

# Springing into Grade 3

## English Language Arts for Grade 3

Nuuanu  
Elementary  
School



Children in third grade are becoming fluent readers and writers. They now have many sight words and will learn complex letter sound patterns to read new words that contain 3 or more syllables. Prefixes and suffixes are introduced to show children how word meaning changes when they are added. These skills support your child's ability to handle the growing reading demand of complex text in grade 3. Children will read a variety of genres including fables, folktales, and myths. As they read, they are asked to make connections to their personal lives.

Students are asked questions dealing with descriptions of people and/or events. As part of the grade 3 expectations, children need to determine how main characters interact with other characters or events, and how the author's point of view is revealed, etc. Further, students are asked to compare themes and plots of two stories.

More non-fiction books are used in grade 3. Consequently, comprehension and thinking skills are taken to higher levels. It is essential that students identify key details and be able to summarize the information they have read.

Writing goals for third graders feature 3 basic types of compositions: argument, informational or explanatory and narrative. Of these, writing an argument or opinion paper is emphasized. Here, students must support their viewpoint with facts from the text and present their thoughts in a logical and organized manner. As writing skills mature, students are expected to use words such as, "because, therefore, since, for example" to connect one idea to another and to compose an effective concluding statement.

In speaking and listening, the learning goals for third graders require them to be collaborative, attentive contributors to group assignments. They follow agreed upon rules for participation and as their confidence grows, third graders report on topics or text with appropriate facts in a clear, organized delivery.

*You may want to review the list that follows to see if you would like to teach your child before those first few days of school.*



## Homes Activities to Try in the Summer

### Grade 3

Visit your nearest public library in the summer, you'll be glad you did!



- 🕒 Read a book together and discuss the key events
- 🕒 Use simple prefixes (such as un, re, mis) and suffixes (ful, ly) to determine the meanings of words
- 🕒 Identify the 2 words that make up a contraction (e.g. haven't is made up of the words, have not, etc.,)
- 🕒 Model fluent reading of poems for your child
- 🕒 Cut out unusual pictures and have your child write a sentence that describes it (include 3 -4 adjectives). Tell him you are checking for capitalization and punctuation (periods, question marks, exclamation points)
- 🕒 Ask your child to write his opinion about a current event in the world

## Books to Read in the Summer

Don't Bump the Glump: And Other Fantasies by Shel Silverstein

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes by Eleanor Coerr

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Mythological Creatures: A Classical Bestiary by Lynn Curlee

Year of the Dog by Grace Lin

Inventions of Hugo Cabret: A Novel in words and Pictures by Brian Selznick

2030: A Day in the Life of Tomorrow's Kids by Amy Zukerman and Jim Daly

Easy to Be Green: Simple Activities You Can Do to Save the Earth by Ellie O'Ryan

Great White Sharks by Sandra Markle

Storms by Seymour Simon

The American Story: 100 True Tales from American History by Jennifer Armstrong



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# Mathematics

## Grade 3 Math

In grade 3, students develop an understanding of multiplication and division of whole numbers. In particular, the idea that multiplication can be thought of as groups of number sets so that  $6 \times 3$  is thought of as 6 sets of 3 objects in each and vice-versa.

In division, children become acquainted with the terms, "number" and "size". For example, the divisor (9) in  $45 \div 9$  will determine what the answer represents. Children learn that if 9 stands for the number of groups, the answer would represent the size in each group. "There are 45 objects. If the objects were arranged into 9 groups, how many objects would there be in each group?" Likewise, if 9 stands for the size in each group, the answer would represent the number of groups. "There are 45 objects. If there are 9 objects in each group, how many groups would there be?" This ability to think flexibly with numbers introduces children to the associative, distributive, and commutative properties of multiplication and division. It is essential that children master their basic facts in order to grasp the upcoming mathematical concepts that build on them.







Children will be gaining a deeper understanding of fractions and how to compare them to determine if they are equal, greater or less in value. Measuring liquid and solid objects will also be covered in third grade. Formulas for area and volume will be introduced using tangible objects first. Proficiency in these skills will establish the foundation for the next set of learning goals.

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## Home Activities to Try in the Summer

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-  Review multiplication and division facts **daily**
  - use flash cards
  - timed quizzes, see how many facts your child has correct and keep a record sheet
-  Measure ingredients in the kitchen together
-  Estimate time that has gone by - show you child calculate the number of minutes it takes to do something. How long it takes from Grandma's to home, time to reach the soccer field, time it takes to shower etc. This is known as elapsed time.
-  Fraction dominoes - make dominoes out of cardboard by drawing pie shapes with fractional parts colored on one side. The other side will have the fraction itself. Pair the fraction with the matching "pie".
-  Have your child first estimate the length of an object. Then, using a ruler, get the true measurement. Award a point everytime your child gives a relevant estimation. At the end of the week reward your child with a treat. Measure one object a day!
-  Have your child challenge you in identifying lines that are parallel, intersecting and perpendicular. Set the timer for one minute. Loser does the dishes!

