

Standards for Mathematical Practice Grades K–4

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KINDERGARTEN

K.MP.1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

In Kindergarten, students begin to build the understanding that doing mathematics involves solving problems and discussing how they solved them. Students explain to themselves the meaning of a problem and look for ways to solve it. Younger students may use concrete objects or pictures to help them conceptualize and solve problems. They may check their thinking by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?” or they may try another strategy.

K.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Younger students begin to recognize that a number represents a specific quantity. Then, they connect the quantity to written symbols. Quantitative reasoning entails creating a representation of a problem while attending to the meanings of the quantities.

K.MP.3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Younger students construct arguments using concrete referents, such as objects, pictures, drawings, and actions. They also begin to develop their mathematical communication skills as they participate in mathematical discussions involving questions like “How did you get that?” and “Why is that true?” They explain their thinking to others and respond to others’ thinking.

K.MP.4. Model with mathematics.

In early grades, students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, acting out, making a chart or list, creating equations, etc. Students need opportunities to connect the different representations and explain the connections. They should be able to use all of these representations as needed.

K.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

Younger students begin to consider the available tools (including estimation) when solving a mathematical problem and decide when certain tools might be helpful. For instance, kindergarteners may decide that it might be advantageous to use linking cubes to represent two quantities and then compare the two representations side-by-side.

K.MP.6. Attend to precision.

As kindergarteners begin to develop their mathematical communication skills, they try to use clear and precise language in their discussions with others and in their own reasoning.

K.MP.7. Look for and make use of structure.

Younger students begin to discern a pattern or structure. For instance, students recognize the pattern that exists in the teen numbers; every teen number is written with a 1 (representing one ten) and ends with the digit that is first stated. They also recognize that $3 + 2 = 5$ and $2 + 3 = 5$.

K.MP.8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

In the early grades, students notice repetitive actions in counting and computation, etc. For example, they may notice that the next number in a counting sequence is one more. When counting by tens, the next number in the sequence is “ten more” (or one more group of ten). In addition, students continually check their work by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?”

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First Grade

1.MP.1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

In first grade, students realize that doing mathematics involves solving problems and discussing how they solved them. Students explain to themselves the meaning of a problem and look for ways to solve it. Younger students may use concrete objects or pictures to help them conceptualize and solve problems. They may check their thinking by asking themselves, —Does this make sense?|| They are willing to try other approaches.

1.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Younger students recognize that a number represents a specific quantity. They connect the quantity to written symbols. Quantitative reasoning entails creating a representation of a problem while attending to the meanings of the quantities.

1.MP.3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

First graders construct arguments using concrete referents, such as objects, pictures, drawings, and actions. They also practice their mathematical communication skills as they participate in mathematical discussions involving questions like —How did you get that?|| —Explain your thinking,|| and —Why is that true?|| They not only explain their own thinking, but listen to others' explanations. They decide if the explanations make sense and ask questions.

1.MP.4. Model with mathematics.

In early grades, students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, acting out, making a chart or list, creating equations, etc. Students need opportunities to connect the different representations and explain the connections. They should be able to use all of these representations as needed.

1.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

In first grade, students begin to consider the available tools (including estimation) when solving a mathematical problem and decide when certain tools might be helpful. For instance, first graders decide it might be best to use colored chips to model an addition problem.

1.MP.6. Attend to precision.

As young children begin to develop their mathematical communication skills, they try to use clear and precise language in their discussions with others and when they explain their own reasoning.

1.MP.7. Look for and make use of structure.

First graders begin to discern a pattern or structure. For instance, if students recognize $12 + 3 = 15$, then they also know $3 + 12 = 15$. (Commutative property of addition.) To add $4 + 6 + 4$, the first two numbers can be added to make a ten, so $4 + 6 + 4 = 10 + 4 = 14$.

1.MP.8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

In the early grades, students notice repetitive actions in counting and computation, etc. When children have multiple opportunities to add and subtract —ten|| and multiples of —ten|| they notice the pattern and gain a better understanding of place value. Students continually check their work by asking themselves, —Does this make sense?||

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Second Grade

2.MP.1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

In second grade, students realize that doing mathematics involves solving problems and discussing how they solved them. Students explain to themselves the meaning of a problem and look for ways to solve it. They may use concrete objects or pictures to help them conceptualize and solve problems. They may check their thinking by asking themselves, —Does this make sense?|| They make conjectures about the solution and plan out a problem-solving approach.

2.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Younger students recognize that a number represents a specific quantity. They connect the quantity to written symbols. Quantitative reasoning entails creating a representation of a problem while attending to the meanings of the quantities. Second graders begin to know and use different properties of operations and relate addition and subtraction to length.

2.MP.3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

Second graders may construct arguments using concrete referents, such as objects, pictures, drawings, and actions. They practice their mathematical communication skills as they participate in mathematical discussions involving questions like —How did you get that?||, —Explain your thinking,|| and —Why is that true?|| They not only explain their own thinking, but listen to others' explanations. They decide if the explanations make sense and ask appropriate questions.

2.MP.4. Model with mathematics.

In early grades, students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, acting out, making a chart or list, creating equations, etc. Students need opportunities to connect the different representations and explain the connections. They should be able to use all of these representations as needed.

2.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

In second grade, students consider the available tools (including estimation) when solving a mathematical problem and decide when certain tools might be better suited. For instance, second graders may decide to solve a problem by drawing a picture rather than writing an equation.

2.MP.6. Attend to precision.

As children begin to develop their mathematical communication skills, they try to use clear and precise language in their discussions with others and when they explain their own reasoning.

2.MP.7. Look for and make use of structure.

Second graders look for patterns. For instance, they adopt mental math strategies based on patterns (making ten, fact families, doubles).

2.MP.8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Students notice repetitive actions in counting and computation, etc. When children have multiple opportunities to add and subtract, they look for shortcuts, such as rounding up and then adjusting the answer to compensate for the rounding. Students continually check their work by asking themselves, —Does this make sense?||

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Third Grade

3.MP.1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

In third grade, students know that doing mathematics involves solving problems and discussing how they solved them. Students explain to themselves the meaning of a problem and look for ways to solve it. Third graders may use concrete objects or pictures to help them conceptualize and solve problems. They may check their thinking by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?” They listen to the strategies of others and will try different approaches. They often will use another method to check their answers.

3.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Third graders should recognize that a number represents a specific quantity. They connect the quantity to written symbols and create a logical representation of the problem at hand, considering both the appropriate units involved and the meaning of quantities.

3.MP.3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

In third grade, students may construct arguments using concrete referents, such as objects, pictures, and drawings. They refine their mathematical communication skills as they participate in mathematical discussions involving questions like “How did you get that?” and “Why is that true?” They explain their thinking to others and respond to others’ thinking.

3.MP.4. Model with mathematics.

Students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, acting out, making a chart, list, or graph, creating equations, etc. Students need opportunities to connect the different representations and explain the connections. They should be able to use all of these representations as needed. Third graders should evaluate their results in the context of the situation and reflect on whether the results make sense.

3.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

Third graders consider the available tools (including estimation) when solving a mathematical problem and decide when certain tools might be helpful. For instance, they may use graph paper to find all the possible rectangles that have a given perimeter. They compile the possibilities into an organized list or a table, and determine whether they have all the possible rectangles.

3.MP.6. Attend to precision.

As third graders develop their mathematical communication skills, they try to use clear and precise language in their discussions with others and in their own reasoning. They are careful about specifying units of measure and state the meaning of the symbols they choose. For instance, when figuring out the area of a rectangle they record their answers in square units.

3.MP.7. Look for and make use of structure.

In third grade, students look closely to discover a pattern or structure. For instance, students use properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide (commutative and distributive properties).

3.MP.8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Students in third grade should notice repetitive actions in computation and look for more shortcut methods. For example, students may use the distributive property as a strategy for using products they know to solve products that they don’t know. For example, if students are asked to

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find the product of 7×8 , they might decompose 7 into 5 and 2 and then multiply 5×8 and 2×8 to arrive at $40 + 16$ or 56. In addition, third graders continually evaluate their work by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?”

Fourth Grade

4.MP.1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

In fourth grade, students know that doing mathematics involves solving problems and discussing how they solved them. Students explain to themselves the meaning of a problem and look for ways to solve it. Fourth graders may use concrete objects or pictures to help them conceptualize and solve problems. They may check their thinking by asking themselves, “Does this make sense?” They listen to the strategies of others and will try different approaches. They often will use another method to check their answers.

4.MP.2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

Fourth graders should recognize that a number represents a specific quantity. They connect the quality to written symbols and create a logical representation of the problem at hand, considering both the appropriate units involved and the meaning of quantities. They extend this understanding from whole numbers to their work with fractions and decimals. Students write simple expressions, record calculations with numbers, and represent or round numbers using place value concepts.

4.MP.3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

In fourth grade, students may construct arguments using concrete referents, such as objects, pictures, and drawings.

They explain their thinking and make connections between models and equations. They refine their mathematical communication skills as they participate in mathematical discussions involving questions like “How did you get that?” and “Why is that true?” They explain their thinking to others and respond to others’ thinking.

4.MP.4. Model with mathematics.

Students experiment with representing problem situations in multiple ways including numbers, words (mathematical language), drawing pictures, using objects, making a chart, list, or graph, creating equations, etc. Students need opportunities to connect the different representations and explain the connections. They should be able to use all of these representations as needed. Fourth graders should evaluate their results in the context of the situation and reflect on whether the results make sense.

4.MP.5. Use appropriate tools strategically.

Fourth graders consider the available tools (including estimation) when solving a mathematical problem and decide when certain tools might be helpful. For instance, they may use graph paper or a number line to represent and compare decimals and protractors to measure angles. They use other measurement tools to understand the relative size of units within a system and express measurements given in larger units in terms of smaller units.

4.MP.6. Attend to precision.

As fourth graders develop their mathematical communication skills, they try to use clear and precise language in their discussions with others and in their own reasoning. They are careful about specifying units of measure and state the meaning of the symbols they choose. For instance, they use appropriate labels when creating a line plot.

4.MP.7. Look for and make use of structure.

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In fourth grade, students look closely to discover a pattern or structure. For instance, students use properties of operations to explain calculations (partial products model). They relate representations of counting problems such as tree diagrams and arrays to the multiplication principle of counting. They generate number or shape patterns that follow a given rule.

4.MP.8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

Students in fourth grade should notice repetitive actions in computation to make generalizations. Students use models to explain calculations and understand how algorithms work. They also use models to examine patterns and generate their own algorithms. For example, students use visual fraction models to write equivalent fractions.

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