



# LANGUAGE ARTS

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!

## 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](http://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.



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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:

- 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?