



LITERACY

WHAT YOUR CHILD SHOULD KNOW AND BE ABLE TO DO



Throughout the school year, 3rd grade students will spend the most time working on the following topics. They should understand them well by the end of the year.

Learning to read and write:

- Matching letters and sounds to sound out and write out most words. Students should be able to decode accurately and write words with several syllables and know and use **suffixes** and **prefixes**.
- Writing complete sentences and simple paragraphs about what they are learning, with mostly correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.
- Reading grade level texts smoothly and with expression, at a **fluency** rate of around 80-140 words per minute.

Learning about the world through text:

- Asking and answering questions about stories and texts read independently. Retelling what happened, explaining key ideas, and describing connections between ideas. Showing text evidence that supports their thinking.
- Figuring out the meaning of unknown words in text by using context or tools like dictionaries and glossaries. Determining or clarifying the meaning of unknown words, words with multiple meanings, or **figurative language** in context.
- Using linking words and phrases to connect ideas (such as “also,” “another,” “more,” “but”).
- Showing something new they have learned from a text or about a topic. This can be in any form: speaking and conversation, illustrations, letters, journals, stories, posters, or sentences on the page.
- Writing about what happened or information learned from the text. Children should include a title, an introductory sentence or section, well developed examples, and a conclusion sentence or section.



EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

- Turn on the closed captioning while watching TV to allow your child to read along with the dialogue.
- Encourage your child each day to choose a book they want to read on their own. Reading lots of books over time is more important than the type of text.
- Have “book talk” conversations. Ask your child to share the important ideas in their own words and show you what part of the text provided this information.
- Pick a topic to learn about together. Read books, look online, do things together. You can help your child build knowledge and develop a love of learning.
- Encourage your child to use writing regularly in the real world. This can include authentic writing (grocery lists, notes, chore lists, etc.) as well as writing in a journal, book response notebook, or other creative writing opportunities.