

# Math with Your Third Grader

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You are your child's most important teacher. You can help your child be successful by talking about math in your daily life, helping with homework, and choosing activities like games and puzzles that help children practice basic skills. When talking about math, make sure your child can tell that you think math is useful, important, accessible, and interesting.

## Math in Family Life

By the end of third grade, children should have mastered addition and subtraction facts, as well as multiplication and division facts for 1, 2, 5, and 10; be able to add and subtract larger numbers; make good estimates; compare fractions; make measurements; and interpret tables and graphs. The examples below might give you some ideas about how to practice these and other important skills with your third grader as you go about your daily life.

### At Home

- Cook with your child. Ask him or her to measure ingredients and help you halve or double a recipe. Ask him or her to think about conversions. (*This can of coconut milk is 14 fluid ounces. We need to use a cup of coconut milk. How many fluid ounces will we have left once we've used the cup?*)
- Ask for your child's help in figuring elapsed time. (*It takes about 25 minutes to get to Aunt Sue's house. We're supposed to be there at 2:15. What time should we leave?*)
- Ask your child to use measurement tools like rulers and thermometers around the house. (*Do you think we need our scarves? Can you read the thermometer in the window to see how cold it is outside?*)
- Talk about how you and other adults you know use math in your jobs, or talk about how math is involved in jobs and activities that interest your child.

### At the Store

- Ask your child to figure out or estimate the new price for sale items.
- Pose simple multiplication and division problems about the items you're buying. (*If we buy 4 six-packs of water, how many bottles will we have in all? or There are 10 fruit snacks in a box, and we use 3 a day. If we buy 3 boxes, how many days will the fruit snacks last?*)
- Ask your child to figure prices based on cost per pound or number. (*This meat is \$3.99 per pound. If we get 3 pounds, how much will it cost? or These t-shirts are \$7.99 each. How much would 4 of them cost?*)

### On the Go

- Ask your child to calculate with gas prices. (*I only want to spend \$20 on gas today. It's \$3.87 per gallon. About how many gallons will we be able to get?*)
- Ask your child to think about fractions and distances. (*It's 23 miles to Imani's house. We've gone 7 miles. Is that more or less than a third of the way?*)

### Math Materials to Have at Home

Keep these items in your home and help your child use them.

- calculator
- ruler
- measuring tape
- calendar
- clock with hands
- measuring cups
- measuring spoons
- many real coins and bills of different amounts
- outdoor thermometer

### Games That Use Math

Playing games together is a relaxed and effective way to improve students' basic skills. The following games are appropriate for third graders.

- Monopoly
- Mastermind
- Battleship
- Parcheesi
- UNO
- Sorry!
- Yahtzee
- checkers
- chess

