In 4th grade, your child will gain important new skills while continuing to build on what he or she learned the previous year. One of the main areas studied in 4th grade is arithmetic and applying it to solve problems. This is an important life skill, and your child should make significant strides in this area during the year. Your child will also build knowledge and skills with fractions to prepare for mastering this topic in 5th and 6th grades. These skills will help ensure your child is ready for algebra and advanced math.

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 4th Grade

- Using whole-number arithmetic to solve word problems, including problems with remainders and problems with measurements
- Adding and subtracting whole numbers quickly and accurately (numbers up to 1 million)
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers in simple cases (e.g., multiplying 1,638 x 7 or 24 x 17, and dividing 6,966 by 6)
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that 1/4 is less than 3/8 because 2/8 is less than 3/8)
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases (such as 2 3/4 - 1 1/4 or 3 x 5/8), and solving related word problems
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fractions (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as 62/100)
- Measuring angles and finding unknown angles is a diagram

Keeping the conversation focused.
When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 4th grade, these include:

- Doing arithmetic and solving work problems with multi-digit numbers
- Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with fractions

Ask to see a sample of your child’s work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?