



Third grade is the year your child will transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. They will take the strong foundation of number sense, number relationships and fact fluency and begin to apply those skills in more abstract concepts. [Third grade is a transitional year](#). Your child is capable of taking on the challenge. Keeping a positive attitude about school, homework, and your child's teacher is an important way to support your child through this important transitional year. The third grade teachers want you to know that they are looking for your children to take safe academic risks. They want your children to know that making mistakes is part of learning and that a challenge is a good thing to embrace. They are working to instill the concept of being a lifelong learner.

Your child is learning to work more independently and monitor their progress to meet the expectations of the classroom. They continue to develop their executive skills like getting work done in a certain time frame or following written or verbal multi-step directions. We as parents can empower our children to take ownership of their learning by supporting their efforts. Start with creating a minimally distracting, consistent [work space](#) with good lighting. Check in on due dates for projects and homework (do your homework too by reading the weekly newsletters sent out by the teacher). Finally, set up clear expectations about when [homework](#) is to be completed.

Children are moving toward autonomy and [friendships](#) for both [boys](#) and [girls](#) are more important. This is a time when your child may experience the ups and downs of friendships. What can you do as a parent to [support positive development of friendships?](#)

[Third graders](#) are capable of complex [thought processes](#) and may surprise you with their ideas. Creating a time at home where you can have family meals like dinner time or weekends are a great opportunity to engage in [conversations with your children](#). Sometimes the moments while putting your child to bed can be the most revealing when we ask open ended reflective questions. Finally, this age group is often involved in group peer activities, so there will be lots of time in the car. Try making a no tech zone in the car to foster conversation.

For more on developmental stages and parenting information, contact your Thrive Parent Liaison, Lori Swenson at lswenson@bssd72.org or 995-4281.