

## Checklist for Parents of Third Graders

These skills usually develop during third grade. Talk with your child's teacher if you have questions.

- My child uses what he/she knows of phonics and word parts (prefixes, roots, suffixes) to sound out unfamiliar words.
- My child reads third grade level texts (stories, non-fiction, magazine articles, and computer screens) with fluency and comprehension.
- My child explores topics of interest and reads longer stories and chapter books independently.
- My child can explain the major points in fiction and non-fiction books.
- My child identifies and discusses words or phrases she/he does not understand.
- My child asks "how," "why," and "what if" questions and discusses the themes or messages of stories.
- My child uses information he/she has gathered and his own reasoning to judge explanations and opinions and distinguishes cause from effect, fact from opinion and main ideas from supporting details.
- My child understands and reads graphs and charts.
- My child uses context to gain meaning from what she/he reads.
- My child correctly spells words he/she has studied.
- My child gathers information from a variety of sources, including books, articles, and computers, and uses it in his/her writing.
- My child reviews her own written work for errors and works with teachers and classmates to edit and revise her/his work to make it clearer.
- My child is starting to use metaphors and other literary forms in his/her writing.
- My child discusses her writing with other children and responds helpfully to their writing.
- My child develops his vocabulary and knowledge through independent reading.
- My child builds her/his vocabulary through synonyms and antonyms.
- My child uses parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs) correctly.

This checklist is adapted from *A Child Becomes a Reader-Birth through Preschool*.