



# LANGUAGE ARTS

# K

## FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU 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](http://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.



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### 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?