

PARENT GUIDE FOR GRADE 3 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Preparing Florida's Children for a Successful Future



All Florida students deserve to graduate high school with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college, careers and life. Over the last several years, Florida has made strong academic gains. But, we know today's workforce requires our graduates to have stronger critical thinking, problem solving and communications skills than ever before. Higher standards that challenge and motivate our students are essential.

To address this need, education leaders across the state of Florida improved our academic content standards, creating new expectations for what students need to know and be able to do. The Florida Standards are designed to ensure that **ALL** students reach their greatest potential—whatever their path may be.

Preparing your child for success begins in kindergarten and continues as your child moves up through each grade. This guide will support parents and families with children in **third grade** by helping you:

- **Learn** about the Florida Standards and why they matter for your child.
- **Talk** with your child's teachers about what he/she will be learning in the classroom.
- **Support** your child's learning in practical ways at home.

LEARN ABOUT THE STANDARDS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in third grade—along with some important additional skills. **Third grade** students are learning these types of lessons:

- Asking and answering questions to demonstrate understanding of text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Distinguishing their own point of view from that of the narrator and characters.
- Explaining how the text's illustrations contribute to the words in a story.



- Reading with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.



Every child develops at his/her own pace. The activities in this guide are recommended age-specific guidelines for growing young minds.

Download the complete English Language Arts Florida Standards for Grade 3 at www.flstandards.org

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TALK WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER



Remember, you are your child's first and will always be his/her most important teacher. Think about a conference as a "team meeting" in which you will discover the special contributions each of you can bring to your third grader's success.

Ask the teacher for examples of reading materials that could support learning. Together, look at an example of something your child has written. Ask the teacher what this work tells him/her about your child's start on the journey to becoming a confident reader and communicator.

SUPPORT LEARNING AT HOME

You can encourage learning English language arts at home in ways that are fun for you and your child. Try these ideas after school, on weekends and during the summer:



When you travel together, ask your child to read aloud to you all kinds of signs, billboards, words on trucks and vans and other printed information that you see.



Encourage your child to use book trailers to select a first, second and third choice to read. Ask him/her to tell you why and how each video made a book sound interesting. Go to the library to check out and read those top choices.



When you choose TV, videos or games, steer toward programs or films that are based on books your child has read. Watch it together, and then talk about how the versions are similar and different.



Choose an interesting, age-appropriate story from a newspaper or internet news source. Ask your child to read it aloud and then summarize for you.



Encourage your child to create his own birthday cards, get-well, holiday and thank you cards, practicing his/her best handwriting skills.



Turn junk mail into learning material. Ask your child to circle or highlight with a marker prefixes and suffixes.



Be frequent visitors to your local public library. Let him/her see you choosing, checking out and enjoying books.



Start a family book club.



Provide opportunities for your child to communicate using technology.

Talk to your child's teacher or principal to learn more great ideas to support learning at home.

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Questions? Contact JustforParents@fldoe.org