# So You're Parenting a Third Grader
## Tips to help your child learn to read

Geauga County Public Library, Library Snapshot Day

Reading is an essential skill for learning in all subjects. The ability to read well leads to success in school and life. As the parent or caregiver, your involvement really helps your child become a confident student and lifelong reader. It's okay to explore the joy of reading together! The "So You're Parenting..." tipsheets for grades PreK-3 give you helpful activities and ideas to prepare your child for Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

*What is the Third Grade Reading Guarantee?*

In 2012, the Ohio Legislature passed a bill that says that students who do not reach a passing score on the 3rd grade state reading test will receive additional support in order to advance to the required reading level.

Although it is called the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, your child will be assessed in reading at the beginning of each grade from kindergarten to 3rd grade. If your child is not at the required reading level, your school will tell you about services your child will receive.

There are also many ways you can help your child with reading. If you need more information, see the Family Resources on the Ohio Department of Education's website:

**http://tinyurl.com/ohiotgrg**

## Reading in Third Grade: Here's What to Expect

In third grade, reading lessons start to shift from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." Your child will be expected to use texts from stories, magazine articles, etc. to answer questions about what happens in the story and about the characters in the story. Your child will show how he knows the answer by using the text in the story as the basis of his answer.

Here are the highlights:

- Your child will be able to answer questions about what she reads.
- Your child will be able to determine the meaning of words and phrases from the text.
- Your child will be able to refer to parts of a story, poem or drama and understand the order in which the events happen.
- Your child will understand points of view, or how the story might be different if a different character told the story.
- Your child will understand parts of informational stories other than the words, such as illustrations, photographs and maps, and their relationship to the words.

# Activities to do with your child to build reading skills

## Reading on the Go

*Reading can happen anywhere, anytime. You can do simple activities with your child at the grocery store or on a walk around the neighborhood.*

When in the **car**, identify the **state** name on various license plates. Later on, **look up the state on a map** together and find the state capital.

Make up a story about a place you are visiting. Let everyone in the car **take turns adding a sentence to the story**.

Spot all the places where you can see text in a city block, in the center of town, or in a store: **signs are everywhere**. Ask your child what the signs mean. What are the signs communicating?

## Reading for a Purpose

*Reading can happen at home or in your local library, whether for fun or to find information. Here are some reading tips:*

Have your child **draw a picture** of one of the characters in a story, and **write a list of words** and phrases describing the character.

Read a fact-based (nonfiction) book that your child has selected about a **famous Ohio native**. Follow up with a visit to the person's birth place or museum.

Read a fact-based book that your child has selected. Follow up with **hands-on activities** that connect the topic to real life. For example, if your child likes bugs, go on a hunt for bugs in your neighborhood.

Have your child **tell a story**. Using a piece of paper, divide it into four squares and label each square with the word "First," "Next," "Then," and "Finally." Your child can either make up a story about an event in her life or can retell a story.

## Reading on the Screen

*Handheld devices, televisions, and computers can be part of the reading experience for your child with these activities:*

With your child, read an **e-book** that can be found in the PreK-5 section on the **INFOhio** website (http://www.infohio.org). Contact your child's teacher or school librarian for the password.

**Bookflix**, one of INFOhio's online e-book sources, has many **fiction/nonfiction pairs** that third graders will enjoy. Spend time with your child sharing his favorite Bookflix book. Ask him what he likes about the book.

Explore the "Meet the Author" section on Bookflix to learn about additional books you can find at your library.

Using your television, select **closed captioning** and have your child read the text.

Using your phone or tablet, **download apps** or bookmark reading websites so that your child can read anywhere, anytime.

### Community Support for Your Child's Reading

As your child grows, create relationships with supportive community members who know a lot about reading.

● The **public librarian** will help you find enjoyable, easy books and can recommend strategies to help make reading a fun, healthy part of your everyday life.

● The **school librarian** will be your hero, as he or she will recommend great books and fun series that will keep your child involved in reading.

● The **school's PTA** will help you connect with an active network of parents who care about education. Don't be timid about talking with other parents and swapping ideas about age-appropriate reading activities that have worked for them.

Don't let reading slide in the summer! Participate in your public library's summer reading program, or just hang out at the library with your child and enjoy the books and activities that are free for your use.

### Reading Activity Videos

**Reading on the Go**
https://vimeo.com/149151093

**Reading for a Purpose**
https://vimeo.com/149091464

**Reading on the Screen**
https://vimeo.com/149151138

"Reading 'Round the Clock" is a service of the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA), the Ohio PTA, INFOhio, and the State Library of Ohio.

For more information: **http://www.infohio.org/students/parents**

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Ohio Educational Library Media Association

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