



Neptune Township School District
Elementary English Language Arts Department

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS OF THIRD GRADERS



Third grade reading work focuses on teaching kids how to think and talk about what they read in deeper and more detailed ways. Many reading lessons are dedicated to writing about and talking about texts to think about their meanings, lessons, and important ideas. Third graders are also encouraged to develop their own points of views about books and texts that they read, talking about their ideas about a text or characters. Series books are also important in 3rd grade. As students read these both independently and as a class, they can make connections across different books within one series as well as talk about how the characters change. As third graders read more, they

become more fluent readers and learn to read harder and more complex words. In addition, students learn the definition and pronunciation of complex words they encounter.

- Find a series that interests your child and begin to read it together. You can read to your child, your child can read to you, and he can read a chapter independently. You and your child can interview each other as you read - ask about main ideas, events, and thoughts you each have about the books and characters.
- Get them to read another one. Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a series like Judy Moody or The Magic Tree House or to a second book by a favorite author, or ask the librarian for additional suggestions.
- When your child encounters a word she doesn't know the meaning of, look up the meaning together. You can even begin to keep your own family dictionary, recording words and their definitions. Your child can create illustrations that show definitions of the words, as well. Use the word yourself, or encourage your child to use that word in a sentence sometime during the day.
- Talk about what you see and do. Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running conversation, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.
- Write About Your Lives: When your child experiences an enjoyable or important family moment, you and your child can write about it together as a narrative piece. Describe the events that occurred using details and emotion. You can then send the piece to family members or friends to share the event and the writing.

- Learn How to do Something New: Pick something you and your child want to learn about or learn how to do, for example, planting a garden. Research the topic online or in a book together and then create an informative piece, explaining a topic or how to do something. You can then do the project yourselves or teach another family member or friend using the piece you and your child wrote.
- “Are we there yet?” Use the time spent in the car or bus for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of? When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.