



## Growing Up: 6th Grade

Your child will develop skills and grow in a number of ways during this important year.

### Physical

Children this age vary greatly in physical development. Some students are well into puberty; for others, puberty is a few years away.

Discuss physical differences with your child, and emphasize that everyone grows and matures at their own pace.

### Intellectual

Sixth graders are better able to grasp abstract topics, such as morality, love, and justice.

Have more involved conversations with your child. Ask your sixth grader what they think about some of the more complex topics you see on TV or read about online.

### Emotional

Children this age are often torn between wanting to act more grown up to fit in with their peers and being reluctant to give up “being a kid.”

Be patient with changing moods—and with behaviors that range from mature to childish.

*“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

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### Support Your Child

Sixth Grade

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Support Your Child

# 6th Grade



## Parent Involvement Guide

## Provide Support

On the cusp of adolescence, sixth graders are dealing with a lot of exciting—but sometimes stressful—changes in their lives. Change can be hard, but with your support, your child can handle it all, and thrive!

## Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Be available to listen when your child wants to talk, and look for times when they are most likely to be open to conversation.
- ▶ Show interest in the things your child likes, and empathize with the things that get your child down, even if they seem insignificant to you.
- ▶ When everything seems to be changing, having routines is comforting. Give your child something to count on, such as family dinners.
- ▶ Children this age are often critical of themselves. Make an effort to acknowledge and praise your child’s efforts and accomplishments.
- ▶ Your child may be experimenting with their appearance and personality in an effort to fit in with peers. Discuss the importance of self-expression, and the dangers of peer pressure.
- ▶ Change can be exciting and a little scary. If your sixth grader is feeling insecure about being in middle school, assure your child that their peers are experiencing similar feelings.

# Welcome to Sixth Grade!

In sixth grade, students write longer papers, have more homework, and deal with multiple teachers. Sixth graders also do more work independently. In order to keep track of everything, sixth grade students need to be organized.

Your child will learn a great deal this year, but sixth grade is about more than academics. In sixth grade, students develop important social skills—skills that make the transition to middle school easier.

In this guide you will find information that will help you help your child have a successful sixth grade year. Included in this guide are:

- ▶ tips to help your child build their skills in language arts and math.
- ▶ ways to help your child develop important social skills, and feel secure with the many changes they are facing.
- ▶ information on the physical, intellectual, and emotional growth of sixth graders.

**Your involvement and support are key to your child's success!**



## Learning in the Sixth Grade

### Language Arts

Sixth grade reading focuses on understanding texts in a variety of subjects and in a variety of forms (such as fiction and nonfiction).

Writing assignments focus on the writing process (planning, writing, editing, and proofreading), and often require the use of technology.

### Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ To encourage a love of reading, help your child find materials on topics of interest and books to read for pleasure, like mysteries, science fiction, biographies, and teen fiction.
- ▶ Have family reading time—30 minutes when everyone in the family reads.
- ▶ If you find an article you think your child would find interesting, read it aloud and ask for your child's thoughts and opinions. Encourage your child to do the same for you.

### Help Your Child Get Organized

- 1) Encourage your child to use a student planner every day to write down assignments, test dates, and anything else they need to remember.
- 2) Discuss how folders, binders, and notebooks can be used to organize papers.
- 3) Large assignments and projects can sometimes seem overwhelming to students. Help your child break these down into more manageable parts. Set up a calendar so that large assignments and projects are completed over a period of time, not at the last minute.
- 4) Have your child get everything ready for the next day before going to bed.



### Math

Sixth grade math includes sharpening existing skills and working with more advanced concepts, such as solving equations, finding the volume of objects, plotting coordinates, and working with statistics and probability.

### Ways to Help at Home

- ▶ Have your child help you solve everyday math problems, such as determining how much money to leave for a tip or how much paint to buy.
- ▶ If you're rusty when it comes to solving equations and basic geometry, have your child make up a problem for you to solve—and then have them explain how to solve it.
- ▶ Check out sports statistics. For example, help your child figure out how stats like batting average in baseball are calculated.

*If you are looking for some help for you or your child in math, check out the Khan Academy. They have many excellent, free online videos. Visit [khanacademy.org](http://khanacademy.org)*

### Support Your Child

Sixth graders are learning many new skills, and they can become frustrated at times. If your child is feeling discouraged or frustrated, provide encouragement, keep a positive attitude, and be available to help.

If you have concerns about your child's progress, or are looking for additional ways to help build your child's skills at home, talk to your child's teacher.