

# 1st Grade Reading Tips for Parents



Your encouragement and support are extremely important in helping your first grader develop his/her budding reading skills.

The information and tips here will help you make reading a fun part of your everyday routine.

## First Grade Reading: An Overview

In kindergarten, students gain the necessary tools to learn to read. In the first grade, they put those tools to use.

Here are some of the skills first grade readers typically work on.

- ▶ Recognizing sight words without having to sound them out
- ▶ Using familiar words to decode unfamiliar words (e.g., figuring out “hit” because it contains the known word “it”)
- ▶ Recognizing reading errors (e.g., knowing when he/she has misread or mispronounced a word)

***Visit the library and look for reading books with Labels such as “Level 1” and “Beginning Reading.”***

## Support New Skills

**Read everywhere and often.** As your first grader gets better at recognizing words and phrases, provide your child with opportunities to show off his/her skills. Ask your child to read road signs and packages at the grocery store.

**Mix it up (but not too much).** Make reading fun by picking out new books at the library and bookstore. But don't forget about old books when your child gets new ones. While new books can be fun, reading the same book repeatedly will help your child become more familiar with important story parts (e.g., plot, characters, overall structure).

**Some frustration is normal.** New readers sometimes become frustrated if they can't figure out a word, or if a book is too "boring." If this happens, stay positive, and keep your voice light and enthusiastic. You want to keep reading fun.

## Develop Comprehension Skills

Asking your child questions while you're reading (and when you're finished) will help your child develop important reading comprehension skills.

- ▶ What do you think will happen next?
- ▶ What would you do?
- ▶ How would you feel?
- ▶ Why do you think the character did that?
- ▶ How does the character feel in this picture?
- ▶ Did you like this book?



# 2nd Grade Reading Tips for Parents



Your encouragement and support are extremely important in helping your second grader develop his/her budding reading skills.

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## Second Grade Reading: An Overview

In second grade, the focus is on “reading for meaning” (reading to understand). There is also an emphasis on fluency (reading with speed, accuracy, and expression). Students learn to recognize more words by sight, and they learn strategies that help them figure out new words.

Here are some skills your second grader is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Reading independently, both in the classroom and at home
- ▶ Reading longer stories, including beginner chapter books
- ▶ Using context clues (other parts of a sentence or story) to figure out unknown words

## Support New Skills

**Help improve comprehension.** After reading a book with your second grader, ask your child to tell you what the book was about. Being able to remember and restate important details of a story are key to reading comprehension.

**Mix it up (but not too much).** Make reading fun by picking out new books at the library and bookstore. But don't forget about your old books. While new books can be fun, rereading a favorite book can help children work on proper pronunciation and reading in a smoother tone.

**Help decode unknown words.** As reading material becomes more challenging, help your child decode unfamiliar words by sounding them out, and by using clues from other parts of the sentence or story. Also, help your child look up new words in a print or online dictionary.

## Develop Comprehension Skills

Asking your child questions while you're reading (and when you're finished) will help your child develop important reading comprehension skills.

- ▶ What do you think will happen next?
- ▶ What would you do?
- ▶ How would you feel?
- ▶ Why do you think the character did that?
- ▶ How does the character feel in this picture?
- ▶ What did you like about this book?



# 3rd Grade Reading Tips for Parents



Your encouragement and support are extremely important in helping your third grader develop his/her reading skills.

The information and tips here will help you make reading a fun part of your everyday routine.

## Third Grade Reading: An Overview

In third grade, students go from learning to read to “reading to learn.” Students read books, articles, and poems, and they discuss what they read with others. Students may also frequently use their reading skills in subjects other than language arts (e.g., reading a social studies or science textbook).

### Reading abilities vary

Whether your child is reading a picture book or a chapter book, students this age should be able to read independently. To check your child’s reading, periodically ask him/her to read aloud to you. If you have concerns about your child’s reading, speak to his/her teacher.

## Make Reading Fun

The following tips can help make reading with your child a regular part of your day—and remind your child how important it is to develop good reading skills.

- ▶ Show your child that reading is a way to pursue personal interests. Take your child to the library often to get books on topics of interest to him/her.
- ▶ Work through a series together, such as *Magic Tree House* or *Captain Underpants*. Take turns reading pages or chapters.
- ▶ Have family reading time – 30 minutes when everyone reads.
- ▶ Make sure your child sees you reading, and talk about the interesting things you've read.

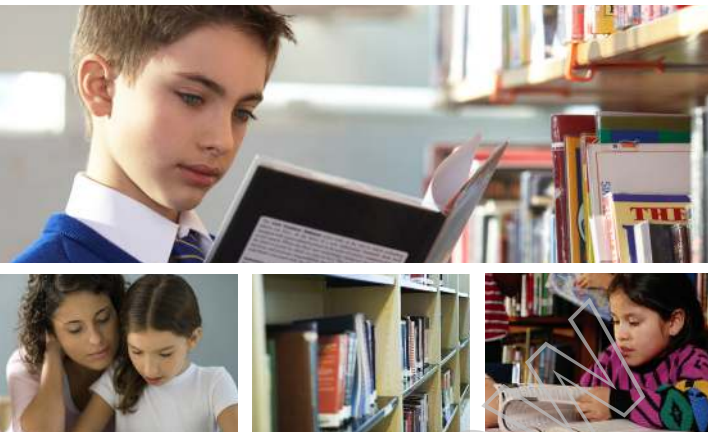
## Develop Comprehension Skills

Asking your child about the things he/she reads is a great way to help your child develop his/her comprehension skills—and a way for you to encourage your child's reading development.

- ▶ What was that book about?
- ▶ Did you like it? Why or why not?
- ▶ Who was your favorite character? Why?
- ▶ What was your favorite part? Why?
- ▶ What message do you think the author was trying to get across?



# 4th Grade Reading Tips for Parents



Your encouragement and support are very important in helping your fourth grader develop his/her reading skills.

The information and tips here will help you make reading a fun part of your everyday routine.

## Fourth Grade Reading: An Overview

The focus of fourth grade reading is comprehension—being able to understand the meaning of what's read.

Fourth graders read a variety of genres: fiction, nonfiction, poems, fables—and they're often asked to discuss, or write book reports on, the books they've read. Students are also likely to have reading assignments in other subjects (e.g., science, social studies).

To help your child handle the increasing length and difficulty of reading assignments, encourage your child to develop good reading habits (e.g., remove all distractions, read difficult text slowly or out loud).

## Make Reading Fun

The following tips can help make reading a regular part of your child's day—and remind him/her that developing good reading skills is important.

- ▶ Show your child that reading is a way to pursue personal interests. Take your child to the library often to get books on topics of interest to him/her.
- ▶ Have family reading time – 30 minutes when everyone reads.
- ▶ Work through a series together, such as *Harry Potter* or *Captain Underpants*. Take turns reading pages or chapters.
- ▶ Make sure your child sees you reading, and talk about the interesting things you've read.

## Develop Comprehension Skills

Asking your child about the things he/she reads is a great way to help your child develop his/her comprehension skills—and a way for you to encourage your child's reading development.

- ▶ What's that book about?
- ▶ Did you like it? Why or why not?
- ▶ Who was your favorite character? Why?
- ▶ What was your favorite part? Why?
- ▶ What message do you think the author was trying to get across?





# 5th Grade Reading Tips for Parents



Your encouragement and support are very important in helping your fifth grader develop his/her reading skills.

The information and tips here will help you make reading a fun part of your everyday routine.

## Fifth Grade Reading: An Overview

Fifth graders read all kinds of texts, including fiction and nonfiction books, as well as textbooks in subjects like science and social studies. Fifth grade students also learn how to analyze and summarize what they read.

To help your child handle the increasing length and difficulty of reading assignments, encourage your child to develop good reading habits (e.g., remove all distractions, read difficult text slowly or out loud).

Fifth graders should be able to read aloud with little stumbling or hesitation. Even though your child can read quietly and independently, ask him/her to read aloud to you from time to time.

## Make Reading Fun

The following tips can help make reading a regular part of your child's day—and remind him/her that it's important to develop good reading skills.

- ▶ Ask your child to tell you about what he/she is reading in school, and for pleasure. Encourage reading by getting books at the library on topics of interest to your child.
- ▶ Have family reading time – 30 minutes when everyone reads.
- ▶ Work through a series together, such as *Harry Potter* or *Captain Underpants*. Take turns reading pages or chapters.
- ▶ Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading newspapers, books, and magazines. At dinner, talk about the interesting things you've learned.

## Develop Comprehension Skills

Asking your child about the things he/she reads is a great way to help your child develop his/her comprehension skills—and a way for you to encourage your child's reading development.

- ▶ What was that book about?
- ▶ Did you like it? Why or why not?
- ▶ Who was your favorite character? Why?
- ▶ What was your favorite part? Why?
- ▶ What message do you think the author was trying to get across?



# 6th Grade Reading Tips for Parents



Your encouragement and support are very important in helping your sixth grader develop his/her reading skills.

The information and tips here will help you make reading a fun part of your everyday routine.

## Sixth Grade Reading: An Overview

Sixth grade reading focuses on understanding texts in a variety of subjects (e.g., social studies and science) and forms (non-fiction and fiction). Sixth grade students may also be required to do online research for papers and projects.

To help your child handle the increasing length and difficulty of reading assignments, encourage your child to develop good reading habits (e.g., remove all distractions, read difficult text slowly or out loud).

Because your child will be reading more texts online, now is a great time to talk about the reliability of online sources, and the importance of not believing everything he/she reads online.

## Make Reading Fun

The following tips can help make reading a regular part of your child's day—and remind him/her that it's important to develop good reading skills.

- ▶ Ask your child to tell you about what he/she is reading in school, and for fun. Encourage reading by getting books at the library on topics of interest to your child.
- ▶ Have family reading time – 30 minutes when everyone reads.
- ▶ Read a series together, such as *Harry Potter* or *Chronicles of Narnia*. Talk about the books as you work your way through them.
- ▶ Be a good role model. Let your child see you reading newspapers, books, and magazines. At dinner, talk about the interesting things you've learned.

## Develop Comprehension Skills

Asking your child about the things he/she reads is a great way to help your child develop his/her comprehension skills—and a way for you to encourage your child's reading development.

- ▶ What was that book about?
- ▶ Did you like it? Why or why not?
- ▶ Who was your favorite character? Why?
- ▶ What was your favorite part? Why?
- ▶ What message do you think the author was trying to get across?

