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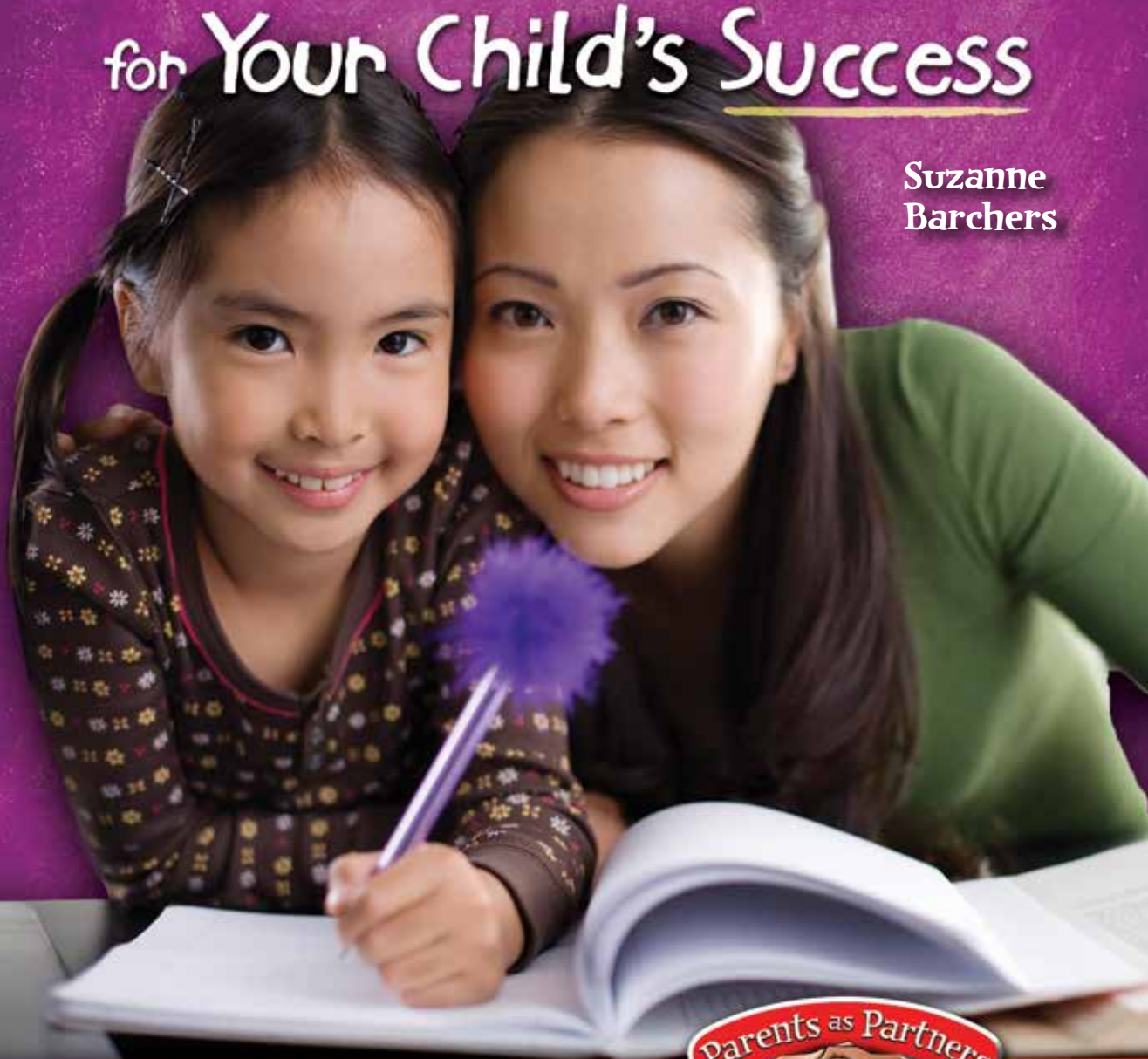
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Fourth Grade Parent Guide for Your Child's Success

Suzanne
Barchers



Teacher Created Materials

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Dear Family,

Welcome to fourth grade! This is an important transition year for your child. In fourth grade, students are expected to read more challenging textbooks. You'll no doubt be hearing more about history and science as your child begins doing some research projects as well. Oh, and you'll probably be brushing up on those long division skills very soon, too!

Your child's after-school interests may become more demanding. Things like sports, music, and organized groups all take time. Your child may want to have more time for friends, perhaps wanting to do school projects together. This is a great year to begin releasing more responsibility to your child, like taking the lead for his or her school requirements. This parent guide will give you some tips for starting that transition, too.

Take a bit of time to find out how your child's teacher prefers to communicate with families. You'll want to stay in touch and build a partnership so that the year will go smoothly. It will pay off on those busy days when other demands (e.g., errands, jobs, other children) keep you on the run.



One last thought...

Your child may seem old enough to be more independent. But, he or she still needs adults—parents, grandparents, or other caretakers—who ensure that fourth grade is a year of learning and fun!

Top 10 Things **Your Fourth Grader Needs to Know**



- 1. Write a paragraph** (a topic sentence, three supporting details, and a closing sentence)
- 2. Complex cause-and-effect** relationships
- 3. Strategies to draw meaning** from stories
- 4. Decimals and fractions** (add, subtract, and compare)
- 5. Multiply multi-digit numbers** by two-digit numbers
- 6. Divide multi-digit numbers** by one-digit numbers (long division)
- 7. Overview of life, earth, and physical sciences** (e.g., comparing animals, introduction to weather, and sources of light and energy)
- 8. Ask questions about objects and organisms** and use data to make a reasonable explanation
- 9. Your state's history**
- 10. American Indian tribes** that lived in your state

Science

All Around

Your fourth grader is exploring life, earth, and physical science. Help foster his or her learning about investigations with food, life forms, and plants and animals and their environments.

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These activities will help your child to think critically about science.

Cause and Effect

Simple cause-and-effect experiments can be set up with inexpensive plants. Vary the watering, fertilizing, and lighting. Make predictions about how these changes might affect the plant.



Food Science

Try to figure out why raisins dropped into a carbonated drink “dance” after a few minutes. Soak an egg or chicken bone in vinegar and see what happens in a couple of days.

Earth Science

A deeper understanding of the relationship between life forms and Earth (and sky) is fostered this year. Don’t hold back—become an investigator along with your youngster!

Human Body

A trip to the doctor’s office is a good time to learn about the human body. Encourage lots of questions.



One last thought...

Who among us hasn’t secretly wished that we were the one who invented the cell phone? Encourage your child’s natural curiosity about science. There is plenty left to be invented!

