

Unit 1: Family Letter



Introduction to Third Grade Everyday Mathematics®

Welcome to *Third Grade Everyday Mathematics*. It is part of an elementary school mathematics curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. *Everyday Mathematics* offers children a broad background in mathematics.

Several features of the program are described below to help familiarize you with the structure and expectations of *Everyday Mathematics*.

A problem-solving approach based on everyday situations By making connections between their own knowledge and their experiences, both in school and outside of school, children learn basic math skills in meaningful contexts so that the mathematics becomes real.

Frequent practice of basic skills Instead of practice presented in a single, tedious drill format, children practice basic skills in more engaging ways. In addition to completing daily review exercises covering a variety of topics, children work with patterns on a number grid, and solve addition and subtraction fact families in different formats. Children will also play games that are specifically designed to develop basic skills.

An instructional approach that revisits concepts regularly To enhance the development of basic skills and concepts, children regularly revisit concepts and repeatedly practice skills encountered earlier. The lessons are designed to build on previously learned concepts and skills throughout the year instead of treating them as isolated bits of knowledge.

A curriculum that explores mathematical content beyond basic arithmetic Mathematics standards around the world indicate that basic arithmetic skills are only the beginning of the mathematical knowledge children will need as they develop critical thinking skills. In addition to basic arithmetic, *Everyday Mathematics* develops concepts and skills in the following topics—number and numeration; operations and computation; data and chance; geometry; measurement and reference frames; and patterns, functions, and algebra.



Third Grade Everyday Mathematics emphasizes the following content:

Number and Numeration Counting patterns; place value; reading and writing whole numbers through 1,000,000; fractions, decimals, and integers

Operations and Computation Multiplication and division facts extended to multidigit problems; working with properties; operations with fractions and money

Data and Chance Collecting, organizing, and displaying data using tables, charts, and graphs; using basic probability terms

Geometry Exploring 2- and 3-dimensional shapes and other geometric concepts

Measurement Recording equivalent units of length; recognizing appropriate units of measure; finding the areas of rectangles by counting squares

Reference Frames Using multiplication arrays, coordinate grids, thermometers, clocks, calendars; and map scales to estimate distances

Patterns, Functions, and Algebra Finding patterns on the number grid; solving Frames-and-Arrows puzzles having two rules; completing variations of “What’s My Rule?” activities; exploring the relationship between multiplication and division; using parentheses in writing number models; naming missing parts of number models

Everyday Mathematics will provide you with ample opportunities to monitor your child’s progress and to participate in your child’s mathematics experiences.

Throughout the year, you will receive Family Letters to keep you informed of the mathematical content your child will be studying in each unit. Each letter will include a vocabulary list, suggested Do-Anytime Activities for you and your child, and an answer guide to selected Home Link (homework) activities.

You will enjoy seeing your child’s confidence and comprehension soar as he or she connects mathematics to everyday life. We look forward to an exciting year!

Routines, Review, and Assessment

The first purpose of Unit 1 is to establish routines that children will use throughout the school year. The second purpose is to review and extend mathematical concepts that were developed in previous grades.

In Unit 1, children will look for examples of numbers for the Numbers All Around Museum. Examples of numbers might include identification numbers, measures, money, telephone numbers, addresses, and codes. Children will also look at number patterns in a problem-solving setting by using number-grid puzzles and Frames-and-Arrows diagrams. (See examples on the next page.)

Throughout Unit 1, children will use numbers within the context of real-life situations. After reviewing place-value concepts, children will work with money and pretend to purchase items from a vending machine and a store. The emphasis on applying numbers to the real world is also reflected in the yearlong Length-of-Day Project, a weekly routine that involves collecting, recording, and graphing sunrise/sunset data.

Vocabulary

Important terms in Unit 1:

digits Any of the symbols 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 in the base 10 numeration system.

estimate An answer close to, or approximating, an exact answer.

tool kits In *Everyday Mathematics*, a bag or box containing a calculator, measuring tools, and manipulatives often used by students of the program.

number grid In *Everyday Mathematics*, a table in which consecutive numbers are arranged, usually in 10 columns per row. A move from one number to the next within a row is a change of 1; a move from one number to the next within a column is a change of 10.

									0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

number-grid puzzle In *Everyday Mathematics*, a piece of the number grid in which some, but not all, of the numbers are missing. Children use number-grid puzzles to practice place-value concepts.

			155
	253	254	
	453		

range The difference between the *maximum* and the *minimum* in a set of data. Used as a measure of the spread of data.

mode The value or values that occur most often in a set of data.

name-collection box In *Everyday Mathematics*, a diagram that is used for collecting equivalent names for a number.

300
three hundred $310 - 10$
$150 + 150$ $260 + 40$
<i>trescientos</i> $300 - 0$

Frames-and-Arrows In *Everyday Mathematics*, diagrams consisting of frames connected by arrows used to represent number sequences. Each frame contains a number and each arrow represents a rule that determines which number goes in the next frame. There may be more than one rule, represented by different colored arrows.



