

What will my student learn in grade 4?

Alaska's public schools now have higher expectations in English and math. These parent guides help you understand what your child will learn. For more information, see <http://education.alaska.gov>



English Language Arts

In Grade 4 your child will continue to learn about the world and build vocabulary skills by reading a range of literature and texts on history, science, and other topics. Your child will be able to explain in detail what a text says. Your child will practice writing and speaking, using correct grammar.



YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Refer to details when explaining a text. Describe in depth a story or drama. Determine the meaning of words as they are used in the text, including figurative language. Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose.
- Determine the main idea of an informational text and how it is supported by details. Explain relationships among events, procedures, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text. Determine the meaning of subject-specific words (such as scientific terms).
- Interpret information that is presented visually, orally, or quantitatively, as in charts, graphs, and diagrams. Use information from two texts on the same topic to write or speak about it.
- Apply grade-level phonics and word analysis in pronouncing words. Read unfamiliar multi-syllable words. Read prose and poetry orally with expression.
- Write opinion pieces and informative texts, including an introduction, a structure to group ideas and evidence, and a conclusion. Write narratives to develop characters or events, using dialogue, description, sensory details, and a clear chronology. Plan, edit, and revise writing.
- With adult guidance, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing, collaborate with others, and gather information. Keyboard at least one page in a single sitting. Conduct short research projects.
- Engage in discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing his or her own clearly. Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker. Report on a topic or tell a story, speaking clearly. Create audio recordings and add visual displays. Use formal English when appropriate.
- Use standard grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Use relative pronouns (*who*, *that*), and relative adverbs (*where*, *when*). Use the progressive verb tenses (*I was walking*) and modal auxiliaries (*can*, *may*). Use dictionaries.

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Parent Tips Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

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English Language Arts— Fourth Grade

- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details.
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.

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Math

In Grade 4 your child will become fluent with multi-digit multiplication, know how to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends, add and subtract fractions with like denominators, multiply fractions by whole numbers, and classify geometric figures based on their properties.



YOUR CHILD WILL:

- Use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with whole numbers to solve problems. Solve multi-step word problems with whole numbers. Become familiar with factors and multiples.
- Generate and analyze patterns, and express the pattern in algebraic terms.
- Read and write multi-digit whole numbers using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form. Fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using any algorithm. Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by a one-digit whole number, and multiply two-digit numbers. Explain the calculation by using equations, rectangular columns and rows, and area models. Find whole-number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors.
- Compare two fractions with different numerators and different denominators. Use symbols for greater than, equal, and lesser than. Add and subtract fractions that refer to the same whole. Multiply a fraction by a whole number. Understand decimal notation for fractions ($3/10 + 4/100 = 34/100$).
- Know relative sizes of measurement units within one system of units, including km, m, cm; kg, g; lb, oz; l, ml; hr, min, sec. Add, subtract, multiply, and divide to solve word problems involving distances, intervals of time, liquid volumes, masses of objects, and money.
- Apply the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real-world and mathematical problems. Make a line plot to display a data set of measurements in fractions of a unit.
- Measure angles.

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Math—Fourth Grade

- 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.)