Parents’ Guide to Third Grade

Some Developmental Characteristics Displayed by Many Eight-Year-Olds

☺ Are outgoing, lively, and evaluative.
☺ Show a high level of energy and are willing to tackle almost anything, including the new and difficult.
☺ Tend to be less cautious than at age seven and can be prone to accidents.
☺ Sleep approximately 10 hours daily.
☺ Show a new characteristic – a judgmental, evaluative attitude. Now children begin to judge and consider what happens to them and are concerned about the “why” of events.
☺ Display enormous curiosity in nature, manufactured things, and people.
☺ Show increased self-confidence and maturity.
☺ Are friendly and cooperative. The peer group is the sun their world revolves around. Friendships tend to be closed and more exacting.
☺ Generally enjoy and look forward to school for social and academic reasons.
☺ Really like table games, such as cards, checkers, and Monopoly; but still might not be able to lose gracefully.
☺ Frequently like to read for fun – comics, childhood classics, joke books, and mysteries, to name a few.
☺ Some may be writing for entertainment – anything from short stories to poems and letters.

GRADE THREE LEARNER EXPECTATIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading: Foundational
- Reads and understands grade level text with accuracy and fluency (rate, automaticity, expression, phrasing, and purpose).

Reading: Literature
- Asks and answers questions, referencing the text to demonstrate understanding of key details.
- Recounts stories to determine central meaning both orally and in writing.

Reading: Informational
- Asks and answers questions, referencing the text to demonstrate understanding of key details in informational texts.
- Determines the main idea and key details by using text features to locate and gain information.
- Compares and contrasts important points and key details of two texts on the same topic, while distinguishing point of view.

Writing
- Writes opinion, informative/explanatory, and narrative pieces with clear development and organization.
- Develops and strengthens writing by planning, revising, and editing.
- Participates in shared research projects that build knowledge on a topic.
- Applies legible and fluent printing/cursive writing skills.
- Uses technology to interact and collaborate with others and applies keyboarding skills to produce and publish writing.

Language
- Demonstrates the conventions of grammar and usage when writing.
- Demonstrates the conventions of capitalization and punctuation when writing.
- Applies grade level words and spelling patterns when writing.

Speaking and Listening
- Takes part in conversations about grade level topics and texts.

MATH

Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Explains products and quotients in multiplication and division problems.
- Uses multiplication and division to solve word problems.
- Understands and applies properties of multiplication and division.
- Multiplies and divides within 100 using strategies.
- Fluently multiplies two one-digit numbers.
- Solves multi-step word problems using four operations.
- Identifies and explains arithmetic patterns using properties of operations.

Number and Operations in Base Ten
- Uses place value to round to the nearest 10 or 100.
- Adds and subtracts within 1000 using place value and properties of operations.
- Multiplies one digit numbers by multiples of 10.

Number and Operations - Fractions
- Understands a unit fraction as one equal part of a whole.
- Represents a fraction on a number line.
- Explains and represents equivalences and comparisons of fractions.

Measurement and Data
- Tells and writes time to the nearest minute and solves word problems involving time.

Source: Families, Schools, Communities Learning Together - Special Edition: Guide to Developing Grade-Level Brochures for Parents. Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Fall 1999.
• Measures, estimates, and solves word problems involving volume and mass using units of grams, kilograms, and liters.
• Draws and represents data using pictures and bar graphs and solves 2-step word problems involving data.
• Measures lengths in halves and fourths of an inch and represents the data in a line plot.
• Understands, represents, and measures area and related area to multiplication and addition.
• Solves word problems using perimeters of polygons.

**Geometry**
- Understands shapes and their attributes.
- Partitions shapes into parts with equal areas and identifies the fraction.

**Mathematical Practices**
- Understands the problem situation: makes sense of problems; reasons abstractly and quantitatively.
- Represents the problem situation: models with mathematics; looks for and makes use of structure.
- Solves the problem: uses appropriate tools; uses repeated reasoning.
- Checks that the answer makes sense: critiques the reasoning of others; attends to precision.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Geography**
- Describes, identifies and locates features on maps and globes.
- Uses map scales, grid systems, and cardinal and intermediate directions.
- Identifies connections between local communities and other places.

**History/Culture**
- Explains how key people, places and events from the past and present influence our lives.

**Economics**
- Examines the role of money and how it affects our lives.

**Political Science**
- Describes the purpose of government and the responsibility of its citizens.

**SCIENCE/HEALTH**

**Science Inquiry**
- Participates constructively in investigations.

**Communicates the Results of Investigations.**
- Uses charts, graphs, written descriptions, discussions, etc.
- Uses and understands science vocabulary.

**Health**
- Demonstrates how nutrition, exercise safety, and health care contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
- Observes, assesses, and provides feedback of a skill.
- Performs the catch with arm extension and absorption and moves body to adjust to the flight of the object.
- Recognizes the body’s response to physical activity.
- Demonstrates safe, respectful, and responsible behaviors during active participation.

**VISUAL ARTS**
- Demonstrates the ability to describe and interpret works of art.
- Uses basic art skills and techniques to produce quality works of art.
- Creates art that expresses original ideas.

**MUSIC**
- Sings a song.
- Performs a repeating pattern in an ensemble.
- Demonstrates rhythmic literacy concepts
- Demonstrates melodic literacy concepts

**BEHAVIORS OF LIFELONG LEARNERS**

**Collaborative Worker**
- Cooperates with others.
- Demonstrates respect and compassion for others.

**Community Contributor**
- Takes responsibility for self and materials.
- Accepts responsibility for actions.
- Demonstrates self-control.
- Participates appropriately in group discussion.

**Quality Producer**
- Initiates and completes tasks on time.
- Strives for accuracy, quality and neatness.

**Complex Thinker**
- Thinks, questions, and solves problems in a variety of ways.
- Demonstrates curiosity in learning.
- Demonstrates a willingness to try new experiences.

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