

Academic Growth Charts Fifth Grade

Adult & Child

Therapeutic Foster Care Licensing Program

Academic Benchmarks

- * **States across the country are implementing new standards for student achievement, designed to better prepare young people for careers and college.**
- * **These academic benchmarks are meant to help parents understand the course material for each grade.**
- * **They are based on the standards in most of the country and are intended as a general resource for parents, not as a comprehensive breakdown of the contents of your child's curriculum.**
- * <http://www.parenttoolkit.com/>

Fifth Grade Overview

- * Your 5th grader continues to become a stronger reader and writer and is also developing crucial analytical and critical thinking skills that will become ever more important as he/she progresses.**
- * His/her math abilities are following a similar trajectory, as he/she builds on the knowledge he/she has already mastered and incorporates more advanced skills that will form the basis for math in later grades.**

English/Language Arts

- * In 5th grade, students read closely from a mix of literature and informational texts as they work towards becoming strong readers.**
- * In their writing, fifth graders learn to more fully develop ideas and support them with reasons and evidence.**
- * They learn to research to build knowledge and to clearly present their ideas when speaking and writing.**

Reading

- * Rich & Challenging Texts
 - * Read rich and challenging 5th grade-level texts closely, proficiently, and independently.
- * Explaining the Text
 - * Explain what a story, play, poem, or informational text says and make inferences (“read between the lines”) using details and quotes from the text.
- * Identifying Themes
 - * Summarize a text and identify the theme or main ideas of a story, play, poem, or informational text based on details in the text.
- * Developing a Topic
 - * Explain how an author develops a topic and supports it with reasons and evidence.

Reading

- * New Vocabulary

- * Read and understand new vocabulary, including general academic vocabulary and vocabulary in specific subject areas like science or social studies.

- * Academic vocabulary includes words that are found in texts across subject areas. Examples: *relative, vary, formulate*.

- * Subject area vocabulary includes words that relate to a field of study, like biology. Examples: *mitosis, chromosome*.

- * New Words & Phrases

- * Use different strategies to understand new words and phrases: for example, use context as a clue; use common Greek and Latin roots as a clue; consult a dictionary online or in print.

Writing

- * Opinion Pieces
 - * Write an opinion piece that supports a point of view with reasons and information.
- * Examining a Topic
 - * Write papers that examine or explain a topic and present information clearly.
 - * Use examples, facts, and details to develop the topic and organize the information in a logical way.
- * Writing Stories or Narratives
 - * Write stories or narratives about real or imaginary experiences.
 - * Establish a situation and develop story elements such as characters, a well-sequenced plot, and descriptive details to help the narrative come alive.

Writing

- * Supporting Evidence
 - * Include evidence from text to support thinking and conclusions.
- * Applying Grammar Rules
 - * Use conventional capitalization, punctuation, and spelling and apply the rules of grammar in written work.
- * Using Technology
 - * With guidance from adults, use technology to produce writing and to work with others on writing.
 - * Comfortably type at least two pages in a single sitting.

Listening & Speaking

- * Class Participation
 - * Participate in class discussions about complex 5th grade topics and readings.
 - * Be prepared to share ideas, ask and answer questions, and draw conclusions from the discussion.
- * Summarizing Ideas
 - * Summarize ideas that another speaker makes and explain how each claim is supported by reasons and evidence.
- * Giving a Presentation
 - * Give a well-organized presentation about a topic or a reading, or present an opinion.
 - * Support ideas with facts and descriptive details.
 - * Speak clearly and audibly and include multimedia or visuals to more clearly and effectively express information.
- * Rules of Spoken English
 - * Learn and apply the rules of spoken English.

Research & Inquiry

- * Research Projects

- * Conduct short research projects to gather information from print and digital sources.

- * Taking Notes

- * Take notes to summarize or paraphrase the material and provide a list of sources.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Save Favorite Books***

- * Don't be too quick to store away or discard books that your child enjoyed when he/she was younger. Plenty of older kids love to revisit their early favorites.

- * ***Read Aloud***

- * You should continue reading aloud to your child as long as you both still enjoy the experience and you have the time. By this point, reading aloud should be a much more collaborative experience than it was when he/she was younger. You could take turns reading pages or have him/her do most of the reading. Reading aloud has been shown to build reading comprehension and a strong vocabulary, so try to continue providing this experience for your child, even if it's through books on tape that you listen to together in the car.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Visit the Library***

- * Visit the library often with your child. Help him/her sign up for a library card and encourage him/her to borrow books regularly. Set a target for the number of books he/she will read in a year and reward him/her with a special treat if he/she reaches the goal.

- * ***Encourage Reading A Range of Materials***

- * Provide books that match your child's interests and encourage him/her to read in a variety of formats, including comics and magazines, and online books. Ask your child's teacher about his/her reading level and seek out corresponding material. Reading level is often indicated on the back of paperback books, although several formats are used. RL5 means reading level 5, while 5.2 is a bit more specific, meaning a level equivalent to 5th grade, second month. Some publishers also use age guidelines, with 009-0011 meaning a book is appropriate for ages 9 to 11. You can always ask your librarian for guidance.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Discuss Reading***

- * Talk to your child about what he/she is reading. Ask him/her to tell you what a book is about and who the main characters are. Ask him/her what he/she's enjoying about the book. Having him/her talk about what he/she's reading prompts him/her to analyze the text as he/she's learning to do in school and to ask the kinds of questions that are being discussed in class.

- * ***Discuss Different Points of View***

- * Your child's classroom discussion of reading is starting to focus on how different points of view can influence and shape perceptions. You can help develop his/her understanding of this concept with your conversations at home, whether you're talking about what happened that day at school or about stories that are on the news. Ask him/her to tell you not just what happened, but why he/she thinks someone acted in the way they did.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Discuss Familiar Stories Through Different Points of View***

- * Make a game out of exploring different points of view in familiar stories. Follow the example of *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, by John Scieszka, a popular book that tells the well-known tale of the destruction of the pigs' houses from the viewpoint of the wolf. According to this book, it turns out the wolf just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and ended up being blamed for poorly timed sneezes. See how inventive your child can be at coming up with alternate versions of other children's favorites. This is a fun way to pass time in the car.

- * ***Look Up Answers***

- * When family conversation leads to questions that require looking up an answer, challenge each person to use a different print or digital resource to quickly find an answer to the question.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Spot Metaphors and Similes***

- * As your child learns about new concepts like metaphors (He has a heart of gold) and similes (She's busy as a bee), make a game out of identifying examples in everyday conversation, on television or in print.

- * ***Find Writing Projects***

- * Keep an eye out for fun projects that involve writing. If your child put together a family tree when he/she was younger, he/she can update it with a companion piece of writing in which he/she provides short biographical entries about each person. He/She can make these as simple or as lengthy and involved as he/she likes.

- * ***Use Social Media to Practice Writing***

- * If your family uses social networking sites, such as Facebook, ask your child to become a regular contributor to status updates. Writing short summaries of important family events or weekly activities will help him/her practice his/her writing skills and develop good social networking skills. Make sure to check his/her posts and to discuss concerns about content or language that you have with him/her.

Mathematics

- * In 5th grade, students focus on extending their understanding of place value by working with decimals up to the hundredths place and multiplying and dividing multi-digit whole numbers.**
- * Fifth-graders also continue their learning with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions.**

Operations

- * Multi-Digit Whole Numbers
 - * Quickly and accurately, multiply multi-digit whole numbers.
 - * Divide whole numbers (up to four digits) by two-digit numbers.
- * Understanding Place Value
 - * Extend understanding of place value: in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents $\frac{1}{10}$ of what it represents in the place to its left, and 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right.

Operations

- * Comparing Decimals

- * Read, write, and compare decimals to the thousandths place, using the symbols $>$ (greater than), and $<$ (less than). For example:

- * Read this decimal number: 23.002.

- * Write two and sixty-two thousandths as a decimal number.

- * Which sign makes this statement true: $5.389 _? _ 5.420$

- * The researcher is measuring bacteria that have grown on samples of unrefrigerated food. She counts 73.343 million bacteria in Sample A, 73.431 million bacteria in Sample B, and 74.399 million bacteria in Sample C. Put the samples in order, from greatest amount of bacteria to least. Explain or illustrate how you put these samples in order.

- * Decimals to the Hundredths

- * Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals, to the hundredths.

Operations

- * Understanding Exponents

- * Understand what an exponent is.

- * For example, the '2' in 10^2 indicates how many times to multiply the number by itself. 10^2 can be read as "10 to the second power" or "10 to the power of 2" or "10 squared," and means 10×10 , or 100. 10^3 (or "10 to the third power" or "10 cubed") means $10 \times 10 \times 10$, or 1,000.

Fractions

- * Solving Word Problems
 - * Solve word problems involving addition and subtraction of fractions.
- * Finding the Common Denominator
 - * Solve word problems involving the addition and subtraction of fractions with different denominators (bottom numbers), by converting them to fractions that have the same denominator, called a common denominator.
- * Multiplying Fractions
 - * Solve word problems involving multiplication of fractions by other fractions, and multiplication of fractions by mixed numbers (a whole number and a fraction, such as $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $2\frac{1}{2}$).

Fractions

- * Dividing Unit Fractions

- * Divide unit fractions (fractions with 1 as the numerator, or top number) by whole numbers.
- * Divide whole numbers by unit fractions.

- * Multiplying by Fractions

- * Understand that multiplying a number by a fraction less than 1 will result in an answer less than the number – for example: $12 \times \frac{3}{4} = 9$.
- * Multiplying a number by a fraction greater than 1 will result in an answer greater than the number – for example: $12 \times 2\frac{1}{2} = 30$.

Data & Measurement

- * Converting Units & Fractions
 - * Convert units and fractions of units within the same system of measurement.
- * Multi-Step Unit Conversion Problems
 - * Solve multi-step word problems using conversions of different-sized standard measurement units.
- * Using a Line Plot
 - * Solve problems using information (in fraction units) presented in a line plot.

Geometry

- * Understanding Volume

- * Understand volume as the measurement of the space inside a three-dimensional or solid figure.
- * Use the formulas *length x width x height* or *base x height* to measure the volume of a three-dimensional or solid object with rectangular sides, like a cube.
- * Measure volume to solve real-world problems.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Highlight Real-World Uses of Math***

- * As the math they're learning becomes more complicated and less obviously connected with their everyday experience, some children start to develop math anxiety. It's important to keep your child engaged with math and to help him/her understand the real-life applications of the concepts he/she's learning in school. Coming up with a budget for back-to-school supplies or for his/her monthly allowance is one way to practice addition and subtraction. Asking him/her to help you with cooking or baking shows him/her how fractions work. Helping you calculate prices when you're grocery shopping is also good practice.

- * ***Consult Online Resources***

- * Familiarize yourself with the range of online resources that can help your child practice and review the math concepts she is learning.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Read Problems Out Loud***

- * If your child is struggling with math problems, have him/her read each problem out loud slowly and carefully so he/she can hear the problem and think about what is being asked. This helps him/her break down the problem and come up with problem-solving strategies.

- * ***Keep Math Positive***

- * Speak positively about math and reward effort rather than grades or ability. Think about how important reading is and how we are told to model this behavior for our children. We need to place math in the same category. Don't discount the importance of math by saying, "I'm not a math person, I was never good at math." Help your child read books that incorporate math, such as *Millions of Cats*, by Wanda Gag, or *On Beyond a Million: An Amazing Math Journey*, by David Schwartz.

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- * **Practice Calculations Using Decimals**

- * Connect the work with decimals that your child is doing in class to the real world by encouraging her to shop for bargains. Have her divide the cost of bulk-packaged items by the number of single items to find the cost per item. So how much are you paying per roll of paper towel or per can of soda when you buy in bulk? Or ask her to calculate how much of a savings you'll make per item with sale prices offering volume discounts.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Practice Using Fractions***

- * Help your child familiarize himself/herself with fractions by asking him/her to scale recipes for your family. Have him/her start by halving or doubling a recipe. When he/she feels comfortable doing this, ask him/her to convert it by $1\frac{1}{2}$, allowing a recipe that is supposed to feed a family of 4 to work for a family of 6.

- * ***Set Up A Bank Account***

- * Set up a bank account for your child. Before you do this, discuss with him/her the basic concepts of banking – interest, checking and saving accounts, credit and debit cards, etc. The experience will help get your child excited about saving and increasing his/her money.

- * ***Highlight Math in Sports***

- * Sports provide a fun and engaging way of exploring a host of mathematical concepts, starting with basic addition. Any hard-core baseball fan knows that the game can't truly be appreciated without an understanding of some essential statistics, like a player's batting average and runs batted in. If your child is passionate about a sport, encourage him/her to explore it through math.

Tips & Advice

- * ***Help Prepare for Math Class***

- * Help your child reduce stress over math by familiarizing him/her with the concepts he/she will be covering in class. Ask the teacher for a syllabus and refer to this to preview each evening the material that will be covered in the following day's math class. Skim over these pages with your child. No need to spend time working out the meaning of concepts or trying sample problems, although you can consult the glossary for definitions of unfamiliar words. Even this slight increase in familiarity with the terms that will come up the next day will help your child approach math with more confidence.

- * ***Play Games That Use Math***

- * Play family games that help foster math skills. These include card games like Go Fish, which requires counting and sorting cards into sets, or board games like Monopoly.