of operations.
- Multiplies one digit numbers by multiples of 10.

Number and Operations - Fractions

- Understands a unit fraction as one equal part of a whole.
- Represents a fraction on a number line.
- Explains and represents equivalences and comparisons of fractions.

Measurement and Data

- Tells and writes time to the nearest minute and solves word problems involving time.

- Measures, estimates, and solves word problems involving volume and mass using units of grams, kilograms, and liters.
- Draws and represents data using pictures and bar graphs and solves 2-step word problems involving data.
- Measures lengths in halves and fourths of an inch and represents the data in a line plot.
- Understands, represents, and measures area and related area to multiplication and addition.
- Solves word problems using perimeters of polygons.

Geometry

- Understands shapes and their attributes.
- Partitions shapes into parts with equal areas and identifies the fraction.

Mathematical Practices

- Understands the problem situation: makes sense of problems; reasons abstractly and quantitatively.
- Represents the problem situation: models with mathematics; looks for and makes use of structure.
- Solves the problem: uses appropriate tools; uses repeated reasoning.
- Checks that the answer makes sense: critiques the reasoning of others; attends to precision.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography

- Describes, identifies and locates features on maps and globes.
- Uses map scales, grid systems, and cardinal and intermediate directions.
- Identifies connections between local communities and other places.

History/Culture

- Explains how key people, places and events from the past and present influence our lives.

- Identifies values, beliefs, and influences of other cultures.

Economics

- Examines the role of money and how it affects our lives.

Political Science

- Describes the purpose of government and the responsibility of its citizens.

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Science Inquiry

- Participates constructively in investigations.

Communicates the Results of Investigations.

- Uses charts, graphs, written descriptions, discussions, etc.
- Uses and understands science vocabulary.

Health

- Demonstrates how nutrition, exercise safety, and health care contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Observes, assesses, and provides feedback of a skill.
- Performs the catch with arm extension and absorption and moves body to adjust to the flight of the object.
- Recognizes the body's response to physical activity.
- Demonstrates safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors during active participation.

VISUAL ARTS

- Demonstrates the ability to describe and interpret works of art.
- Uses basic art skills and techniques to produce quality works of art.
- Creates art that expresses original ideas.

- Identifies meanings of works of art from different times, places and cultures.

MUSIC

- Sings a song.
- Performs known rhythms.
- Ready known pitches.
- Writes known pitches.
- Writes known rhythms.
- Makes safe, respectful and responsible choices.

BEHAVIORS OF LIFELONG LEARNERS

Collaborative Worker

- ◆ Cooperates with others.
- ◆ Demonstrates respect and compassion for others.

Community Contributor

- ◆ Takes responsibility for self and materials.
- ◆ Accepts responsibility for actions.
- ◆ Demonstrates self-control.
- ◆ Participates appropriately in group discussion.

Quality Producer

- ◆ Initiates and completes tasks on time.
- ◆ Strives for accuracy, quality and neatness.

Complex Thinker

- ◆ Thinks, questions, and solves problems in a variety of ways.
- ◆ Demonstrates curiosity in learning.
- ◆ Demonstrates a willingness to try new experiences.



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