



Tech4Learning®



# Pixie®

HOME EDITION 2013

Guide for Parents:  
Third Grade



## What is Pixie?

Pixie is software your young child can use to write, paint pictures, and tell stories. Pixie makes learning fun and your child can use Pixie at home to continue exploring topics they are learning in school.

Your child can add text to a Pixie page to practice their writing, draw ideas from their imagination using the paint tools, record narration for stories, and more. Your child can share their work in Pixie as a printed page, comic book, or even a video.



## Using Pixie with Your Third Grader

In Third Grade your child's ability to read, write, do math and explore the world of science and history is expanding rapidly. You will notice their work with Pixie growing more sophisticated as their writing and drawing includes more detail and complexity. Respond to your child work in the same way – with more detail and complexity and ask them lots of questions about their work.

Pixie is also the perfect canvas for free play on the computer. Play is a powerful way for students to learn about the world. But rather than consuming computer games, Pixie encourages students to create – create artwork, stories, diagrams, designs, and more.

As you explore some of the ideas in this guide, listen to your child. Allow them to drive the activities and take them wherever their interests lead. Passion for learning is perhaps the most important thing you can teach your child at this age.



## Contents

<b>Reading and Writing</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Reading .....	3
Writing .....	4
Language Use and Conventions.....	4
<b>Mathematics</b> .....	<b>5</b>
Numbers and Operations .....	5
Algebra .....	5
Geometry .....	5
Measurement .....	6
Data Analysis and Probability .....	6
<b>Science</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Inquiry Skills .....	7
Physical Science .....	7
Life Science .....	7
Earth and Space Science .....	8
Science and Technology.....	8
Science in Personal and Social Perspectives .....	8
History and Nature of Science .....	9
<b>Social Studies</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Citizenship.....	10
Culture.....	10
Continuity and Change .....	10
Space and Place.....	11
Individual Development and Identity .....	11
Individuals, Groups, and Institutions.....	11
Production, Distribution, and Consumption .....	12
Power, Authority, and Governance .....	12
Science, Technology, and Society .....	12
Global Connections .....	13

# Reading and Writing

## Reading

Students learn to read words they do not know and develop strategies to decode those words.

### Homophones



By third grade your child has learned enough vocabulary to begin some fun word play with homophones. Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently. Talk with your child about homophones like flour/flower and ant/aunt. Work with your child in Pixie to match the correct homophone to the picture.

[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Homophones activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to make a list of new words they find each week. Use Pixie's Text tool to add text to a page and the paint tools to draw pictures of what each word means. Work with your child to identify suffixes and prefixes they are finding.

## Reading

Students begin to read books for meaning.

### Main Idea



Read a story with your child. Talk with them about what happened. Work with your child to type in the main idea of the story and help them add more concepts, settings, and ideas to describe each part of the story.

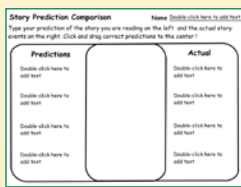
[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Main Idea activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to retell the story. Work with your child to take what they wrote on the main idea page and use this as the basis for a story summary. Use the Text tool to type sentences and the paint tools to draw supporting pictures.

## Reading

Students begin to read for fun and to learn about different topics.

### Story Prediction Comparison



Have your child predict an outcome of book they are currently reading. Then, when they are finished with the book, have them compare their prediction with the actual outcome.

[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Story Prediction activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to create a completely different ending to a book they have read. If they are reading a mystery book, have them finish with an adventurous ending.

# Reading and Writing (continued)

## Writing

Students learn to write for different audiences.

### Write a Persuasive Letter



Pretend your family is moving and wants your child's opinion on where to buy a new home. Should it be a new neighborhood, by the beach, to a country farm, or somewhere else? Where would they like to live? Have your child write a letter convincing the rest of the family where to move. The letter should address your child's desires as well as concerns of other family members.

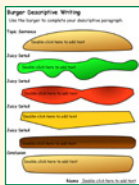
[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Friendly Letter activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to write a letter to a family member persuading them to go on a trip. Be sure to include original illustrations to entice the reader.

## Writing

Students decide what to write about and how to learn more about the topics they choose.

### Burger Descriptive Writing



Your third grader is ready to include more structure in their writing. Think about a place or thing your child enjoys. Work with them to describe it.

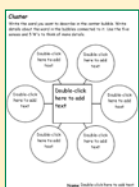
[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Language Arts folder](#) > [open Burger Writing activity](#).

Your child can also use Pixie to recreate a dream or fantasy. Have your child recreate the dream with imaginative characters, colors, and scenes as close as they can to the original dream.

## Language Use and Conventions

Students learn various styles of writing and how to interest the reader with varied vocabulary.

### Fill in the Blanks



A cluster organizer is a tool to help brainstorm ideas. Your child can use it to build skills in using words in context and to build vocabulary and comprehension. Let your child choose a topic. Work with them to brainstorm ideas about it using who, what, when, where, how, and the five senses.

[Click the Project button](#) > [click New on the left](#) > [in the Activities area](#) > [open Templates folder](#) > [open Cluster activity](#).

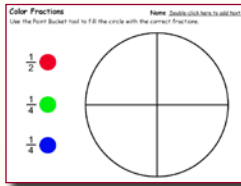
Your child can use Pixie to write and illustrate a story based on the ideas they brainstormed in the cluster organizer.

# Mathematics

## Numbers and Operations

Students learn to multiply and divide whole numbers.

### Color Fractions



Using a circle to demonstrate fractions as parts of a whole tends to be an easy concept for children to grasp. If you are cooking or baking with measuring cups you can also talk about fractions. After discussing, work with your child to explore the idea of fractions being part of a whole.

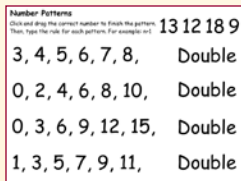
[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Fractions 2 activity](#)

Your child can also use Pixie to create illustrated word problems about fractions. For example: "Divide a whole pizza into four equal parts. Remove two slices. What fraction of the pizza is left?" ( $1/2$  or  $2/4$ ).

## Algebra

Students describe and make generalizations about patterns.

### Number Patterns



Encourage your child to create patterns with objects around them such as their toys at home or sugar packets in a restaurant. Use a Pixie activity as a way to have your child start to understand patterns.

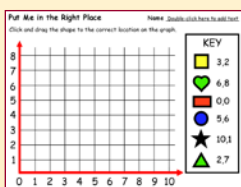
[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Pattern - Numbers activity](#)

Your child can also use the paint tools or stickers in Pixie to create their own patterns. Have your child create patterns that use color, shape, or a combination of both.

## Geometry

Students begin to identify the relationship between two-and three-dimensional shapes.

### Put me in the Right Place



Your child is now beginning to develop concepts about what's close and what's far away. Click and drag the shape to the correct location on the graph.

[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Coordinate 2 activity](#)

Have your child locate and identify two-dimensional (triangle, square, rectangle) and three-dimensional (cube, cylinder, pyramid) geometric shapes around the house. Work with your child to draw a scene that includes both two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes. For example, a sign (square) on the front of a building (cube).

# Mathematics (continued)

## Measurement

Students begin to apply measurement skills to the world around them using estimation of standard-unit measuring.

### What's My Perimeter



Your child is beginning to understand that objects have boundaries or in this case, a perimeter. Grab a tape measure from your toolbox or sewing kit and measure the perimeter of common objects around your house. Once your child gets the hang of how to add up all of the sides, work with them in Pixie to show what they know.

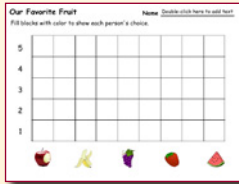
[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Perimeter activity](#)

Your child can also use the ruler sticker in Pixie to measure objects they have drawn. Have your child draw a picture of whatever they want. Your child can use Pixie to draw a picture of themselves. Then work with them to measure each part of their body and record it using the Text tool. Be sure to put the date on the page and print it for a keepsake. If you need to rotate the ruler, select it and use the Rotate Dial on the Options Panel.

## Data Analysis and Probability

Students begin to evaluate multiple forms of data representation.

### Favorite Fruit



Children are naturally curious and eager to know what people like as their favorite. Have your child conduct a survey of family members and friends about their favorite type of fruit. Use Pixie to document their findings.

[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Math folder](#)> [open Favorite Fruit activity](#)

Have your child use Pixie to graph the results of their own survey – such as how many of the family shoes are big, are black and have rubber soles, are more than one color and so on. You will find a grid in the Activities in Math> Templates.



# Science

## Inquiry Skills

Students will learn to develop questions and make predictions using data they gather.

### How Does It Taste?



Children will taste almost anything. Have your child taste something sweet, something sour, something salty, and something bitter. Use a Pixie activity to label the items with their appropriate taste.

[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open How Does It Taste activity](#)

Have your child use Pixie to create and record their own predictions about the world around them – for example, chart the growth of bean plants grown on a windowsill and in a dark closet, what time of day your pet eats their food). They can use Pixie to illustrate the differences in their observations, as well as record their voice explaining their thoughts.

## Physical Science

Students learn the basic properties of light, motion, and how energy interacts with matter.

### Motion



Children observe objects in motion all the time. Go on a nature walk and ask your child to observe how the wind moves objects such as tree branches, feathers, and paper. What are some other ways these objects can be put into motion organically?

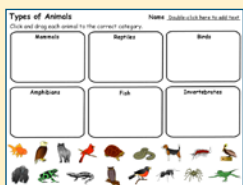
[Click the Project button](#)> [click New on the left](#)> [in the Activities area](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Inquiry-Primary activity](#)

Explore with your child how different materials transmit, partially transmit, or block light. Use the Inquiry Process activities to record their observations.

## Life Science

Students will learn about the characteristics of different kinds of animals.

### Types of Animals



Your child is beginning to learn how to identify characteristics of animals. Work with your child to sort animals into categories of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates.

[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Science folder](#)> [open Animal Types activity](#)

Your child is also learning about food chains, food webs, and predators. Work with your child to draw a picture of a food chain or web. It may be easiest to start at the top of the food chain with a predator and then work down figuring out what each organism eats.

# Science (continued)

## Earth and Space Science

Students will explore the physical world around them and different types of resources found in the earth.

### Moon Phases



Discuss with your child that the moon's cycle is 28 days. Help your child make a chart and mark the different phases of the moon during a month.

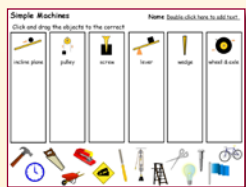
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Science folder> open Moon Phases I activity

Talk with your child about the constellations and stories behind them. Fill a Pixie page with black and use a white paintbrush to paint a picture of a constellation. Then, use other colors to illustrate the person/animal/object the constellation represents.

## Science and Technology

Students investigate different technologies and will identify technological tools and their purpose.

### Simple Machines



Have your child examine unfamiliar tools and how they are used. Use a Pixie activity to have your child organize tools into types of simple machines.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Science folder> open Simple Machines activity

Go on a scavenger hunt in your home and yard to find materials and objects that are either natural or made by people. Use Pixie to categorize the objects by illustrating and using the Text tool.

## Science in Personal and Social Perspectives

Students practice safety and conservation of resources, and know the importance of resources within environments.

### You Can Recycle Activity



Talk with your child and remind them recycling helps the earth and makes the world a better place to live in. By recycling items you do not need any longer, new things can be made.

Click Open button> click Activities on left> open Science folder>open You Can Recycle activity

An often overlooked concept of conservation is reuse. Work with your child to choose an item you normally recycle or throw away. Draw a picture of another way your family can use the item before recycling or throwing it away.



## Science (continued)

### History and Nature of Science

Students learn and recognize the contributors of discoveries and inventions.

#### Science Innovator



Work with your child to research a scientific innovator. Have your child create a trading card for their chosen scientist. Describe their contributions or an invention they made, as well as how life would be different without this contribution or invention.

[Click Open button](#)> [click Activities on left](#)> [open Templates folder](#)> [open Trading Card activity](#)

Work with your child to come up with a new invention that will help them with everyday occurrences. Have them use Pixie to illustrate and describe their invention, as well as how this will make their life easier.

# Social Studies

## Citizenship

Students learn about how to be a citizen in a democratic republic.

### Friendly Letter



Have your child write a letter to the President thanking him for a recent accomplishment, sharing the recent good deed of a citizen, or explaining what you would like him to improve on during his presidency.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Language Arts folder> open Friendly Letter activity

Have your child use Pixie to create a poster showing examples of citizens' rights and responsibilities (e.g., picking up litter off the streets, helping an older person cross a street, or delivering food to people in need).

## Culture

Students study culture and cultural diversity.

### Native Americans



Have your child research the customs and cultures of Native American tribes from around the United States. Have your child complete a Pixie activity where they match items to Native American cultures in different regions of the United States.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Native Americans activities

Your child can use Pixie to create a poster advertising the benefits of life in your community. Have them think of different immigrant groups that live in your community and what might attract them to your area.

## Continuity and Change

Students study the events of the past and how historical events shape our community today.

### United States Timeline



Your child is beginning to understand the order of events in history. Have your child use Pixie to organize significant events in United State history that shaped our communities.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open US Timeline activity

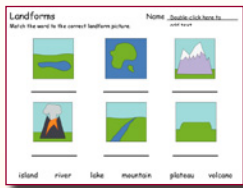
Discuss with your child that most cities were influenced by the ethnic groups which settled there. Trace contributions of different ethnic groups to your community's historical development with your child. Your child can use Pixie to make a timeline of your city's historical journey.

## Social Studies (continued)

### Space and Place

Students study their physical world using geographic tools like globes, charts, and graphs.

#### Landforms



Discuss with your child the various types of landforms within a short distance from your home. Have your child use Pixie to match images of landforms and bodies of water with their names.

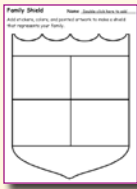
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Landforms activity

Your child can also use Pixie to research different landforms on a map like rivers, plateaus, islands and lakes. Use the text tool and stickers to label their map.

### Individual Development and Identity

Students learn how contributions of family members affect their identity.

#### Make a Family Shield



Have your child identify things that make each family member unique. Use Pixie to create a family shield based on their discoveries. Have your child add stickers and use the text and paint tool to illustrate a shield that makes your family unique.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Family Shield activity

Create a logo or shield for your city. Be sure to include symbols and drawings that showcase the history and culture of the people and place where you live.

### Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Students develop an understanding of the larger community and the groups that contribute to them.

#### Hero Stamp



Our communities are full of everyday heroes. Discuss with your child the attributes of what makes a hero. Then use Pixie to have your child create a stamp in honor of a community hero.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Hero Stamp activity

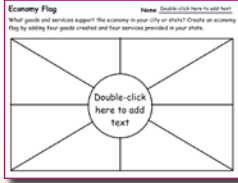
Discuss, identify and describe with your child examples of why tensions exist between different people and groups of people. Have your child draw a picture of what these people could do instead of fighting.

## Social Studies (continued)

### Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Students learn goods people produce come from natural resources and how countries are linked through trade.

#### Goods and Services



Discuss with your child the difference between goods and services. Have your child make a list of the goods and services found in your state. Use Pixie to create a flag that illustrates the good and services in your state.

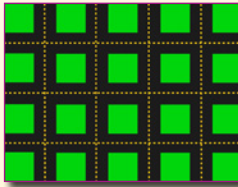
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies> open Goods and Services Flag activity

At this point your child has probably heard talk of budgets and finances. Work with your child to write and illustrate a list of needs and wants to include in your family budget.

### Power, Authority, and Governance

Students learn about the government and how it helps our community live safe and fair.

#### Today I Feel



Talk with your child about the things in the community that help keep them safe. Have your child draw a community map that includes a police station, a fire station, and a hospital.

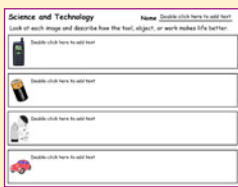
Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies> open Community (medium) activity

Discuss with your child why government is necessary in the classroom, school, community, state, and nation. Have your child illustrate a scene on how they feel laws benefit the community in which they live. What does it look like to live in a community with laws versus one without?

### Science, Technology, and Society

Students learn how technology has changed the way our society communicates, travels, and make our life better.

#### Science and Technology



Talk to your child about how technology makes our lives easier, helps us save time, and how useful it is in our daily lives.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies folder> open Science and Technology activity

Your child can also use Pixie to show how technology enhances how people do their jobs. For example, air traffic controllers use radar and delivery drivers use GPS.

## Social Studies (continued)

### Global Connections

Students learn how people are dependent upon other communities in the world and how they connect in a global society.

Where does it come from?



Your third grader is starting to understand all of the different parts of the world. Discuss with them where common household items come from. Use Pixie to illustrate where on earth foods and other items come from.

Click the Project button> click New on the left> in the Activities area> open Social Studies> open Goods From activity

Your child can use Pixie to illustrate goods and services that come from your state. Open a map of your state. Use Pixie to drag in stickers that represents things like a cow for Agriculture, and a car for Manufacturing.