

## Grade 3 October Part 1

### Relating to teacher

This year your child's teacher is not as important to his adjustment as she was before. In fact, he rather takes her for granted (just as he does his mother).

Your child is really more interested in his school-group this year. He appears to feel teacher is just one more member of this group.

### Courage and daring to the rescue

Courage and daring are characteristics of the third grader. If the kitten, or kite, is caught in the tree, he comes to the rescue. He can now go into the dark storage closet in the basement when you ask him to (repeating to himself reassuring words). He also, for the first time, will defend himself against the playground or neighborhood bully. He may not like it—but he will do it!

### How to help when your child is worried

A third grader still likes to be "tucked in." This still may be a favorite time for chatting and unburdening. Or it may be a poor time if your child is slow in shedding the "worrier" traits of last year. Try and see.

This year, the "worrier" avoids bringing up that deep, haunting idea. He treats it just as he does a scary TV show: he turns it off! *You'll* have to be the initiator, waiting for a time (in private, of course) when you can help him talk about the "big problem" (don't forget it's *big* to him).



### Clothes care

Are you sick and tired of walking around islands of dirty clothes? Like a detective, you can track your child's movements around his room as he rapidly undressed! Take heart, third graders are beginning to use the clothes hamper and hang sweaters and the like on a chair (don't forget to place an extra chair in his room!).

Boys are truly hard on their clothes at this age. But they are also becoming "picky" and want tears and holes mended. Because he now likes clothes he helped select, he will begin to heed your suggestions for care. An example: remember how last year he forgot where he left all his sweaters? This year, he will remember to tie the arms of his sweater around his waist and arrive home with his sweater "wagging behind him."

*"A torn jacket is soon mended, but hard words bruise the heart of a child."*

—Longfellow—