WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN FOURTH GRADE?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

READING

1. **Increase Vocabulary**
   Fourth graders increase vocabulary by building an understanding of relationships between words.
   
   **EXAMPLES:**
   - Understand idioms (an idiom is an expression that cannot be understood from the meanings of individual words but that has a separate meaning of its own), such as “Hold your horses!”
   - Understand and use synonyms (words with similar meanings like promise/pledge) to convey ideas precisely
   - Understand and use antonyms (words with opposite meanings like failure/success) to convey ideas precisely

2. **Understanding New Words and Phrases**
   Fourth graders use strategies (like context clues and knowledge of prefixes/suffixes and root words) to understand new words and phrases.

3. **Determining the Main Idea**
   Fourth graders determine the main idea and key details of both literary and informational text and summarize a text.

4. **Explaining Support Points**
   Fourth graders explain how an author uses evidence and reasons to support particular points in a text.

5. **Comparing Similar Themes and Topics**
   Fourth graders compare how similar themes and topics are expressed in stories, myths, and folktales from different cultures.

6. **Engage with a Variety of Texts**
   Fourth graders read and actively engage with a variety of rich and challenging texts to build a foundation of knowledge in literature, science, social studies, and other subjects.
   
   **EXAMPLES:**
   - Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
   - The Black Stallion by Walter Farley
   - Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin
   - Hurricanes: Earth’s Mightiest Storms by Patricia Lauber
   - Horses by Seymour Simon
   - Quest for the Tree Kangaroo: An Expedition to the Cloud Forest of New Guinea by Sy Montgomery
WRITING

7. **Basic Rules of English**
   Fourth graders use basic rules of English grammar, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

    **EXAMPLES:**
    - Recognize fragmented and run-on sentences
    - Use can, may, and must correctly
    - Correctly use and spell homophones, such as to, too, and two
    - Use dictionaries to check and correct spelling

8. **Naturally Unfolding Stories**
   Fourth graders write a story with an event sequence that unfolds naturally, uses dialogue, description and sensory details, and provides a satisfying conclusion.

9. **Informational Pieces**
   Fourth graders write an informational piece that introduces a topic, groups related information in paragraphs and sections, develops the topic with facts and details, and provides a logical conclusion.

10. **Opinion Pieces**
    Fourth graders write an opinion piece that introduces a topic or text, states an opinion, is clearly organized, and supports the opinion with reasons, facts, and details.

11. **Supporting Research with Evidence**
    Fourth graders include evidence from text to support thinking and research.

12. **Using Technology**
    Fourth graders produce and share writing using technology with guidance and support from adults.

13. **Type One Page of Writing**
    Fourth graders type at least one page of writing in a single sitting.

LISTENING & SPEAKING

14. **Giving Oral Reports**
    Fourth graders report orally on a topic to show understanding, using well-chosen and well-organized facts and details.

15. **Participating in Conversations**
    Fourth graders participate in conversations about topics and texts being studied, listening carefully to the ideas of others, and asking and answering questions in order to gather more information or deepen understanding of the topic.

16. **Paraphrasing Information**
    Fourth graders paraphrase information from media presentations or books read aloud.
RESEARCH AND INQUIRY

17. Short Research Projects
Fourth graders independently conduct short research projects to investigate and become knowledgeable about a topic.

18. Taking Notes and Sorting Information
Fourth graders take notes, sort information into categories, and provide a list of sources.

MATH

NUMBERS & PLACE VALUE

1. Multi-Digit Whole Numbers
Fourth graders quickly and accurately add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers up to 1 million (1,000,000).

2. Factors
Fourth graders understand factors – whole numbers (numbers without fractions) that can be multiplied together to get another number. They understand that one number can have several factor pairs – for example, 3 and 4 are factors of 12 \((3 \times 4 = 12)\), and so are 2 and 6 \((2 \times 6 = 12)\) and 1 and 12 \((1 \times 12 = 12)\). Fourth graders understand that a prime number has only one factor pair: 1 and itself.

EXEMPLARY:

![Factors of 12 and 7](image)

3. Relationship with Place Value
Fourth graders read, write, and compare multi-digit whole numbers, understanding that the value of a digit is ten times what it would be in the place to its right – for example, 7 is ten times greater than 0.7. They use understanding of place value to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place.

4. Remainders
Fourth graders multiply a number of up to four digits by any one-digit number and multiply two two-digit numbers. They divide a number of up to four digits by any one-digit number, including problems with remainders. Fourth graders explain and illustrate using equations and visual rectangular models.

EXAMPLE:
Two hundred fifty doughnuts are divided evenly among six classrooms. How many doughnuts will each classroom receive, and how many doughnuts will be leftover for the principal?
5. **Word Problems**
Fourth graders solve multistep word problems with whole numbers using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems with remainders. They use mental math and estimation strategies (such as rounding) to check how reasonable an answer is. Fourth graders write equations for these problems with a letter standing for the unknown quantity.

**EXAMPLE:**
A rectangular field has a perimeter of 400 yards. The field has a length of 125 yards and a width of \( w \) yards. Find \( w \).

\[
400 = 125 + 125 + w + w
\]

**FRACTIONS**

6. **Breaking Down Fractions**
Fourth graders break fractions down into smaller fractions that have the same denominator (bottom number) in various ways.

**EXAMPLE:**
\[
\frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{3}{4} = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{2}{4}
\]

7. **Adding and Subtracting**
Fourth graders add and subtract fractions with the same denominator (bottom number).

**EXAMPLES:**
\[
\frac{5}{8} + \frac{2}{8} = \frac{7}{8}
\]
\[
\frac{7}{8} - \frac{3}{8} = \frac{2}{8}
\]

8. **Working with Mixed Numbers**
Fourth graders add and subtract mixed numbers with the same denominators.

**EXAMPLE:**
\[
1\frac{1}{6} + 2\frac{5}{6} = 4
\]

9. **Equivalent Fractions**
Fourth graders use visual fraction models – number lines, fraction bars – to understand how fractions can be equal (equivalent) even when the number and size of the parts (the numerators and denominators) are different. They recognize and create equal (equivalent) fractions.

**EXAMPLE:**
\[
\frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{2}{4} = \frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}
\]

10. **Numerator and Denominators**
Fourth graders compare two fractions with different numerators (top numbers) and different denominators (bottom numbers) by changing one or both fractions so that they both have the same denominator. For example, in comparing \( \frac{3}{8} \) and \( \frac{4}{16} \), they use visual fraction models to understand that \( \frac{4}{16} \) is the same as \( \frac{2}{8} \).

**EXAMPLE:**
if \( \frac{3}{8} > \frac{2}{8} \) then \( \frac{3}{8} > \frac{4}{16} \)
11. **Comparing Numerators**
Fourth graders understand that in comparing two fractions with the same denominator, the larger fraction is the one with the larger numerator.

12. **Multiply Fraction by Whole Number**
Fourth graders solve word problems involving multiplication of fractions by a whole number.

**EXAMPLE:**
Mary wants to make bows for six friends. Each bow requires \( \frac{5}{8} \) of a yard of ribbon. How many yards of ribbon does Mary need?

13. **Fractions as Decimals**
Fourth graders write fractions with denominators of 10 or 100 as decimals.

**EXAMPLES:**
- Write \( \frac{4}{10} \) as \( 0.4 \) or as \( 0.40 \)
- Write \( 0.83 \) as \( \frac{83}{100} \)

14. **Word Problems**
Fourth graders solve word problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of:
- units or intervals of time (seconds, minutes, hours)
- units of money (using decimal notation – for example: \$0.25, \$0.05, \$2.35)
- units of mass (grams, kilograms)
- units of weight (ounces, pound)
- units of volume (milliliters, liters)
- units of distance/length (inches, feet, yards, miles, centimeters, meters, kilometers)

15. **Comparing Fractions and Decimals**
Fourth graders compare numbers written as fractions and numbers written as decimals, using the symbols > (greater than), = (equal to), and < (less than). They use visual models such as fraction bars or number lines to explain and justify their answers.

**GEOMETRY**

16. **Perimeter**
Fourth graders understand perimeter as the measurement around something, and area as the measurement of the flat surface inside the perimeter of something. They find perimeter and area to solve real-world cost problems.

**EXAMPLES:**
- Juan wants to carpet his bedroom. His bedroom is two yards wide and five yards long. The carpeting costs \$7 per square yard. How much will Juan's new carpet cost? Explain or illustrate how you solved this problem.
- Juan decides to put a decorative border high all the way around his room near the top of the walls. The border costs \$3 per yard. How much will the border cost? Explain or illustrate how you solved this problem.
17. **Lines and Angles**

Fourth graders draw and identify different types of lines and angles, including line segments, rays, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, and right angles. They use the presence or absence of these lines or angles to categorize or group (classify) two-dimensional shapes or figures, such as rectangles, parallelograms, trapezoids, and triangles.

18. **Lines of Symmetry**

Fourth graders understand lines of symmetry: a line across a two-dimensional figure such that the figure can be folded along the line into identical matching parts. They identify the most common symmetrical shapes: circles, squares, rectangles, ovals, equilateral triangles (three equal sides), isosceles triangles (two equal sides), hexagons, and octagons.
HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD IN FOURTH GRADE?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Encourage Reading
Find ways to encourage your child to read independently. Make sure that he has the time and space to devote to reading and that he has plenty of material to read for fun. Take him to the library regularly.

Use Technology to Encourage Reading
Learn how to use technology to help develop your fourth grader’s growing interest in reading. There is a large selection of online books for children, many with interactive features such as animations or voice recording. You can also encourage his interest in reading by helping him find online sites about topics that interest him.

Discuss What Your Child is Reading
Ask your child about the books he is reading, both in school and for fun. Try to ask probing questions that go beyond having him just relate the action in a book. Ask about the themes of what he is reading and encourage him to summarize what he is reading and discuss it with you.

Set an Example for Good Reading Behavior
Continue to model good reading behavior by discussing what you are reading. If you’ve just read an interesting magazine article, tell your child what you learned from it.

Foster Effective Arguing
Encourage your child to learn to make a good argument. If he wants the privilege to do something that he has not previously been allowed to do, have him present an argument for doing so. Make sure he can back up the claims he is making. If he says that all his friends are allowed to do something, ask him to substantiate that claim.

Discuss the News
Engage your child in a discussion about the news stories you see on television or hear on the radio while you’re in the car. He should be developing the skills that will make him an informed and discerning consumer of information. By discussing what is happening in the world, you can explain why certain issues are important and share your values with your child.

Find Reasons to Write
Real writing can happen all the time, both inside and outside school. Help your child find useful reasons to write outside school: A letter of complaint about a broken videogame, an invitation to a get-together, or a request for information about a sporting event. Make writing connected to real life and not just an exercise.

Use a Favorite Story
Most children have a favorite story that they ask their parents to tell them over and over again, maybe about the day they were born or the time a special event took place. Encourage your child to write this story down and to make a book about it. It could be illustrated with photos and could become a lasting family keepsake.
Play Vocabulary Games
Make a game out of broadening your child’s vocabulary. Choose five unfamiliar new words for him to learn each week and see how often everyone in the family can use those words in everyday conversation. This will help improve your fourth grader’s vocabulary, reading comprehension, and speaking skills.

Play Storytelling Games
A fun game to play in the car or home that can involve the whole family is “what happens next.” Everyone should name a different object and then one person begins telling a story using all of these words. The next person must continue the story, picking up from where the last person stopped, while using at least one of the named objects, and having the story make sense as it continues. The silliness of where the storyline goes, combined with the use of the imagination, is a fun way to practice important listening and thinking skills.

MATH

Encourage a Positive Attitude Toward Math
It’s around this age that many youngsters become discouraged by math and begin to think of it as a subject they’re just not good at. Be aware of this and try to prevent your child from developing a defeatist attitude toward math. Encourage him to stick with it when a problem appears difficult and to approach it in different ways.

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

Integrate Math into Everyday Activities
Continue to find ways to integrate discussion of math concepts such as “times as much” into your everyday activities. Compare the weights of your child and his siblings, or the family pet. Figure out how many times your cat’s weight your child weighs and how many times your child’s weight his father weighs.

Keep an Eye Out for Math Concepts
Encourage your child to spot examples of some of the math concepts he is learning about. See how many right angles or right triangles he can spot, or have him look for parallel lines, such as train tracks or pillars in a building.

Highlight How Math is Used in Cooking
Baking and cooking are among the best ways to familiarize your child with how fractions work. Having him help out in the kitchen also reinforced valuable sequencing skills and time management concepts.

Practice Math in the Car
When you have a long trip to take in the car and your child asks how long until you get there, have him answer the question himself by using math. Tell him how fast you’re traveling and how far away you are, and see if he can estimate how long it will take you to arrive.
Use Math in House Projects
Encourage your child to use his math skills for projects around the house. If you’re wallpapering or carpeting, for example, have him calculate wall or floor areas and figure out the total cost of various materials.

Encourage Math Appreciation Through Sports
Sports provide a fun and engaging way of exploring a host of mathematical concepts, starting with basic addition. The halves of a soccer game or the quarters of a football game offer an illustration of how fractions work in the real world. If your child enjoys a sport, encourage him to explore it through math.

Encourage Music Appreciation
Music is a great way for your child to engage with concepts related to math. Practicing an instrument means learning about tempo, measure, and meter—all of which involve math.

Play Family Games
Plenty of family games incorporate math. Tic Tac Toe, Connect Four, many card games, and Dominoes are just some of the games that help build strategic thinking and math skills.