



LANGUAGE ARTS

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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.



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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?