



SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Children in Pre-K have a natural curiosity about the world around them and are eager to learn. At this developmental level, they are ready to begin learning about the meaning of citizenship, economics, geography and history. Pre-K students enjoy talking about what they are learning in social studies at home, in their community and at school. This information is a snapshot of learning in Pre-K social studies. For a complete set of social studies 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:

- Explain why rules and responsibilities are important.
- Identify the United States flag as a symbol of our country.
- Discuss what it means to be a citizen.
- Describe how the people who work in a school (teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc.) are needed in the school community. This introduces children to the ways community members are impacting their lives.
- Understand and be able to explain that a map is a drawing of a place.
- Describe family customs and traditions, such as serving a favorite dessert on birthdays or going to a relative's house for a holiday meal.
- Identify basic needs all people have in common, such as food, clothing, safe drinking water and housing.

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to identify people at school such as teachers, counselors, principals, bus drivers, etc., and describe what they do. Afterwards, ask your child to draw a picture or role-play one of them doing their job.
- Talk about family traditions and ask your child to draw a picture to represent one that is important to them.
- Cut a round object such as an orange peel that can be flattened out and ask your child to talk about the changes that happen during the process. This sets the stage for learning how places are changed and distorted to create flat maps.
- Describe symbols that stand for companies or teams, like the yellow "M" for McDonald's, to help your child learn to recognize symbols like the U.S. flag.

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 were going to spend the whole day outside, what activities would you do? Why?
- If you drew everything that came into your head, what would you draw now?
- What sounds do you like best and why?

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 is your favorite cartoon and why?
- What one thing do you do now that you usually need an adult to help you with but you would like to try to do all by yourself?
- What was your favorite thing about today?

Fostering Comprehension

Young children should have the opportunity to explore books. As you read together, allow your child to flip through the pages and discuss what they see. 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?

Join the conversation!

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