



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Learning is important in Pre-Kindergarten because children at this age have a natural curiosity about the world around them and a willingness to learn and be taught.

Language development leads to reading development, and children need to be exposed to various print, illustrated and written "stories" and to opened-ended discussions. These opportunities allow them to explore language, which in turn supports reading skills as they learn to read.

This information is a snapshot of learning in Pre-K ELA. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Identify his/her first name.
- Understand the correct way to hold a book.
- Understand that print carries meaning.
- Recognize familiar signs and print in his or her surroundings and community.
- Identify most letters and be able to connect some letters to sounds.
- Begin to understand rhyme.
- Show interest in reading and writing.

What to do at home:

- Make time for conversations that allow your child to have a voice and explore new information.
- Explore print in various forms like labels, magazines or books.
- Schedule time to share literature and stories.
- Identify common themes in print in the real world and discuss what they mean. For example, your child could explain that the big yellow "M" represents McDonald's.
- Provide opportunities to attempt writing and reading.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore his or her world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- When you look around, do you see things that are alike or different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to do?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What fruit would you like to eat for lunch?
- Do you think you will need a jacket today?
- What was the best part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

It is important to give young children the opportunity to explore books. As you sit down to read together, allow your child to flip through the pages and discuss what he or she sees. Use the following questions as a guide as you talk about the books you are reading together.

BEFORE READING

- What do you see on the cover?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Who is in the book?
- What has happened so far?

AFTER READING

- Did you like reading this book? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the book?



LANGUAGE ARTS

K

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Kindergarten is when children begin to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a structured learning environment. Families play an important role as they model positive learning behaviors and become involved in school activities. Kindergartners are refining verbal communication skills and beginning to understand elements of written language. Age-appropriate technology can support literacy skills while children explore print in magazines, books, signs, menus and packaging.

This information is a snapshot of learning in kindergarten ELA. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Name and write all letters and their sounds.
- Recognize rhyming words and the sounds in words.
- Sound out simple three-letter words such as *cat, sit, hen, lot*.
- Read common words found in books such as *the, I, a, see, are*.
- Answer questions about a story that has been read aloud.
- Participate in a discussion by taking turns listening and speaking.
- Begin writing by sounding out words.
- Learn and use new words.
- Become interested in books and writing.

What to do at home:

- Write letters on cards and place them in alphabetical order.
- Give your child a word and ask him or her to respond with a word that rhymes with it.
- Read rhyming books like those written by Dr. Seuss.
- Pick a sound of the day and ask your child to find words that have that sound. For example, "What words start with the sound made by the letter 'T'?"
- Use letter cards to sound out and create small words like *cat, pig, not, can, etc*.
- Read simple, predictable stories with your child and ask him or her to notice common words like *me, I, is, it, like*.
- Point out and describe the meaning of words you and your child discover in books and other places. Use these words correctly in conversation and ask your child to do so.
- Encourage your child to spend time looking through books and exploring with writing materials including pencils, pens, markers, etc.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore his or her world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What do you wonder about?
- What patterns do you see when you look outside?
- What book do you want to read today?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is your favorite food and why?
- What rule have you followed today?
- What do community helpers do for people?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Kindergarten children are developing beginning reading skills and an enjoyment of reading. Make time to explore books, magazines and other types of print with them and encourage conversations as you read together. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What does this book remind you of?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book and why?



LANGUAGE ARTS

1

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

FIRST GRADE

What to expect:

In first grade, children will build on the foundational skills from kindergarten to become more independent readers and writers. First grade is an important period for literary growth. Many children begin the year with limited reading and writing skills. They begin to read simple stories with common words and then move on to more complex stories with longer sentences and more challenging vocabulary. Writing develops throughout the year, beginning with children writing letters, and later, sentences with capitalization and punctuation.

This information is a snapshot of learning in first-grade ELA. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Speak using longer sentences and words than during the previous year.
- Sound out words with short and long vowels like *cat*, *rope*, *week*, *boat*.
- Use color and number words in writing.
- Write sentences using capital letters and punctuation.
- Learn and use new words.
- Describe or retell a story that has been read aloud or independently.
- Begin to use books and technology to answer questions and find information.
- Explore more challenging books than in kindergarten.

What to do at home:

- Write letters on cards and place them in alphabetical order.
- Read make-believe stories and stories about real people and events with your child.
- Read to your child, have him or her read to you or take turns reading pages.
- Challenge yourself and your child to use words from the books you are reading together in conversations.
- Encourage your child to explore magazines, newspaper articles and kid-friendly websites to find new information.
- Encourage your child to write stories or things that interest him or her in a notebook.
- Point out and describe the meaning of new words you find in books and in the world around you.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore his or her world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What are you interested in knowing more about?
- What else does that make you think of?
- Where do you think we can learn more about these things?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What was your hardest rule to follow today? Why was it hard?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw and/or showed today?

Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming independent readers need time to read alone and with others. Families should take time to talk about books, magazines and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?

AFTER READING

- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

Join the conversation!
[#oklaed](#)



LANGUAGE ARTS

2

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

SECOND GRADE

What to expect:

In second grade, children begin to ask bigger and deeper questions as their learning continues to grow. Second-graders are increasingly independent listeners, speakers, readers and writers. They read more challenging books and write longer stories. At this grade level, children read a variety of texts, including newspapers, magazine articles, stories and technology-based reading materials. They are able to focus their writing around a central topic and include details.

This information is a snapshot of learning in second-grade ELA. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Become an increasingly independent reader.
- Identify the main parts of a story, including details about the characters, setting, beginning, middle and end.
- Read a book and describe the main idea and details about the people, places or things in it.
- Explain how and why something happens in a story your child reads independently or hears read aloud.
- Write about a topic, including sentences about that topic.

What to do at home:

- Listen to your child read aloud.
- Help your child learn new words by sounding them out, looking at the sentences around them and thinking about what makes sense.
- Discuss why the author may have written a book and what happened in the story.
- Talk with your child about the information he or she learned from a book about real people, places or things.
- Learn and use new words. Challenge yourself to use these words in conversations with your child.
- Write stories or observations about the world around your child in a notebook.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to nurture curiosity in young children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, discover answers and explore his or her world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What do you notice or wonder about in your community?
- What new words or new things have you discovered?
- How can you solve the problems you see?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Increase vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions that make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one idea on a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others. This acceptance fosters positive relationships with peers and strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?
- What was the best thing that happened today? What was the worst?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today or was there something you didn't understand?

Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Exposing children to a variety of print materials such as books, magazines, etc., allows them to explore new words and ideas. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what he or she is reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- What kind of book is this?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

Join the conversation!
[#oklaed](#)



LANGUAGE ARTS

3

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

In third grade, children are shifting from learning to read to reading to learn. They will enjoy many types of reading material, including newspapers, magazines, books and other informational and technology-based content. Third-graders will be able to use important elements of stories like character (who), setting (where) and plot (what happened) in conversations about what they are reading. Their writing should show their understanding of story structure, writing styles and logical story sequence, and they should be able to use different kinds of writing for different purposes.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Increase vocabulary by learning new words, parts of words and words with similar meanings.
- Identify types of books (fiction, biography, etc.) by the style of writing (how-to, cause and effect, etc.).
- Write about their opinion, including explaining the reasons for that opinion.
- Describe who is telling the story.
- Interpret information from graphs, charts and headings in a book to better understand and write about a topic.

What to do at home:

- Discuss facts and opinions in commercials, news stories, documentaries and other everyday situations.
- Identify what kind of text your child is reading and its style (description, how-to, cause and effect, etc.).
- Help your child use resources like dictionaries or online searches to identify new words.
- Write silly sentences together, including questions and sentences with exclamation marks.
- Help your child identify a topic of interest and determine how to find information about that topic.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What is the craziest word you have ever heard?
- What movie or book character do you wish you went to school with and why?
- How would the world be different if animals could talk?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What food would be served at your favorite meal?
- How did you show kindness to someone today?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do with family or friends?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help third-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What made you pick this book?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What pictures do you see in your mind as you read?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- What was the most important event in the story? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you could give this book a different title, what would it be? Why?



LANGUAGE ARTS

4

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

FOURTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fourth grade, children will read more challenging books and a variety of materials, including newspapers, magazines, books, plays, biographies and other informational and technology-based content. Fourth-graders can answer questions using information from a book and their own background knowledge to retell stories, and their writing will start to include more details and words. They will begin to make connections between words, recognizing those with the same or opposite meaning (*angry* and *mad*, etc.), words with the same base (*cookout*, *cookbook*, etc.), words that sound or are spelled alike (*there* and *their*, etc.) and words that follow the same spelling patterns (*receive* and *deceive*, etc.).

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Summarize longer stories in greater detail.
- Compare the features of various texts to identify the type of writing (for example, myths, stories, articles, biographies, etc.).
- Develop longer writing pieces through editing and rewriting to create clear and organized work.
- Determine if the author created the piece to persuade, inform or entertain the reader.
- Identify word parts such as affixes, roots and stems to determine the meaning of words. (For example, the word *unable* means not able because of the “*un-*” added to the word “*able*.”)

What to do at home:

- Compare facts and opinions while watching news stories. Discuss how to confirm that facts are true.
- Ask questions about what your child is reading. Include questions that may not have a direct answer in the writing, such as, “Why do you think the character made that decision?”
- Encourage your child to use dictionaries and online resources to understand the meaning and pronunciation of words.
- Provide pens, crayons, pencils and other writing materials, and make sure your child has plenty of opportunities to get excited about writing.
- Help your child identify a topic of interest and determine how to find information about it.
- Ask your child to write a short note to a member of your family.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What five words do you think describe you best?
- If you had to give everyone in your family new names, what would they be?
- If you could be a character in any book, who would you be and why?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What is the most exciting adventure you could take?
- Who would you take with you on the adventure?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fourth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Skim through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?



LANGUAGE ARTS

5

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fifth grade, children will read a variety of increasingly difficult materials, including newspapers, magazines, books, plays, biographies, poetry, myths, legends and other informational and technology-based content. They will read for different purposes, such as to find information or for fun. At this age, children are able to focus on elements of writing including style, structure and the author's purpose for writing. They can explore words with multiple meanings and make educated guesses about what words mean and learn the places and countries they came from.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Write summaries that follow a logical order and include the main points and details of a piece of writing.
- Develop stories with well-thought-out characters, descriptive settings and interesting plots.
- Use word parts such as affixes, roots and stems to determine the meaning of words.
- Develop a variety of sentences of different lengths with correct structure.
- Provide evidence (facts, examples and details) from a piece of writing to support ideas and draw conclusions.
- Develop longer writing pieces through editing and rewriting to create clear and organized work.

What to do at home:

- Discuss whose point of view the story is told from and how it would change if another character wrote it.
- Encourage your child to read multiple pieces of information on a topic and discuss the differences.
- Write a paragraph on a topic of interest, including key details, facts and information.
- Encourage your child to use dictionaries and online resources to understand the meaning and pronunciation of words.
- Discuss interesting words, such as those with many meanings (*bark*, etc.), the same or opposite meanings (*smart*, *clever*, *intelligent*, etc.) and those that sound or are spelled alike (*they're*, *their*, *there*, etc.).



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Play is a wonderful way to spark curiosity, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- If you were in a play, what would your character be like?
- If you could end your favorite movie a different way, how would you change it and why?
- How would you explain eating spaghetti to someone who has never done it before?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week and why?
- How did you help someone in need today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block to success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help fifth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Is this the type of book you usually choose? Why or why not?
- By looking at the cover, what do you think the author's reason for writing the book might be?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Will you read a short section to me with feeling in your voice?
- What do you do when you don't understand what you just read?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

- Give a summary of the book in 10 words.
- What problem did the main character face? What was the solution to that problem?
- What message is the author sharing with the reader? Why do you think that?



LANGUAGE ARTS

6

FOR FAMILIES

YOU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important for your child. Please be in regular communication with your child's teachers and ask how you can support language arts learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!

SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

Sixth-graders will read a variety of pieces of writing, including books, plays, biographies, poetry, myths, legends and informational and technology-based content. At this age, students are able to understand how authors support their ideas and are looking at the structures of sentences and paragraphs to determine how they help develop a piece of writing. Sixth-graders can provide evidence like facts, examples and details to support their ideas and opinions and are expanding their vocabulary as they learn new words.

By the end of the school year, your child will:

- Present ideas clearly in spoken presentations and in writing, using appropriate punctuation, capitalization and grammar.
- Understand different writing structures, such as description, compare/contrast, sequential, problem/solution and cause/effect.
- Include important points and details when summarizing a piece of writing.
- Develop longer writing pieces through editing and rewriting to create clear, organized work.
- Describe how setting, plot and message support the author's work.
- Develop essays and reports on a topic, including key details, facts and information.
- Support their point of view on a topic with facts.
- Identify information as useful, correct and verified.

What to do at home:

- Discuss whose point of view the story is told from and how it would change if another character told the story.
- Encourage your child to read multiple pieces of writing on one topic and discuss their similarities and differences.
- Ask questions about what they are reading or watching and ask them to provide examples to support their answers.
- Write a thank-you card by hand to someone who has been kind or helpful to you.
- Discuss interesting words, such as those with many meanings, the same or opposite meanings and those that sound or are spelled alike.



LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and want to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity contributes to success in the classroom, it is important to encourage it at home. Provide opportunities for your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore the world.

Cultivate your child's curiosity with guiding questions like these:

- What invention would you create to help visually impaired students read books more easily?
- What character in a book or movie makes you laugh the most?
- What if your favorite book got a new character from your favorite movie? Who would join the book and what would happen?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It's okay if you don't have the answer every time. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

Fostering Communication

Families can play a role in helping their children learn to be good communicators by encouraging them to add new words to their vocabulary, express themselves and be good listeners. As children's communication skills grow, they are able to learn new ideas, get along with others and develop positive relationships and a strong self-image.

Cultivate your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What goals can you set to help you become a better person?
- What is your favorite part of the year and why?
- How can you make a positive difference for someone today?

Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help sixth-graders understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Are you keeping a list of books you have already read? Why would it be good to keep a list like that?
- How is this book like another book you have read or a movie you have seen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- As you are reading, what questions do you have for the author?
- How does this book remind you of a book you have already read or something you already know?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme of the book? What lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?