



# LANGUAGE ARTS

# 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

### What to expect:

Children in fourth grade will read a variety of more challenging texts of different types (books, comics and journals, for example). Fourth-grade students are able to answer questions using information from a book and their own experiences. Their writing will continue to include more details and words. They will read and write using contractions (*can't, aren't, don't*, etc.) and abbreviations (*Dr.* and *Feb.*, etc.), words that sound or are spelled alike (*there* and *their*, for example), and words that follow the same spelling patterns, such as *receive* and *deceive*. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 4. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Identify the main points of longer stories, paying attention to key details such as important people, places, facts and sequence of events.
- Compare various texts to identify the type of writing in each (myths, articles and biographies, for example).
- Develop first drafts, then edit and revise them to create clear and organized writing.
- Determine if the author created a piece to persuade, inform or entertain the reader.
- Identify word parts to determine the meaning of words. (For example, the word *unable* means “not able” because of the prefix *un*.)

### What to do at home:

- Compare facts and opinions while watching or reading news stories. Talk about how to confirm that facts are true.
- Ask questions about what your child is reading. Include questions that may not have a single right answer, such as “Why do you think the character made that decision?”
- Pick a word each day and ask everyone in the family to use it in conversation (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day> is a great resource).
- Make sure your child has opportunities to write in different styles that interest them (poetry and personal narrative, for example).
- Help your child identify a topic that interests them and make a plan for how to find information about it.

**Y**OU 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!



# LANGUAGE ARTS

## FOR FAMILIES

### 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. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What five words do you think describe you best? Why?
- If you had to give everyone in your family new names, what would they be? Why did you choose the names?
- If you could be a character in any book, who would you be? 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 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:

- What is the most exciting adventure you could take? Who would you take on the adventure?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone today?

### Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

#### BEFORE READING

- Flip through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

#### DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

#### AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why or why not?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?

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# HEALTH

# 3-5

FOR FAMILIES

## THIRD GRADE - FIFTH GRADE

### What to expect:

In these grades, children are building on their knowledge about nutrition, physical activity, preventing substance abuse, mental health, dental hygiene, preventing injuries, self-care and healthy relationships.

At this age, students are ready to start practicing health skills. These include how to analyze and access valid information, communicate, resolve conflict, say no, make decisions, set goals and practice self-control and self-management.

Third- through fifth-graders are able to understand how family, culture, peers, media and technology can influence their health habits and behaviors.

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

- Recognize potentially dangerous situations and use good decision-making skills to avoid risky behaviors (riding a bike without a helmet, for example).
- Understand how nutrition labels are a valid source of health information.
- Show that they understand refusal skills (saying no) in situations that could affect their health and safety.
- Define health goals, then set personal health goals and track progress toward meeting them.
- Use conflict resolution skills and calming techniques that help keep interactions with peers positive.

### What to do at home:

- Talk about what cyberbullying (repeated, unwanted use of mean words or behaviors online) means, its importance and possible consequences.
- Help your child practice how to remove themselves from digital drama in a respectful way and discuss how to steer online conversations in a positive direction.
- Help your child take a break from technology and put devices away at bedtime or mealtimes.
- Talk about what to do if your child is being bullied online – step away, block the person and report the behavior to a trusted adult.

**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 health learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



### 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 children, 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:

- Why should you never take medicine without an adult's permission?
- What is the difference between prescription and over-the-counter medicine?

It's okay if you don't always have the answer to your child's questions. 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:

- Have you ever felt peer pressure (when a friend tries to get you to do something you don't want to do)? What can you tell me about that?
- What would you say if someone asks you to do something unsafe or unhealthy?
- Who do you chat with online?
- How do people treat each other in the games and on the sites you're using?

### Fostering Connections

Making connections between different school subjects strengthens a student's overall knowledge. Connections may also be made between school learning and real-world situations. Point out these connections to your child and encourage them to find connections, too.

- Connect writing to health education by keeping a weekly food and exercise journal. Ask your child to reflect on how they could change their habits to be more consistent with national recommendations or guidelines.
- Connect fine arts to health education by acting out scenarios that give your child the opportunity to practice saying no. Pretend to persuade your child to do something unhealthy (drink a sugary beverage, for example), and ask them to notice their feelings, state a boundary (say no) and use a refusal skill (politely decline, explain why it is not a nutritious choice, etc.).



# MATH

# 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

### What to expect:

In fourth grade, math continues to build on the skills developed in third grade. One of the main areas of study in fourth grade is using arithmetic to solve problems. In this grade, students will learn more difficult multiplication and division problems and add and subtract fractions and decimals. This information is a snapshot of learning in mathematics for Grade 4. For a complete set of mathematics 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:

- Know multiplication and related division facts for whole numbers up to 12, such as  $11 \times 12 = 132$  and  $132/11 = 12$ .
- Multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000.
- Add and subtract fractions with like denominators. (For example,  $1/4 + 3/4 = 1$ .)
- Read and write decimals to the hundredths place. (For example, thirty-eight hundredths is the same as 0.38.)
- Create patterns that grow and define the rule. (The pattern 2, 10, 50, 250, for example, follows the rule of multiply by 5.)
- Name, describe and classify shapes. For example, a four-sided shape with every side the same length is a square or rhombus.

### What to do at home:

- Create multiplication games with numbered cubes, playing cards or dominoes.
- Ask your child to multiply a speed limit that ends in zero by 10, 100 or 1,000 when you pass the sign on a roadway.
- Encourage your child to help measure ingredients while cooking or baking, then ask them to double or triple the recipe measurements.
- Ask your child to identify the place value of numbers behind the decimal point. (For example, in 3.2, the 2 is in the tenths place, while in 49.75, the 5 is in the hundredths place with a value of .05.)
- At the grocery store, ask your child to identify the values of each number in the item prices.
- Ask your child to keep a running record of the different shapes and angles in your neighborhood on a tablet, notepad or phone.

**Y**OU 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 math learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# MATH

## FOR FAMILIES

### 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 spark 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 is your favorite food that is cut into pieces? What size pieces should we cut it into? What is the shape of the pieces?
- In the whole world, what is the tallest animal? The shortest? How would you find out?
- How long do you think it takes astronauts to travel to the moon?

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 math communication skills with questions like these:

- Is it okay to have a different way to solve a problem than your friend? Why or why not?
- What adventure would you take if you had \$100,000? What would you be able to do? Who would you take with you, and would that affect what you could do?
- How did you help someone using math today?

### Fostering Comprehension

Comprehension in math can be thought of as making sense of a problem or real-world situation. Children often have difficulty seeing how math connects to the real world or struggle to be sure their answer makes sense. Help your child with math comprehension by asking if their solution actually answers the problem. Asking children, "Does your answer make sense to you?" helps them stop and think deeply about the solution.

#### BEFORE YOU SOLVE

- What do you notice about this math problem?
- What does it make you wonder about?
- What do you need to start working on it?

#### WHILE YOU SOLVE

- What do you think needs to happen next?
- What other information would be helpful to solve this problem?
- What words can I help you understand?

#### AFTER YOU SOLVE

- How did you feel while working on this problem?
- How could we have solved it a different way?
- Where else would we see something similar to this?

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# MUSIC

# 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

### What to expect:

Singing, movement, playing instruments and working with other children are the heart of the fourth-grade music curriculum. Activities should give students opportunities to practice and learn carefully selected, age-appropriate songs that reflect the background and experiences of the entire class.

In fourth grade, students will have a complete understanding of the music scale (*do re mi fa so la ti*) and begin to learn about real note names (*a b c d e f g*). Students may want to learn to play an instrument such as a recorder or ukulele and will have a growing understanding of rhythm (beat) and meter.

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

- Have a greater understanding of rhythms and syncopation (rhythms that are not on the beat).
- Expand meters beyond a marching meter like “Boomer Sooner” and a waltzing meter (“My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music,” for example).
- Identify different distances between the pitches on a music scale (for example, a step between *do* and *re* and a half step between *mi* and *fa*).
- Use real note names (*a b c d e f g*) on the music staff (the five lines and four spaces that Western-European music is traditionally written on).

### What to do at home:

- Ask your child to sing a round (a song where one person sings ahead of or behind the other) together. Popular rounds include “Make New Friends” and “Are You Sleeping?”
- Encourage your child to sing the National Anthem at sports events, sing with you at worship services or sing “Happy Birthday” to others.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Go to short, age-appropriate concerts or musical performances together.
- Clap or move to the beat of a song. Dance together!
- Encourage your child’s musical interest by suggesting they practice an instrument like a ukulele or piano.

**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 music learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# MUSIC

## FOR FAMILIES

### 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.

Support your child's musical curiosity with questions like these:

- When you hear this song, what do you like about it? If you don't like it, why not?
- What voices and instruments do you hear?

If your child seems to have an interest in music, consider researching musical artists, then listening to them or watching their videos together. Consider purchasing a new or used instrument (ukulele, guitar, etc.) and finding free online tutorials to help your child get started.

### 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 musical communication skills with questions like these:

- What do you think this song is about?
- How do you know? Did the words in the song tell you? Or was it the speed of the music or the instruments used?

### 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 music with physical activity. Put on a popular song and dance with your child or dance to YouTube videos together.
- Connect music with writing by changing words to a song or inventing new verses. If there's a song your child really loves, encourage them to write a new verse, following the phrase and rhyming of the original verses.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, talk about the musical history of the time (for example, the grunge era or early hip-hop) or events that were happening in the nation (for example, patriotic country songs from the early 2000s).

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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

# 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

### What to expect:

In fourth grade, children will make progress with all fundamental motor patterns, such as jumping to catch a pop fly ball in kickball. They will work toward mastery when they use locomotor and manipulative skills at the same time (throwing a ball while hopping, for example) and are able to come up with dance and gymnastics sequences.

Fourth-graders are able to use strategies like dodging and faking when playing tag games and in similar activities when on offense (as the chaser) and defense (when being chased).

It is appropriate for physical education teachers to assess students' fitness in fourth grade, and students can set personal goals based on the results. At this age, students are able to follow rules and procedures and use conflict-resolution skills.

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

- Combine locomotor skills (walk, hop, grapevine, etc.) to create and perform a dance on their own, with a partner or in a group.
- Use manipulative skills (throwing, catching, dribbling, etc.) during games with small groups to ensure all students are engaged and have multiple opportunities to practice the skills in a game setting.
- Use fitness assessments to learn what they are doing well and identify areas of opportunity, then come up with ways to make progress.
- Learn about the health benefits of physical activity.

### What to do at home:

- Ask your child to invent a game with items around the house and play it together.
- Go to a sporting event or a performance that includes dance or ballet.
- Look for opportunities for physical activity in your community. (Ride bikes through your neighborhood, walk through a local park, etc.)
- Encourage your child to participate in physical activities for enjoyment and self-expression.
- Dance together!
- Find a video game that includes physical activity and play together as a family.

**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 physical education learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## FOR FAMILIES

### 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 nurture curiosity in children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime and physical activity. It is important to understand the differences between PE and physical activity. In PE, students learn to be physically active; physical activity is when students practice what they learn in PE. Encourage your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What chores around the house could be a workout for the whole family, like yard work or a [car wash workout](#)?
- What outdoor activities in the area could we try out as a family, like kite flying or a walk around the [farmers' market](#)?

It's okay if you don't always have the answer to your child's questions. 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:

- What are three physical activities that you really enjoy? Why?
- What do you need to participate in those activities? Think about equipment and space.
- How can you change those activities so you can do them at home or at school?

### 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 math with physical activity by having the whole family create and play a game together. Establish a scoring system to keep track of points for each player.
- Connect science with physical activity by planting a garden or taking a walk around the zoo.

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# SCIENCE 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

### What to expect:

In fourth grade, students are discovering answers to more difficult questions about the world around them. These include: “What are waves, and what do they do?”, “How can water, ice, wind and plants change the land?”, “What features of Earth can you see with maps?”, “How do internal and external parts support plants and animals?”, “What is energy, and how is it related to motion?”, “How is energy transferred?” and “How can energy be used to solve a problem?” This information is a snapshot of learning in science for Grade 4. For a complete set of science academic standards, [click here](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) 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:

- Understand how fast rocks break down and how they move from place to place.
- Use data from maps to describe patterns in Earth’s features.
- Use a model to describe patterns of seismic, water and sound waves and how they can cause objects to move.
- Begin to understand how parts of plants and animals support their survival, growth, behavior and reproduction. (For example, our heart pumps blood to our bodies.)
- Develop a model to describe how an object can be seen when light reflected from its surface enters the eye.
- Be able to explain the relationship between the speed of an object and the energy of that object. (For example, the faster a ball moves, the more energy it has.)
- Understand how energy can be transferred from place to place by sound, light, heat and electric currents or from object to object when they collide.

### What to do at home:

- Talk about why it might be harder to see at night or in a dark room compared to in daylight or a brightly lit room.
- Look at different plants growing outside. Discuss parts of the plants (stems, roots, flowers, etc.) that help them grow or survive.
- When you’re driving, ask your child why the windows on the side of the car facing the sun are warmer than the other car windows.
- Toss a ball outside and talk about how to make it go shorter and farther distances.

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# SCIENCE

## FOR FAMILIES

### 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:

- What kind of material would we use to build a house that could withstand an earthquake?
- What would happen if we dropped a rubber duck or other floating object into a bowl of water? Why?
- What would happen to the land if it rained nonstop for a year?

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 is the most exciting adventure you could take? Why?
- Who would you take on the adventure? Why?
- 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, adult butterflies look different from young caterpillars, some objects are difficult to see in the dark, etc.), then add short descriptive sentences to the picture that describe the object, situation or scenario they drew and how what they know about science might be connected to it.
- Connect science with engineering by asking your child what they notice and wonder about (for example, "Do you notice that magnets interact with objects differently?"), then discuss what causes the things they notice, how they work or how they could be modified to work better. (For example, after asking your child how magnets can be used to sort recyclable items, your child could research examples of how a magnetized recycling program has been engineered to work.)

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# SOCIAL STUDIES

# 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

**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 social studies learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

### What to expect:

At this age, children are understanding more, taking on more responsibility for organizing their schoolwork and asking questions to guide their learning. In fourth grade, students will learn about the physical, cultural, political, economic and historic development of the United States, including early European contact with American Indians. This information is a snapshot of learning in fourth-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies 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:

- Be able to identify and locate major U.S. landforms, bodies of water and unique natural features on a map.
- Be able to identify and locate states and major U.S. cities on a map.
- Describe natural resources in the United States and how they impact the economy of each region in industries like fishing, farming, ranching, manufacturing and oil and gas.
- Explain how Americans interact with their environment in a variety of areas, including housing, industry, transportation, bridges, dams, tunnels, canals, etc.
- Describe the races and ethnicities of the people of the United States.
- Explain the reasons for key European expeditions to what is now the United States and their impact on the development and culture of each region.
- Know the major American Indian tribal nations and their ways of life.
- Know and discuss instances of cooperation and conflict between American Indian groups and European settlers.

### What to do at home:

- Explore natural resources such as rivers, lakes, plants, etc., in your community.
- Notice cultural influences in your community, such as how names of streets might reflect people or events important to local culture.
- Play games or put together puzzles that identify states, U.S. cities and transportation routes.
- Create opportunities for your child to experience conflict and cooperation. (For example, explain that you will give them extra time with friends if they help clean up after meals.)
- Ask your child to point out on a map the city where a favorite professional sports team is located.
- Work together to draw a map of your house, school or community.
- Read books about places, resources, monuments and landmarks in the United States.
- Discuss ways your community is similar to and different from others in the United States.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other local celebrations.



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# SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

## Fostering Curiosity

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Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- What natural resources are present in your community? How do they affect your area?
- If you opened a store, what would you sell and why?
- If you could make up a new holiday, what would it be?

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 the best part about getting older? Why?
- If you could create a new class at school, what would it be and why?
- If you could create a new color, how would it look and what would you call it?

## Fostering Comprehension

Reading is a building block for success in all school subjects and a critical skill that develops with time and practice. Encourage your child to read for pleasure, and be a good role model by letting your child see you reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

### BEFORE READING

- Flip through the book and chapter titles. What do you think the book will be about?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What type of book did you choose (fiction, biography, graphic novel, etc.)? Why?

### DURING READING

- What do you think will happen in the next chapter?
- Who is the main character? Who are the supporting characters?
- What words can I help you understand?

### AFTER READING

- Could this story take place in today's world? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author wants the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you were one of the characters in the book, how would you have ended the story? Why?

Join the conversation!

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# VISUAL ART 4

FOR FAMILIES

## FOURTH GRADE

### What to expect:

In fourth grade, your child is better able to understand and think about the art they and others are creating. They will use art vocabulary such as the elements of art (line, shape, etc.) and principles of design (balance, contrast, etc.) to compare and determine the quality of a given work of art. Their abilities are growing in drawing, painting, sculpture, graphics and other forms of creative expression. They will work with many kinds of materials (crayon, paint, soft pencils, etc.) to make art.

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

- Brainstorm and work with classmates to create artworks that are meaningful to everyone who made them.
- Learn about new techniques that could be used to make art (for example, mixing materials such as sand or foam into acrylic paint to create textures on canvas).
- Understand and practice how to make art safely.
- Make changes to their artwork after hearing the opinions of classmates. (For example, a student who is painting the ocean might learn from a student who has visited the ocean that the blue near the horizon is darker than the blue near the shoreline. This might cause the student to rethink their color choice and mix a darker shade of blue.)
- Use what they know about art resources, tools and technologies to learn more about an idea through the process of making art (for example, by exploring texture through leaf rubbings).
- Tell how works of art from different times, places and cultures are alike and different.
- Experiment with new ways to make art (swirling oil paint into water and placing a paper on the surface of the water to see what happens, for example).

### What to do at home:

- Display your child's artwork at home and take pictures of it to share with family.
- Look for art in the world around your child, such as murals, statues, billboards, etc.
- Make art together at home. Ask your child to design cards for special occasions like birthdays and holidays, then share them with friends and family.
- Ask questions about the furniture in your home or another place familiar to your child, such as "Why do you think it was made this way?" and "What would you change?"

**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 visual art learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!



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# VISUAL ART

## FOR FAMILIES

### Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and are 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 artistic curiosity with questions like these:

- When you look at this picture, what do you like about it? What do you not like about it?
- How would you make a picture like this?

If your child seems to be interested in drawing and creating, encourage them by providing supplies (paper, crayons, pencils, etc.) and draw with them. You can also use cardboard from shipping or cereal boxes to create sculptures and other things kids are interested in, like spaceships, animals, robots, etc. Find videos of how to make art online (such as Lunch Doodles with Mo Willems or Bob Ross videos) to watch 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 art communication skills with questions like these:

- What kinds of things do you notice the artist used in this picture? Do you see particular shapes, lines, colors or other things that went into making it?
- Which element is the most obvious? Why do you think the artist chose to highlight that element, and what could that mean?

### 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 art with reading and writing. Ask your child to create three drawings and then think of a story that links them together. Add to the story with more drawings, then write the story on the drawing pages. Create a finished book by stapling or fastening the pages together and adding a cover.
- Connect art with history. Look at old family photos and talk about why they look the way they do. Search online for old photos of presidents or other famous Americans to examine the history of the nation through the history of photography.

Join the conversation!

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