



LANGUAGE ARTS

1

FOR FAMILIES

FIRST GRADE

What to expect:

Children in first grade will build on the skills learned in kindergarten to grow more confident reading and writing on their own. Many children begin the year with basic reading and writing skills. At first they read simple stories with common words and then move on to more complex stories with longer sentences and more challenging vocabulary. Their writing skills are also developing throughout the year, beginning with simple sentences and moving to more detailed sentences with correct capitalization and punctuation. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 1. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Read words with short and long vowels like *cat*, *rope*, *week*, *boat*.
- Write words with correct letter formation.
- Write sentences using capital letters and punctuation, including detail words (colors, sizes or numbers, for example).
- Learn and use new words.
- Describe or retell a story that has been read aloud or on their own.
- Read grade-level texts aloud accurately and at the same pace as a conversation.
- Begin to use books and technology to answer questions and find information.
- Read more challenging books than in kindergarten.

What to do at home:

- Read a variety of books and ask your child how they can tell if it's a make-believe story or if it provides facts and information about something real.
- Read to your child, ask them to read to you or take turns reading pages.
- Encourage your child to explore magazines, newspaper articles and kid-friendly websites to find new information.
- Encourage your child to keep a notebook and write about their interests in different formats of their choosing (stories, lists, poems or songs, for example).

YOU 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 are you interested in knowing more about?
- What else does that make you think of?
- Where do you think we can learn more about these things?

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:

- Who did you play with today? What did you play?
- What was your hardest rule to follow today? Why was it hard?
- What was your favorite part of the day? Why?
- Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw or showed today?

Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming confident readers need time to read alone and with others. Take time as a family to talk about books, magazines and other types of print with young readers. Use the following questions to help your child better understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- What do you think this book is about?
- What do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- 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 did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

Join the conversation!

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