

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 4th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 5th grade.

### Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

### A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

Describing the basic elements of stories — such as characters, events, and settings — by drawing on specific details in the text  
Paying close attention to key features of informational books and articles: these include understanding the main and supporting ideas; being able to compare and contrast information; and explaining how the author uses facts, details, and evidence to support particular points  
Comparing ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures  
Writing summaries or opinions about topics supported with a set of well-organized facts, details, and examples  
Independently conducting short research projects on different

aspects of a topic using evidence from books and the Internet  
Paraphrasing and responding to information presented in discussions, such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points  
Reporting orally on a topic or telling a story with enough facts and details  
Writing complete sentences with correct capitalization and spelling  
Relating words that are common in reading to words with similar meanings (*synonyms*) and to their opposites (*antonyms*)

#### Talking to Your Child's Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 4th grade, these include:

Comprehending a range of grade-level stories, poems, and informational texts such as biographies, articles, or guidebooks about history, science, or the arts  
Building understanding of relationships between words and nuances (*synonyms, idioms*)—and using this knowledge to



## A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

Using whole number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements

Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to a million)

Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers in simple cases (e.g., multiplying  $638 \times 7$  or  $24 \times 17$ , and dividing 6,966 by 6)

Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing  $1/4$  is less than  $3/8$  because  $2/8$  is less than  $3/8$ )

Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases (such as  $2 \frac{3}{4} - 1 \frac{1}{4}$  or  $3 \times \frac{5}{8}$ ), and solving related word problems

Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as  $62/100$ )

Measuring angles and finding unknown angles in a diagram

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When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 4th grade, these include:

- Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with multi-digit numbers
- Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with fractions



Try to create a consistent routine for your child, and carve out time *every day* when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child for at least 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is learning and help you understand what your child needs to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child while learning at home:

### Mathematics

Urge your child to ask for her opinion or for her to research what she is learning. Talk about it together.

Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like “times as much.” For example, if the family cat weighs 8 lbs. and the family dog weighs 56 lbs., how many times as much does the dog weigh?

Ask your child to help you compare fractional amounts — for example, if one recipe calls for  $2/3$  of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for  $3/4$  of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil? (In 5th grade, your child will learn ways to determine just how much more oil.)

For more information, visit [www.pdes.org](http://www.pdes.org).