



SCIENCE

FOR FAMILIES

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Science is particularly important in pre-kindergarten because at this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and are eager to learn. Pre-K students should be encouraged to make observations and describe how they are interacting with their surroundings. Provide positive responses when they say things like “A plastic spoon feels different than a metal spoon,” “I am warmer when I put on a coat” and “A puddle splashes when I jump in it.” This information is a snapshot of learning in science for pre-kindergarten. For a complete set of science academic standards, [click here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Show their curiosity about the natural world (plants, animals, etc.) while playing and using their senses (sight, sound, smell, touch and taste).
- Begin to participate in simple investigations like predicting what might happen next and testing their observations. (For example, students might roll a toy car down a ramp and test what makes the car go faster or slower.)
- Start putting items that are important in their world (toys, pets and foods, for example) into categories based on things they observe about them.
- Talk about major features of the Earth’s surface (streams, hills, etc.) found in the natural world around them.

What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the things your child is interested in and what they are observing about the world. (For example, if your child says, “Look at the puppy!” ask them what color the puppy is or what made them notice it.)
- Describe where to find familiar plants and animals in your neighborhood or area.
- Talk about things your child notices about the different seasons.
- Encourage questions and make time for problem-solving to help your child find answers to questions. (For example, if your child notices ice melting in their cup, you could ask them why they think this is happening and how to make the melted ice solid again.)

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 science 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 are 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 their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- When you look around, what things do you see that are alike and 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 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 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 fruit would you like to eat for lunch? Why?
- Do you think you will need a jacket today? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects helps build your child's overall knowledge and learning. It's also important for your child to make connections between what they are learning at school and in the real world. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to make them, too.

- Connect science with writing and art by asking your child to draw pictures of the things they see in the world around them (for example, leaves change color, some animals have fur and others do not, etc.) and add words to the picture that describe the things they notice and wonder about.
- Connect science with engineering by asking your child what they notice and wonder about (for example, "Does it feel hot when we sit in the sun and not in the shade?"), then discuss what causes the things they notice, how they work or how they could be changed to work better. (For example, if you asked your child what kinds of things could block the sun from making us feel hot, your child could design and build a structure to block the sun.)

Join the conversation!

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