SCIENCE K

FOR FAMILIES

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!

KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Kindergarten is when children are beginning to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a structured learning environment. Families play an important role in that growth as they model positive learning behaviors and become involved in school activities. Science can encourage this natural curiosity and help it grow. Ask your child questions like "What happens if you push or pull an object harder?", "Where do animals live, and why do they live there?" and "What is the weather like today, and how is it different than yesterday?" This information is a snapshot of learning in science for 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:

- Identify patterns and changes in local weather and describe how weather forecasts help us to prepare for and respond to severe weather.
- Understand how different strengths or directions of pushes and pulls change the motion of an object. (For example, students might observe what happens when a soccer ball is kicked in one direction, and then is kicked harder in the opposite direction by another player.)
- Explain what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive and describe the relationship between their needs and where they live.

What to do at home:

- Draw what the weather looks and feels like several days in a row.
- Kick a soccer ball and talk about how a harder kick makes the ball go farther.
- Walk around your neighborhood or a local park and name the animals and plants you see, then talk about why the neighborhood or park is a good place for them to live.

OKLAHOMA Education

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 do you wonder about?
- What patterns do you see when you look outside? (For example, trees are moving away from the direction of the wind.)
- 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 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 and why?
- What rule have you followed today?
- What do community helpers do for people?
- 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.)