

# Family Guide: Learning in Fourth Grade



## About Fourth Grade:

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Fourth grade students become more independent by deepening their abilities as self-sufficient problem solvers. They are self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own learning and support the learning of others. Students engage in goal setting throughout the school year based on their individual needs and interests. Fourth graders learn to prioritize and organize their work to build on their independence. Exploring curiosities and inquiry continues to be a main focus as students make connections across the subjects.

### THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- **What Your Child Should Know & Be Able to Do**
- **Activities to Support Learning**
- **Education Words**
- **Questions to Ask your Child's Teacher**

# LITERACY

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Fourth grade students engage in rich literacy environments as they continue to develop their reading and writing skills and behaviors. Students look for important details as they read complex texts. They look for themes and make connections while they read. Students write rich stories to tell about characters. They learn the value of organization as they gather evidence to support and express opinions on topics they know well. Fourth graders learn that their ideas may differ from others and respectfully discuss and debate the differences.

## Reading

Students in 4th grade should be able to read and understand grade level text by:

- Applying a variety of reading strategies (ask questions, infer, summarize, visualize) to monitor comprehension
- Applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills (break down words into smallest unit of meaning) to decode words
- Determining character traits and motivations in a text
- Locating evidence to determine and support central themes in a text
- Gaining information from text features and understanding how the structure of the text supports the author's message



## Writing

Students in 4th grade should know and be able to:

- Write for a range of authentic tasks, purposes and audiences
- Engage in the writing process (plan, organize, strengthen writing through revising and editing)
- Write in a variety of modes including narrative, opinion, informative
- Use transition words to link and build connections between ideas, text, and events
- Include content specific words, descriptive words, and vivid examples of feelings, events and images to enhance writing
- Research/recall/gather relevant information from a variety of credible sources. Organize important information in order to report out on a topic
- Engage effectively in diverse, collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) on topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing one's thinking clearly

# MATHEMATICS

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In fourth grade, students will make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. Students will attend to precision as they investigate multi-digit addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They will also use fractions, decimals and whole numbers throughout the school year. Students will be able to apply and transfer their knowledge and understanding to real world situations.

## Students in 4th grade should know and be able to:

- Use a variety of strategies to fluently solve basic facts
- Solve multi-step word problems with whole numbers using the four operations
- Compare two multi-digit numbers based on meanings of the digits in each place using words and symbols ( $>$ ,  $=$ , and  $<$ )
- Add and subtract fractions, including mixed numbers and multiply a fraction by a whole number
- Understand the connection between fractions and decimals, then use this information to compare and order fractions and decimals
- Measure and draw angles using a protractor



# ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT LEARNING

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## Literacy

- Encourage your child to read a book of their choice each day
- Ask about the books your child is reading
- Share your reading life with your child
- Talk with your child to expand their vocabulary (don't be afraid to use words they don't know, you can explain them)
- Model writing in the real world (such as grocery list, thank you notes, emails, journaling, activities on a calendar)
- Learn about an interesting topic with your child by reading books, looking online and exploring places together

## Mathematics

- Encourage a growth mindset about mathematics
- Encourage students to use math in their everyday activities
- Talk with your child about all the ways you use math in your daily life
- Play board, card or dice games with your child (such as Uno, Monopoly, Yahtzee and Checkers)
- Create and solve your own story problems
- Measure and count as you cook and bake together

# EDUCATION WORDS

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**Denominator:** The denominator is the bottom number in a fraction. It shows how many parts the number is divided into.

**Digit:** Any of the symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, or 9.

**Four Operations:** Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division

**Inquiry-based Learning:** Inquiry promotes engagement, curiosity, and experimentation. Students are empowered to explore topics through questioning, investigation, and research.

**Mathematical Fluency:** Fluency includes accuracy, efficiency, and flexible use of strategies in solving math problems.

**Numerator:** The numerator is the top number in a fraction. It shows how many parts we have.

**Performance Task:** A real world task that requires students to apply their knowledge and skills that have been learned to show understanding.

**Place Value:** Every digit in a number has a place value based on its position in the number. (In the number 548, the digit 5 is in the hundreds place and its place value is 500. The digit 4 is in the tens place, and its place value is 40. The digit 8 is in the ones place, and its place value is 8.

**Reading Fluency:** Fluency includes accuracy, rate and expression when reading out loud.

**Social and Emotional Learning:** Learning to effectively manage emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships and make responsible decisions.

**Workshop Model:** The workshop framework is designed to offer a simple and predictable environment. The workshop typically includes a mini-lesson (teacher led instruction), independent work time, small group instruction, individual conferring (teacher meets with student), and sharing.

# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

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- What can I do to help my child succeed in school?
- How does my child work with others during group activities?
- What classroom activities seem to keep my child best engaged in learning?
- What kind of books is my child reading during independent reading time?
- What should my child be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
- What topics is my child writing about?
- How does my child approach complex math tasks? What are some suggestions for me to encourage them in learning challenging content?
- How can I support a positive approach to learning?
- Is my child able to demonstrate to you that they understand what they are learning about? If not, what challenges are they facing?
- What are my child's overall strengths at this time?
- What are my child's overall challenges at this time?
- What specifically can I do at home to support my child's overall learning and growth?