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## **Ages and Stages of Reading Development – Third Grade**

Chances are, your child is now reading well on her own. Reading has become a worthwhile and personally rewarding experience. She is reading in order to learn new things and complete class assignments. One of your goals should be to help your child maintain good reading habits and take responsibility for her own learning. You can do this by simply creating a space in your home where your child can comfortably read and write. Provide a place for books and reference materials such as a children's dictionary and basic school supplies.

### **Milestones**

#### **Your third grader should:**

- Have increased fluency—the ability to read text accurately and quickly;
- Read longer selections and chapter books independently for enjoyment;
- Be able to discuss the underlying theme or message in fiction and distinguish cause and effect, fact and opinion, main idea and supporting detail in nonfiction;
- Have a rich—and expanding—vocabulary;
- Attempt different types of writing (such as stories, reports, and poems);
- Make his writing more interesting by adding description and detail;
- Spell more words correctly by seeing how words look and using spelling rules and word parts.

#### **You can try this:**

- Never stop talking with your child. Discuss his life in and out of school. Listen, seek solutions together, and soon your child will be sharing his day with you.
- Make writing a habit, an everyday activity. Suggest that your child write her life story. This will give you ideas about what she finds important.
- Help your child manage her reading life. Together, figure out when to read, study, play, and socialize.
- Fill your home with books, newspapers, magazines, and other reading materials. When you read, talk about what you think makes for good writing and what makes you like or dislike a particular author's style.
- Stay in regular contact with your child's teacher about his activities and progress in reading and writing.
- Enjoy interactive literacy building games with your child. There are many safe and fun websites for you to use, like [readandrisemag.net](http://readandrisemag.net). And, most libraries offer free Internet access!

#### **When choosing books for your third grader, look for:**

- Books that will challenge but not frustrate your child;
- Accurate, current information from a qualified author/editor;
- Subject matter that interests your child;
- Attractive illustrations, photographs, maps, graphic organizers, and other visual aids;
- Well-organized text that is clear and easy to read.