



SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Kindergarten is when children are beginning to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a more structured learning environment. Families play an important role in this growth as they model positive learning behaviors and become involved in school activities. Through activities focused on citizenship, economics, geography and history, kindergartners are beginning to understand the idea of fairness and are learning how to speak up for themselves and others. This information is a snapshot of learning in kindergarten social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Understand why rules and responsibilities are important.
- Identify the United States flag and the Statue of Liberty as symbols of our country.
- Understand the purpose of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Know the difference between a need and a want to begin learning how to use money responsibly.
- Be able to explain how a globe is a model of the Earth.
- Explain how we honor people and events of the past (for example, by establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).
- Identify basic cardinal directions (north, south, east and west).

What to do at home:

- Point out familiar symbols, such as the swoosh for Nike or Rumble for the Oklahoma City Thunder, and talk about how they are alike and different from the way we see the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of the United States.
- Ask your child to talk about the roles and responsibilities of each member of your family.
- Help your child point to Oklahoma on a map of the United States and work together to locate other places on a globe.
- Talk about the cause and effect relationship between work and earning money (for example, you have to do your chores to get your allowance).
- Visit businesses (the bank, grocery store, etc.) and organizations (the library, YMCA, etc.) in the community.

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 social studies 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 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:

- If you could grow anything in the yard, what would it be and why?
- Pretend you're a chef. What would you tell me about your restaurant and what foods you would serve?
- Where would you like to travel and why? How would you get there?

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 on 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:

- What's your superhero name, and what powers do you have?
- If you could learn a new language, what would it be?
- If you were a photographer for a day, what would you take pictures of and why?

Fostering Comprehension

Kindergarten-age children are developing early reading skills and an enjoyment of reading. Explore books, comics and other types of print together, and encourage your child to talk with you about what you are reading. 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 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?

Join the conversation!

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