

# Parent Guide to Fourth Grade



## English Language Arts

In fourth grade, your child will build stamina and skills to read challenging fiction, nonfiction, and other types of text. They will continue to use evidence from the text to support their thinking.

Important goals for the year include:

### Reading:

- Describe the basic elements of stories—such as characters, events, and settings by drawing on specific details in the text.
- Pay close attention to key features of informational books, websites, articles and videos. 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.
- Compare ideas, characters, events, and settings in stories and myths from different cultures.
- Use roots and affixes to read multisyllabic words.
- Explain what a text says using details from the text and what can be implied from the details.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases (including similes and metaphors) as they are used in a text.
- Describe how a text is structured (cause/effect, comparison, sequential, etc.)

### Writing:

- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces for different purposes and audiences.
- Use technology (including the internet) to produce and publish writing.
- Conduct short research projects independently.
- Use grade-appropriate grammar and spelling including capitals, commas, and quotation marks.
- Create readable documents through legible handwriting (cursive) and/or word processing.

### Speaking/Listening:

- Paraphrase and respond to information presented in discussions such as comparing and contrasting ideas and analyzing evidence that speakers use to support particular points.
- Report orally on a topic, text, or story in an organized manner and with appropriate facts and details.

## Mathematics

In fourth grade, your child will continue to strengthen math habits such as problem solving, persistence, precision, accuracy, modeling, constructing arguments, and checking to see if the answer makes sense.

Important goals for the year include:

- Use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve multistep word problems.
- Read, write, compare, and round multi-digit numbers to one-million.
- Fluently add and subtract numbers up to one-million.
- Maintain the memorization of multiplication and division facts.
- Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers using a variety of strategies (e.g.,  $23 \times 4$ ,  $1,638 \times 7$ ,  $24 \times 17$ ,  $128 \div 3$ ,  $6,966 \div 6$ ).
- Generate and analyze patterns.
- Recognize and generate equivalent fractions.
- Compare the size of fractions.
- Add, subtract, and multiply fractions and solve word problems involving fractions.
- Represent and compare decimal numbers.
- Solve word problems involving measurements (length, weight, capacity, time, money, area, and perimeter).
- Measure angles and find unknown angles in a diagram.
- Recognize, draw, and classify lines, angles, and two-dimensional shapes.
- Identify and draw lines of symmetry.

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### Science

As fourth grade students learn about the life, physical, and earth sciences, they will develop skills of observation, actively conduct investigations, have opportunities to use their senses and other tools to gather data, and time to talk about their observations with peers.

Important goals for the year include:

- Explain how forces affect the motion of an object and how magnets, iron, and electrically charged objects may interact.
- Classify, describe, and compare the physical properties of rocks and minerals.
- Recognize basic forms of energy (light, sound, heat, electrical, and magnetic). Explain how light travels.
- Explain the causes of day and night and phases of the moon.
- Compare fossils and explain the processes that change the surface of the Earth.
- Explain the effects of environmental changes, adaptations and behaviors that enable animals to survive in changing habitats.
- Classify substances as food or non-food and explain the benefits of vitamins, minerals, and exercise to the human body.

### Social Studies

Fourth grade students focus on North Carolina, its ethnic diversity, its rich culture, the economic energy of its people, and its geographic regions. Teachers help students draw parallels between contemporary issues and their historical origins.

Important goals for the year include:

- Analyze key historical events in North Carolina from Pre-Colonial through Reconstruction.
- Summarize the change in culture, everyday life, and status of indigenous American Indian groups in North Carolina before and after European exploration.
- Explain how certain structures, symbols, and place names are significant to North Carolina.
- Understand the concept of movement and its impact on people, goods, and ideas in North Carolina.
- Understand the relationship between scarcity, choice, and opportunity costs when making financial decisions.
- Explore North Carolina's economy—examine how natural resources have influenced its economic development.
- Analyze North Carolina's Constitution.
- Understand the development, structure, and function of North Carolina's government.
- Understand the impact of various cultural groups on North Carolina.

### Resources for Parents

Randolph County School System

[www.randolph.k12.nc.us](http://www.randolph.k12.nc.us)

Parent Resources

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

NBC Education Nation Parent Toolkit

[www.parenttoolkit.com/](http://www.parenttoolkit.com/)

K-12 Standards in Science and Other Subjects

[www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/)

National PTA Parent Guides

[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)