

In 3rd grade, your child will learn important new ideas and gain important new skills. One of the most important topics this year is multiplication and division. Another is fractions. Multiplication, division, and fractions are the building blocks for many life skills that students will learn in later grades, such as percentages. Students also need to master these topics to be ready for algebra and advanced math, so it is essential to get a good start with these topics in 3rd grade. In addition, your child will continue to build on their understanding of two-dimensional shapes, their perimeter, and area.

Skills Your Child Will Be Working On

- Multiplying and dividing up to 10×10 quickly and accurately, including knowing the times tables from memory
- Solving word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Beginning to multiply numbers with more than one digit (e.g., multiplying 9×80)
- Understanding fractions and relating them to the familiar system of whole numbers (e.g., recognizing that $\frac{3}{1}$ and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring and estimating weights and liquid volumes, and solving word problems involving these quantities
- Reasoning about shapes (e.g., all squares are rectangles but not all rectangles are squares)
- Finding areas of shapes, and relating area to multiplication (e.g., why is the number of square feet for a 9-foot by 7-foot room given by the product 9×7 ?)

Learning Activity to Use at Home

Play this fun card game with your child and before long those annoying multiplication facts will be part of her mathematical skill set. Besides strengthening multiplication skills, this game also provides practice in comparing numbers.

Activity: Multiplication Math War

What You Need:

- Deck of cards
- A kitchen timer

What You Do:

1. Shuffle the deck of cards and deal them face down, giving each player an equal number of cards until the deck runs out. Each player keeps his cards in a stack. Assign picture cards, such as jacks, queens, and kings, a value of 10. Give aces a value of either 11 or 1.
2. Demonstrate to your child how to play the game: Each player turns two cards face up, reads the number sentence and supplies the answer. For example, if your child draws a 5 and a 4, he/she says $5 \times 4 = 20$. If you draw a 7 and an 8, then your number sentence is $7 \times 8 = 56$. Because your product is larger, you win the four cards and you put them at the bottom of your pile.
3. If each of you has a number sentence with the same product, then it's war! Each player puts four cards face down and turns up two of them. The player with the largest product wins the eight cards.
4. Set up the timer and play the game for 10 to 15 minutes. When the bell goes off, each player counts his cards. The player with the most cards wins. If one player runs out of cards before time is up, then the other player wins.
5. Say no to boring "drill and kill". Get your game on! Multiplication Math War is an enjoyable way to spend time with your child while strengthening his math skills.

Teacher and Parent Conferencing - Topics for ongoing conversations throughout the school year with your child's teacher.

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In third grade, these include:

- Is your child performing well with multiplication and division problems?
- Is your child able to solve two-step word problems using all four operations? (e.g. addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Is your child doing well with understanding and working with various fractions?

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?