FAMILY SUPPORT: THIRD GRADE READER

◆ Continue reading aloud to your child. You can model fluent reading.
◆ Provide a reading routine when everyone in the family reads (30 minutes).
◆ Children at this age often delve into series books, such as *The Box Car Children*, *Wayside School*, *Time Warp Trio*, *Ramona* or *Geronimo Stilton*. This comfort zone helps build fluency. Go to the library so your child can get the next book in the series!
◆ Invite your child to read more challenging books, as well as books at his/her level.
◆ Encourage your child to try new genres of reading (poetry, fantasy, and nonfiction).
◆ Have your child keep a list of “Books I’ve Read” or “Favorite Books.”
◆ Talk together about why you like or dislike certain books or authors.
◆ Talk about interesting words and language.
◆ Look up new words together in a dictionary.
◆ Talk about the characters, theme, and exciting or favorite parts in movies or books.
◆ Go to a local children’s theatre. If the play is based on a book, read it together before you go, then compare the book and the play.
◆ Encourage your child to read aloud a favorite book, poem, or story to friends, relatives, or to younger children.
◆ Subscribe to children's magazines that match your child's interests, such as *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *American Girl*, or *Zillions: Consumer Reports for Kids*.
◆ Discuss facts and opinions about community events or world news.
◆ When your child asks questions, seek answers together in books, encyclopedias, the newspaper, or on the Internet.
FAMILY SUPPORT: THIRD GRADE WRITER

◆ Read chapter books aloud to your child. Don’t stop reading aloud when your child can read independently! Introduce your child to new authors and genres.

◆ As you read aloud, talk about the author’s style and what makes powerful writing.

◆ Provide blank books for a personal journal (the ones with a key are particularly appealing at this age) as well as stamps, stationery, and writing materials.

◆ Purchase a dictionary and thesaurus and show your child how to use them.

◆ Point out words that are related (such as “sign” and “signal”).

◆ Talk about root words, prefixes, and suffixes that help children see the patterns of English spelling.

◆ If you have a computer, show your child how to use email, the spell checker, and the Internet.

◆ Read a poem once a week at dinner. Let family members take turns picking poems.

◆ Encourage your child to write and/or perform plays at home.

◆ Help your child learn how to research a topic using the computer, nonfiction books, and magazine articles, as well as the encyclopedia. Encourage your child to take notes in his or her own words.

◆ Play word games, such as Jr. Scrabble, Yahtzee, or informal word games with similes and alliteration.

◆ On final drafts, help your child revise for meaning first. Revision involves communicating and presenting the ideas logically. Editing for spelling and punctuation come after revision. (A secretary can edit, but rarely revises.) Leave the pencil in your child’s hands!

◆ Help with a few skills at a time so revision doesn’t become overwhelming. Revising and editing are challenging for young writers.