



# LANGUAGE ARTS

# 3

FOR FAMILIES

## THIRD GRADE

### What to expect:

Children in third grade are beginning to use their reading skills to understand an entire text or story. They enjoy many types of informational and literary reading materials, including newspapers, magazines, books, poems, comics, etc. Third-grade students will be able to use elements of stories like character (who), setting (where) and plot (what happened) in conversations about what they are reading. Their writing is becoming increasingly clear and focused, stays on topic and includes relevant details such as important people, places, dates, facts and events. Third-graders also will be able to use different kinds of writing for different purposes. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 3. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Read words in a text aloud accurately and at the same pace as a conversation.
- Grow their vocabulary by learning new words, parts of words and words with similar meanings.
- Identify different types of text (fiction and biography, for example).
- Summarize different types of text by identifying the main events or topics and important details.
- Write for different purposes, using important details and staying focused on a topic.
- Describe who is telling the story, where it takes place and what is happening.
- Use information from graphs, charts and headings in a text to better understand and write about a topic.

### What to do at home:

- Discuss facts and opinions in commercials, news stories and other everyday situations.
- Ask your child what kind of text they are reading (fiction, nonfiction or poetry) and to explain how they know.
- Use difficult or unusual words in conversations to build your child's vocabulary.
- Keep a response journal together. In a response journal, your child will write about anything they're interested in, and you will write a reply to what they have written. Ask your child to increase the number or length of sentences and use different sentence types (questions, exclamations, etc.).
- Help your child identify a topic of interest and look for ways to find information about it.

**Y**OU ARE your child's first teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Oklahoma's academic standards and why they are important to 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 success!



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### Fostering Curiosity

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

Support your child's curiosity with 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 always have the answer. The best response is always, "Let's find out together."

### Fostering Communication

Build your child's vocabulary, thinking skills and curiosity by using new words and having conversations that include questions to make your child think. Communicating with others gives children a chance to see and understand that there can be more than one point of view about a given subject. Accepting these different ideas helps children learn how to get along with others, encouraging positive relationships with other children and a strong self-image.

Support 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? Why?

### 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 letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child 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?

Join the conversation!

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