



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!

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.



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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 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?