

# Kindergarten Reading Tips for Parents



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

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

## Kindergarten Reading: An Overview

It's very important for all students to have a strong foundation in reading, and in kindergarten, children spend a good deal of time developing the skills they need to read. Here are some of the skills kindergarteners typically work on.

- ▶ Recognizing all the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds
- ▶ Reading words and short sentences
- ▶ Being able to retell a story after listening to it
- ▶ Recognizing and using rhyming words
- ▶ Quickly recognizing *sight words*—words that appear frequently in books for beginning readers

# Support New Skills

**Read to your child every day.** Reading aloud to your kindergartener is the best thing you can do to help build your child's reading skills.

**Talk about letter sounds.** Point out letter sounds in names, places, and things. Discuss their similarities and differences. *"That word starts with the same sound as your name. Can you think of any other words that start with that sound?"*

**Point out sight words in everyday life.**

The following is a list of common "sight words." Look for these words in books, on signs, in stores – anywhere words are found.

a	can	here	like	on	to
am	come	I	look	see	up
an	do	in	me	so	we
and	go	is	my	the	went
at	he	it	no	this	you

## 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?
- ▶ Did you like this book?



# 1st Grade Reading Tips for Parents



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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.

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

## 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?



# Kindergarten Math

## Tips for Parents



As kindergarteners develop their budding math skills, they need their parents' support and involvement. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important.

The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Kindergarten Math: An Overview

In kindergarten, children learn about numbers, counting, grouping, and sorting. Here are some of the specific skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Counting to 100
- ▶ Writing numbers up to 20
- ▶ Identifying and creating shapes
- ▶ Understanding relative terms, such as more, less, smaller, bigger, heavier, and lighter
- ▶ Solving simple addition and subtraction problems



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your kindergartener's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Ask your child to bring you a specific number of objects, such as four spoons or five cups.
- ▶ Practice grouping and sorting items. For example, have your child sort Legos or blocks by color and shape, or put coins into categories (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters).
- ▶ Play board games that require moving a number of spaces and card games that deal with numbers, such as "Go Fish."

### Learn the lingo: Manipulatives

Manipulatives are small, colorful objects, such as beads, tiles, counters, and cubes. They are the perfect tools to help your child practice counting and grouping. Manipulatives are especially ideal for children who learn by touch or doing.

Children are learning new math skills every day, and they may sometimes get frustrated. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and keep a positive attitude. Remind your child that being good at math isn't something you're born with—math is something you learn.



# 1st Grade Math Tips for Parents



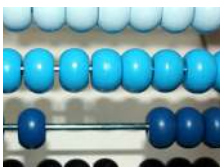
As first graders develop their budding math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important.

The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

## First Grade Math: An Overview

In first grade, children build on the math concepts they learned in kindergarten. Here are some of the skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Counting and writing numbers 20 to 120
- ▶ Using math symbols to understand addition and subtraction
- ▶ Drawing basic shapes
- ▶ Understanding the concept of whole, half, and quarter
- ▶ Telling time to the half hour
- ▶ Drawing and understanding simple graphs





## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Use drawings or small objects to practice adding and subtracting. For example, ask your child to draw two apples and six oranges, and to then count the total number of fruit. Show your child how this problem would be written on paper ( $2 + 6 = 8$ ).
- ▶ Provide small objects such as beads or cereal for your child to practice counting.
- ▶ Talk about terms such as less than, greater than, and equal.

### Learn the lingo: Manipulatives

Manipulatives are small, colorful objects, such as beads, tiles, counters, and cubes. They are the perfect tools to help your child practice counting, adding, and subtracting. Manipulatives are especially ideal for children who learn by touch or doing.

Children are learning new math skills every day, and they may sometimes get frustrated. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and keep a positive attitude. Remind your child that being good at math isn't something you're born with—math is something you learn.



# 2nd Grade Math

## Tips for Parents



As second graders develop their budding math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important.

The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Second Grade Math: An Overview

This year, your child will learn more ways to work with numbers, including real-world applications. Here are some of the math skills your second grader is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Adding and subtracting two digit numbers
- ▶ Memorizing addition and subtraction facts
- ▶ Skip counting by twos, fives, and tens
- ▶ Recognizing shapes and fractions of shapes
- ▶ Telling time and using money
- ▶ Measuring temperature and distance



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Quiz your child on addition and subtraction facts (e.g.,  $8 + 3$ ,  $10 - 4$ ) while you're eating breakfast, driving to school, or making dinner. Be sure to keep it fun and pressure-free!
- ▶ Give your child a ruler to practice measuring objects around the house. When you're cooking, have your child help you measure ingredients.
- ▶ Let your child practice counting money using real or play money. Talk about the costs of different items at the grocery store. *"Which box of cereal costs more?"*

*Your child may be learning math very differently from how you learned it. Let your child teach you how he/she does math!*

Children are learning new math skills every day, and they may sometimes get frustrated. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and keep a positive attitude. Remind your child that being good at math isn't something you're born with—math is something you learn.



# 3rd Grade Math

## Tips for Parents



As third graders develop new math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important. The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Third Grade Math: An Overview

Third graders do addition and subtraction with large numbers, work with fractions and decimals, and learn how to do multiplication and division. To see how math skills are used in everyday life, students are often given multi-step story problems to solve.

Here are more of the skills your child is likely to work on this year.

- ▶ Multiplying and dividing numbers up to 100
- ▶ Rounding numbers to tens or hundreds
- ▶ Understanding important math concepts (e.g.,  $4 \times 3$  is the same as  $3 \times 4$ )



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Quiz your child on multiplication facts (e.g.,  $8 \times 3$ ,  $4 \times 4$ ) while you're eating breakfast, driving to school, or making dinner. Be sure to keep it fun and pressure-free!
- ▶ Point out decimals in everyday life, such as examining how the gallons and dollars change when pumping gas.
- ▶ Have your child help you solve real-world problems. For example, ask your child to count out the correct coins to pay for an item, help you double a recipe, or figure out which grocery item is the best value.

*Your child may be learning math very differently from how you learned it. Let your child teach you how he/she does math!*

**Children are learning new math skills every day, and they may sometimes get frustrated. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and keep a positive attitude. Remind your child that being good at math isn't something you're born with—math is something you learn.**



# 4th Grade Math

## Tips for Parents



As fourth graders develop new math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important. The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

### Fourth Grade Math: An Overview

Fourth graders do addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with larger numbers. Students work with decimals and fractions more in depth, and often practice these skills by completing story problems.

Here are some of the skills your child is likely to work on in math this year.

- ▶ Counting money up to \$100 and figuring out change, often in word problems
- ▶ Learning basic geometry (e.g., angles, area)
- ▶ Studying units of measurement, like weight, length, and capacity



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Ask your fourth grader to help you solve real-life math problems. For example, have your child help you figure out how long it will take to drive to a particular destination, or how much an item will cost if it's half price.
- ▶ Model problem solving. If your child asks for help with homework, verbalize your thinking as you determine how to work out a problem.
- ▶ Tap into your child's interests. If your fourth grader likes to cook, have him/her help alter a recipe. If he/she likes sports, study the stats of a favorite player or team.

*Your child may be learning math very differently from how you learned it. Let your child teach you how he/she does math!*

**Children are learning new math skills every day, and they may sometimes get frustrated. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement and keep a positive attitude. Remind your child that being good at math isn't something you're born with—math is something you learn.**





# 5th Grade Math Tips for Parents



As fifth graders develop new math skills, they need their parents' involvement and support. Because math skills build on each other, having a good foundation in math is very important. The tips and information here will help you help your child stay on track in math—and have fun!

## Fifth Grade Math: An Overview

Fifth graders tackle more complex math problems, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions—sometimes in the same problem. Your fifth grader may also learn some basic geometry (e.g., measuring angles, figuring areas, plotting lines).

Many parents find that their fifth grader's math homework goes beyond what they remember doing in school. If you'd like to brush up on your math skills or learn how to do a particular problem, try watching YouTube tutorials or check out [KhanAcademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org).



## Support Math Skills Every Day

Increase your child's interest in math by showing how important numbers are in our daily lives, and by providing your child with fun opportunities to practice his/her math skills.

- ▶ Ask your fifth grader to help you solve real-life math problems. For example, have your child help you figure out how many miles it is to a destination, which grocery item is a better value, or how much to leave for a tip.
- ▶ Model problem solving. If your child asks for help with homework, verbalize your thinking as you determine how to work out a problem.
- ▶ Tap into your child's interests. If your fifth grader likes to cook, have him/her help alter a recipe. If he/she likes sports, study the stats of a favorite player or team.

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