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 computer science education at home. When schools and families work together as partners, your child experiences greater academic success!

THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

Third grade is when children begin to develop more sophisticated technology skills and understanding. Children learn to select appropriate tools for specific tasks, understand information flow, and solve problems through programming. Families play a vital role in exploring technology and developing good digital citizenship at home. Computer science helps children think analytically and creatively. Ask questions like, "How does information travel between devices?" to spark meaningful discussions.

Learning Goals:

- Choose the right technology tools for different tasks.
- Learn how information moves through wires or wirelessly, and understand the importance of using devices responsibly and safely.
- Understand that different kinds of information are stored in different ways, organize data using charts or graphs, and make predictions with that data.
- Create programs using steps, loops, and choices, and break big problems into smaller steps.
- Explore how technology changed daily life and practice good online behavior.

What to do at home:

- Talk about which devices are best for different tasks and how parts of a computer work together.
- Discuss how devices connect (like Wi-Fi or cables) and set family rules for using technology responsibly.
- Organize digital photos or files, and create simple charts (like favorite foods) to spot patterns or make guesses.
- Write step-by-step instructions for chores or games using "if-then" ideas, and practice fixing any mistakes.
- Share how technology has changed since you were a kid and talk about safe online behavior.

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Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Computer science builds on this curiosity by encouraging problem-solving and creativity. Let your child explore how technology works and ask questions about the devices they see in daily life.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like:

- How do you think information travels from one device to another?
- What would happen if we changed part of these instructions? How would the outcome change?
- How might AI tools help people with different abilities use technology more easily?

Your child will have plenty of questions. It is okay if you do not 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:

- Can you explain how information flows through the hardware and software to accomplish this task?
- What variables could we change in this set of instructions to get a different result?
- How could we modify this program to make it work better?

Fostering Comprehension

Making connections between computer science and the real world helps children see its importance. Encourage your child to relate their learning to everyday experiences.

- Connect computer science with math by using data to make predictions about family activities (like how many books you'll read this month based on past reading habits).
- Connect computer science with digital citizenship by talking about why it's important to give credit when using things like online pictures, videos, or music, and to respect others' work.
- Explore emerging technologies together by discussing how AI and smart devices can help solve everyday problems (e.g., voice assistants or robot vacuums).

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