



Math Skills Brush-Up with Kids Academy: Getting Ready for Third Grade

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As your child prepares to transition from second to third grade, it's important to remember that there are many things that you can do at home to set them up for success in math. While many skills will be taught explicitly by your child's teacher during the school year, there are important prerequisite skills that will give them a step up to starting third grade.

Building a Strong Number Sense

Number sense refers to the intuitive understanding of what numbers represent and how they relate to one another. As students move toward intermediate grades, they will begin to work with much larger numbers.

Students entering third grade should have a conceptual as well as concrete understanding of reading, writing, and comparing numbers up through 1,000. You can help your child understand these ideas by writing out numbers in standard form (e.g. 128) as well as word form (one hundred twenty-eight). You can also show your child extended number lines to show the relationships between numbers, using terms like greater than and less than.

Consider using digital resources to reinforce and practice skills.

[Worksheet: Comparing Biodiversity: Forest Animals](#)

Comparing Biodiversity: Rainforest Animals



The populations of the rain forest animals listed below have been impacted by changes over time, including human activity. Help the scientists compare the numbers of animals found in a small area of a South American rain forest to determine the impact on the area's biodiversity. Check the sign that shows the correct comparison.

Rain Forest Animal	Before 1960				After 2017
 Toucan	914				49
		>	=	<	
 Blue Morpho Butterfly	422				462
		>	=	<	
 Jaguar	350				85
		>	=	<	
 Three Toed Sloth	511				399
		>	=	<	
 Golden Lion Tamarin Monkey	602				608
		>	=	<	
 Hyacinth Macaw	307				307
		>	=	<	

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Worksheet: Counting on Pollination: Bees

Counting on Pollination: Bees

These bees need your help to get to the flower that needs pollinating. Check the box next to the bee with the number that is missing.

891 892 893 ? 895 896 ? 898

 ☐ ☐  ☐ ☐ 

894 892 896 897

899 ? 901 902 903 904 ? 906

 ☐ ☐  ☐ ☐  ☐ ☐ 

800 900 905 950

907 908 ? 910 911 ? 913 914

 ☐ ☐  ☐ ☐ 

910 909 910 912

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Video: Counting to 1000 Song



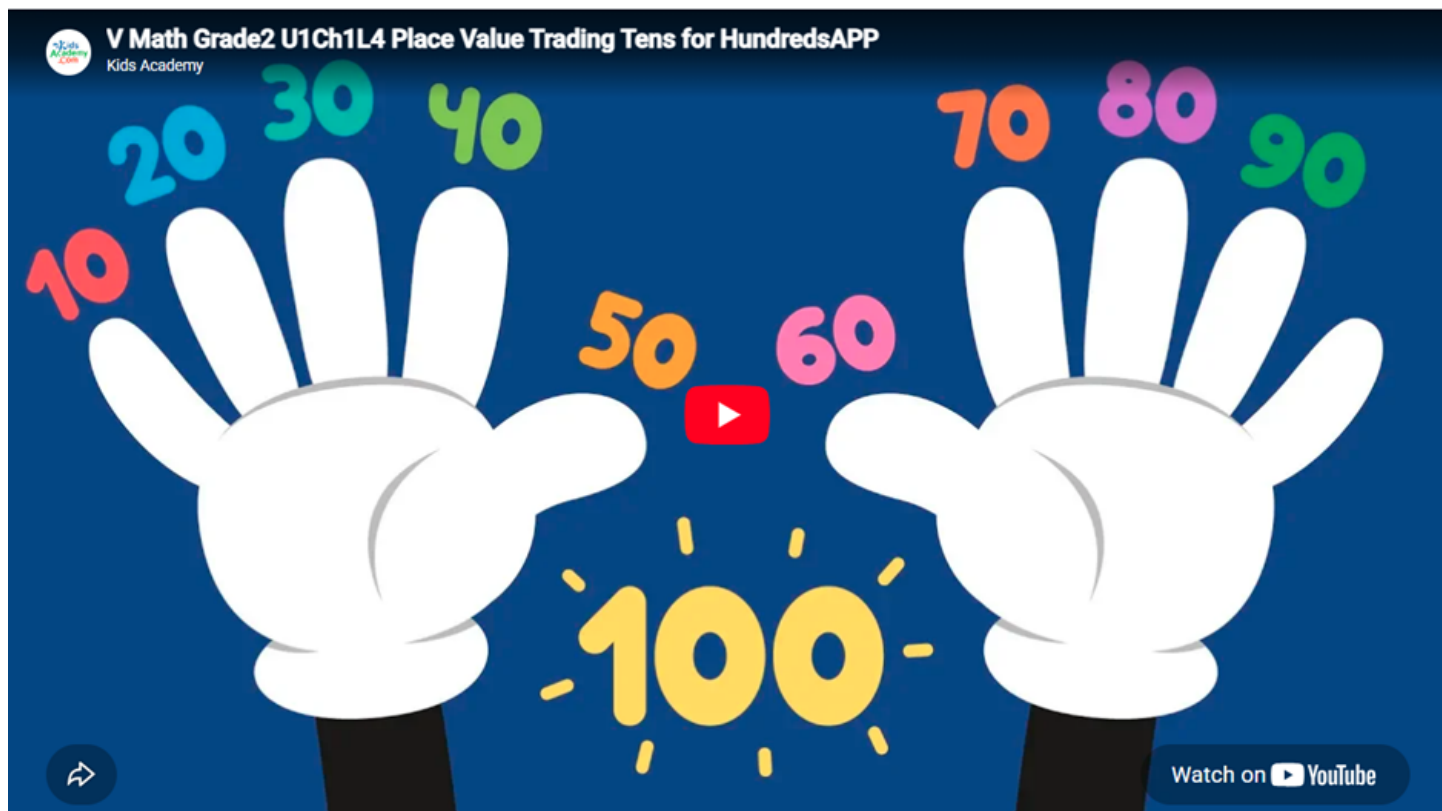
Understanding Place Value

Build upon your child's existing number sense by diving into an exploration of place value. In math, we use a base-ten system, meaning that we have ten digits (0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9). As we count from 0 to 9, we continue through the digits from least to greatest. Once we get past 9, we add a place value (the tens place) and write the digit 1 in the tens place and the digit 0 in the ones place. This continues with greater and greater place values (e.g. hundreds, thousands, ten thousands).

As students enter intermediate grades, they will begin to explore the standard algorithm for addition and subtraction, so place value is key! Students will need to understand how to "regroup" or "trade" between place values – for example, your child will need to practice representing the number 12 as 1 ten and 2 ones or as 12 ones. This concept is important for regrouping and fluent addition/subtraction of larger numbers.

Help your child understand the role place value plays in math with place value models and digital resources.

[Video: Place Value: Trading Tens for Hundreds](#)

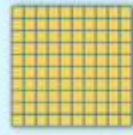


[Worksheet: Base Ten Blocks: Hundreds](#)

Base Ten Blocks: Hundreds



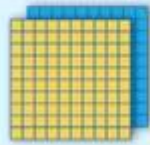
Which number matches the
base 10 blocks that are shown?



100

10

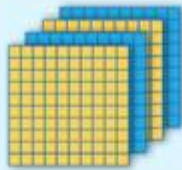
1



2

20

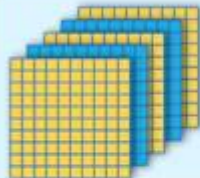
200



44

400

40



600

500

50



700

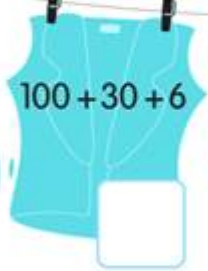
80

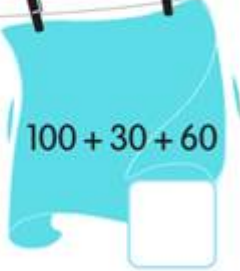
800

Expanded Form Practice 

Match the numbers in word form to the numbers in expanded form.
Check the correct answer.

One hundred thirty-six:



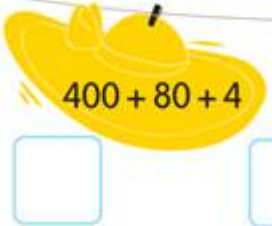


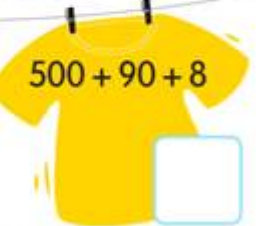
Five hundred ninety-eight:





Four hundred eighty-four:





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Fluently Adding and Subtracting Within 100

As students become more comfortable with number sense and place value, fluency in addition and subtraction must be emphasized. To be fluent, a student needs an efficient method for finding sums and differences.

Practicing basic addition and subtraction facts every day for just a few minute increases automaticity – the ability to compute quickly and accurately. Being able to solve simple addition and subtraction problems frees up mental load for more complicated thinking processes.

Addition and subtraction are inverse operations, meaning that they are exactly opposite and “undo” each other. Once a student knows one addition fact, he/she/they also know all the other members of the fact family. For example, if I know that $3 + 5 = 8$, then I also know that $5 + 3 = 8$, $8 - 5 = 3$, and $8 - 3 = 5$. Helping your child recognize these relationships will continue to build their ability to add and subtract fluently.

Consider using these digital resources to help your child practice addition and subtraction.

Quiz: Add and Subtract Within 1,000, Regrouping or Borrowing From 2 Places



1

2

3

4

5

6

 Choose the animal that solved the problem the correct way.

537 + 278 = ?



$$\begin{array}{r} 537 \\ +278 \\ \hline 71015 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 537 \\ +278 \\ \hline 7115 \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 537 \\ +278 \\ \hline 815 \end{array}$$

Confirm

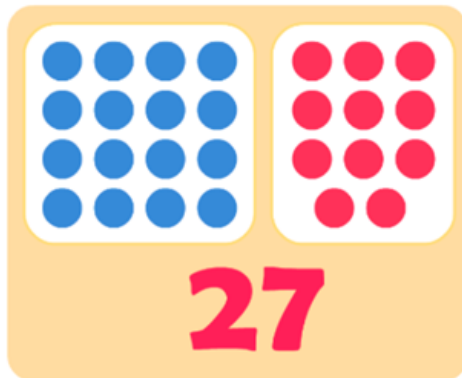
Quiz: Relate Addition to Subtraction



1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Choose all the fact family equations that match the image on the left.



$16+11=27$

$27-11=16$

$16-11=27$

$27-16=11$

Confirm

Quiz: Standard Addition and Subtraction With and Without Regrouping



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



Solve the addition problem using regrouping.

$$\begin{array}{r} 239 \\ + 58 \\ \hline ? \end{array}$$

298

297

296

Confirm

Building Foundations for Multiplication

As your child begins to master fluent addition and subtraction, you can begin to help lay the foundation for multiplication.

Multiplication is simply repeated addition – an efficient way to represent equal groups and determine a product (total). Start helping your child understand that multiplication means number of groups x number in each group = total. Create equal groups of manipulatives (concrete objects that can be held and moved) and have your child explain efficient ways for finding the total (e.g. skip-counting).

Consider using these online learning resources to help get your child ready for this new skill.

Worksheet: Multiplication Tea Party

Multiplication: Tea Party 

How many objects are there in total? Skip count to multiply.
You can use the number lines to help!
Check the correct answers.


← 0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 →

3×4
15 12 18


← 0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 →

4×6
28 20 24


← 0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 →

4×7
28 35 45

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Quiz: Relating Addition to Multiplication and Arrays

Read the word problem and choose the equation that matches.

There are **7** cars in the parking lot. Each car has **4** wheels. How many wheels are there?

$4+7$ 4×7 2×7

Confirm

So... what's the most important skill for kids entering third grade?

Beyond learning the mathematical skills above, the best thing you can do for your child entering third grade is to encourage the following:

- Be persistent. Math isn't easy, but it's worth it! Remind your child that new skills aren't always going to land the first time they are practiced. Students need to have grit and determination to persevere through challenges.
- Pay attention. You can't learn from others if you aren't listening attentively! Help your child build attention stamina by increasing time spent on activities and listening to your teaching. You are your child's first teacher, and you set the expectation for how they will behave and learn in school!
- Use mathematical language. In school, students are expected to explain their thinking, not just compute answers. Help your child practice this skill by asking how they found answers and guiding them through clear, step-by-step language. Once they are comfortable verbally explaining their thinking, encourage them to practice writing their explanations in a way that others can understand.
- Stay positive. Encourage your child to try new things, take risks, and remain committed to learning even when it's tough. Having a positive, open-minded outlook will help your child be successful in third grade and beyond!