



LANGUAGE ARTS

K

FOR FAMILIES

KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Kindergarten is when children begin to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a more structured learning environment. Kindergartners are building their verbal communication skills and beginning to understand written language in digital and print formats. Age-appropriate technology can support literacy skills while children explore print in magazines, books, signs, menus and on products. This information is a snapshot of learning in kindergarten English language arts (ELA). For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Name and write all letters.
- Identify the sounds of letters.
- Identify the separate sounds in a simple three-letter word such as *cat, sit, hen, lot*.
- Read common words found in books such as *the, I, a, see, are*.
- Ask and answer questions about a story or topic that has been read aloud.
- Participate in a discussion by taking turns listening and speaking.
- Begin writing by sounding out words.
- Learn and use new words.
- Become interested in books and writing.

What to do at home:

- Write letters on cards and ask your child to help you put them in alphabetical order.
- Give your child a word and ask them to respond with a word that rhymes, such as *cat* or *rat*.
- Read rhyming books.
- Read simple, predictable stories with your child and ask them to notice common words like *me, I, is, it, like*.
- Point out and find the meaning of unfamiliar words you and your child find in books and other places. Use these words correctly in conversation and ask your child to do the same.
- Encourage your child to spend time looking through books and exploring with writing materials like pencils, pens, markers, etc.

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 do you wonder about?
- What do you notice when you look outside?
- What book do you want to read today? 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 your favorite food? Why?
- Tell me about a time when you did the right thing today.
- What do community helpers like principals, firefighters and nurses do for people?
- How did you help someone today?

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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