

Fifth Grade

Knowing the essential skills and strategies our kids will be learning in school helps us know how to support them all year. Find out, by subject, what your kids will be learning this year and read on for strategies to help them be successful students.

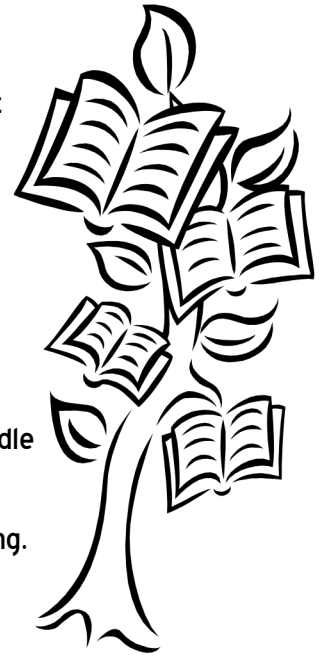
Reading at School:

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas.
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument to change a reader's point of view.
- Integrating information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems.

Support Reading at Home:

Read with your child every day. Sitting side by side, or just in the same room with everyone reading is an underrated activity. You don't have to read TO your child, but reading WITH your child - with your whole family - will reinforce that this is an important way we get information, entertain ourselves and relate with others.

Talk about and react to what you're reading. If the comics make you giggle, explain the joke and how it hit you. If an article in a magazine makes you angry or sad, talk about it with your child. Fifth graders, on the verge of going to middle school, need as much practice as they can get drawing meaning and feeling from text. As they connect with the written word, they will become more aware of their learning. This will make them stronger thinkers, bringing future success in school.

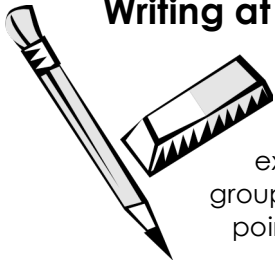


Speaking and Listening at School:

- Coming to classroom discussions prepared, then engaging fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contributing accurate, relevant information; elaborating on the remarks of others; synthesizing ideas)
- Reporting on a topic or presenting an opinion with his or her own words, a logical sequence of ideas, sufficient facts and details, and formal English when appropriate.

Support Speaking and Listening at Home:

"Nothing" is not an answer to the question, 'What did you do at school today?'. Press your fifth grader to elaborate, in a clear and organized way, about their day. Regular practice speaking will tune kids in to ways to listen and to get people to listen to them. All conversations with your kids have the potential to grow speaking and listening skills. Be aware that these need to be developed and practice often.



Writing at School:

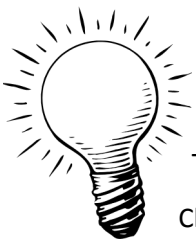
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer's point of view.
- Writing stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally and developing the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing of the action.
- Expanding, combining, and reducing sentences to improve meaning, interest, and style of writing.
- Building knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships, such as *on the other hand*, *similarly*, and *therefore*.
- Producing writing on the computer.

Support Writing at Home:

Word games can be especially helpful for fifth grade writers. Understanding that vocabulary can be used creatively, that word meanings change with prefixes and suffixes, that different audiences will read for different purposes are all skills that can be built and reinforced with word and writing games.

Build stories out loud together by allotting a sentence or paragraph to each family member. Not only will you be having fun together, you will be reinforcing organizational structure, use of supporting detail and the generation of ideas with your fifth grader.

Practice expository writing the same way: after a going to the mall or taking a trip. Encourage telling about facts from the experience with interesting language.



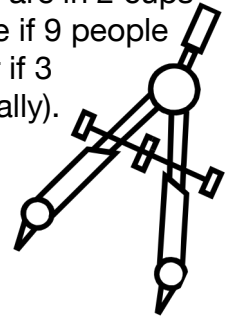
Science:

Fifth grade scientists develop an understanding of how living and non-living things interact as systems; they investigate the Sun-Earth-Moon system and how organisms depend on one another and their environment. They extend their work with scientific inquiry and engineering design.

Challenge your fifth grader to notice and record how things in systems work: if light is taken away from a plant, what happens? If a hill is added to a roller coaster, what happens? If wind blows when a paper airplane is in flight, what happens? Try these out, take note and watch your scientist grow!

Math at School:

- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (e.g., $2 \frac{1}{4} - 1 \frac{1}{3}$), and solving word problems of this kind.
- Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions in simple cases; and solving related word problems (e.g., finding the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths; determining how many $\frac{1}{3}$ -cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins; determining the size of a share if 9 people share a 50-pound sack of rice equally or if 3 people share $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of chocolate equally).
- Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal).
- Multiplying whole numbers quickly and accurately, for example $1,638 \times 753$, and dividing whole numbers in simple cases, such as dividing 6,971 by 63.
- Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume.
- Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems.
- Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships.



Support Math at Home:

This year in math, fifth graders are gaining fluency with the addition and subtraction of fractions and decimals, with the division of whole numbers, and are deepening their understanding of geometry and measurement by using formulas to determine volume, area and surface area.

As you prepare to send your child to middle school, finding and using resources becomes important. In combination with continued practice with multiplication facts, the Learning Palace has great math resources that reinforce and explain 5th grade skills and prepare students for 6th grade.