



LANGUAGE ARTS

5

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Children in fifth grade will read a variety of more challenging texts of different types (books, newspapers and poems, for example). They will read for different purposes, such as to find information or for fun. Fifth-graders are focusing on elements of writing including style, structure and the author's purpose for writing. They can explore words with multiple meanings and make educated guesses about what words mean based on how and where they are used. This information is a snapshot of learning in English language arts (ELA) for Grade 5. For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](https://www.sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://www.sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Be able to tell the difference between fact and opinion, providing reasons to support specific points.
- Create stories with well-thought-out characters, descriptive settings and clear and interesting plots.
- Use word parts to determine the meaning of words. (For example, the word *unable* means “not able” because of the prefix *un*.)
- Use sentences of different lengths with correct structure when working on a longer piece of writing.
- Provide facts, examples and details from a piece of writing to support ideas and draw conclusions.
- Edit and revise first drafts to create clear and organized writing.

What to do at home:

- Encourage your child to read several pieces of information on a topic and discuss the differences between them.
- Work together to write a paragraph on a topic your child is interested in, including key details, facts and information.
- Pick a word each day and ask everyone in the family to use it in conversation (<https://www.nytimes.com/column/learning-word-of-the-day> is a great resource).
- Ask your child to find and discuss interesting words in the books they are reading. Consider words with several meanings (*bark*, for example) or more descriptive words, such as *saunter* instead of *walk*.

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!



OKLAHOMA
Education



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:

- If you were in a play, what would your character be like?
- If you could end your favorite movie a different way, how would you change it? Why?
- How would you explain eating spaghetti to someone who has never done it before?

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 do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow? Why?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week? 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

- Is this the type of book you usually choose? Why or why not?
- By looking at the cover, what do you think the author's reason for writing the book might be?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Will you read a short section to me with feeling in your voice?
- What do you do when you don't understand what you just read?
- How can you find out the meaning of words you don't understand?

AFTER READING

- Give a summary of the book in 10 words.
- What problem did the main character face? What was the solution?
- What message is the author sharing with the reader? Why do you think that?

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HEALTH-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.

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 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

5

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fifth grade, students will practice more complex math with fractions, decimals and larger numbers using the four basic operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Fifth-grade math also emphasizes real-world situations to help students strengthen their skills and solve problems that occur in their daily lives. This information is a snapshot of learning in mathematics for Grade 5. For a complete set of mathematics academic standards, [click here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Divide multi-digit numbers with remainders. (For example, 432 divided by 11 can be expressed as $39 \frac{3}{11}$.)
- Add and subtract decimals and fractions with like and unlike denominators. (For example, $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{4}$ can be calculated as $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{2}{8} = \frac{3}{8}$.)
- Describe and find the volume of three-dimensional shapes. (For example, a cube with dimensions of 4 inches wide by 3 inches deep and 4 inches tall would have a volume of 48 inches because $4 \times 3 \times 4 = 48$.)
- Construct and analyze double-bar and line graphs and use ordered pairs like x,y where x represents horizontal distance and y represents vertical distance on coordinate grids.
- Find the mean (average), median (midpoint or middle number), mode (number that occurs the most) and range (difference between the highest and lowest number) from a set of numbers.

What to do at home:

- Cook with children using recipes that include fractions, then ask them to double or triple the recipe ingredients.
- Pour the same liquid into containers of different sizes and discuss what your child observes and how to measure the volumes.
- Ask your child to keep track of how many times people do something (leave a room or make baskets in a basketball hoop, for example), then ask them to create a graph of that data and explain it to you.
- Give your child five numbers – for example, 26, 30, 32, 32, 35. Ask your child to use the data to find the mean, or average (31); median, or middle number (32); mode, or number that occurs the most (32); and range, the difference between the highest and lowest number ($35 - 26 = 9$).

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MATH

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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 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 would happen if houses were shaped like pyramids? How big would they have to be for our family to live comfortably?
- Who do you think knows the largest number in the world, and how did they figure it out?
- If we didn't have coins or bills to use for money, what would we do?

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:

- Where did you see examples of math today? Do you think everyone agrees what you saw is math?
- What went well in math today? What didn't go as well? What can you do to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of math class this week and why?
- 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 be able to start on the problem?

WHILE YOU SOLVE

- Is there other information that would make this problem easier?
- What do you do when your strategy doesn't work?
- What resources can you use to understand math you aren't familiar with?

AFTER YOU SOLVE

- Does your answer make sense?
- Where else would we see something similar to this?
- What problems did you have with this?
- What was the solution to your challenges?

Join the conversation!

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MUSIC 5

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students' musical understanding is growing in fifth grade. They can now use the skills and concepts they have learned in previous grades with more complex songs and music. They will begin singing in parts (where one group of students is singing a melodic line and the other group is singing a harmonic line). Fifth grade is also the year when students may learn to play an instrument in the school band or orchestra.

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

- Understand most rhythmic combinations.
- Understand the eight pitches of the Western-European music scale with syllables (*do re mi fa so la ti*) and real note names (*a b c d e f g*).
- Understand major and minor modes (music that sounds happy and music that sounds sad or spooky).
- Sing in two parts (where one group of students is singing a melodic line and the other group is singing a harmonic line).
- Learn about various meters beyond a marching meter like “Boomer Sooner” and a waltzing meter (“My Favorite Things” from “The Sound of Music,” for example).
- Explore intervals (*do* to *mi* is a third because they are three steps apart, *do* to *so* is a fifth, etc.) and chords such as an I chord (a chord made up of three pitches, based on the first pitch of the scale *do mi so*).

What to do at home:

- Share your favorite music with your child by singing karaoke together.
- Encourage your child to sing the National Anthem at sports events and sing “Happy Birthday” to others.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Go to age-appropriate musical performances (concerts, symphonies, etc.) 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.
- Use a cell phone, iPad, laptop or other electronic device to experiment with music creation apps.

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 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 find free online tutorials to help your child get started. Music composition apps and computer programs like GarageBand, Chrome Music Lab or BeepBox allow children to experiment with creating their own music compositions.

Fostering Communication

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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.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, share 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).

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

5

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 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!

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fifth grade, children will use the concepts and principles they have learned about movement to improve their performance, fitness and game strategy.

They now have strong ability to combine locomotor and manipulative skills in small group games and dances and are able to use the FITT (frequency, intensity, time and type) principle to come up with a personal fitness plan. Students are continuing to develop responsibility as they participate in physical education activities in safe and respectful ways.

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

- Throw and catch using correct patterns while moving in small-group activities such as 3 vs. 3 ultimate frisbee.
- Use basic offensive and defensive strategies in small-group games such as 3 vs. 3 soccer or when practicing tasks.
- Combine more than one locomotor skill (walk and side-slide, for example) to create and perform a dance on their own, with a partner or in a group.
- Know the components of health-related fitness (muscular strength, muscular endurance and cardiovascular endurance) and describe activities related to each component.

What to do at home:

- Do stretches, push-ups or curl-ups or go for a jog together.
- Go to a sporting event or a performance that includes dance or ballet.
- Look for opportunities for physical activity in your community.
- Encourage your child to participate in physical activities for enjoyment and self-expression.
- Dance together!
- Wear pedometers or step counters and challenge everyone in your family to get 10,000 steps a day.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOR FAMILIES

Fostering Curiosity

Children are naturally curious and motivated to learn about things that interest them. Since curiosity helps student 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

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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

5

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fifth grade, students are able to answer more advanced scientific questions. These include: “When matter changes, does its weight change?”, “How much water can be found in different places on Earth?”, “Can new substances be created by combining other substances?”, “How does matter work its way through ecosystems?”, “Where does the energy in food come from, and what is it used for?”, “How do shadows or the amount of daylight and darkness change from day to day?” and “How does the appearance of some stars change in different seasons?” This information is a snapshot of learning in science for Grade 5. For a complete set of science 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:

- Understand that the weight of matter remains the same when it changes form.
- Determine if mixing of two or more substances results in new substances.
- Understand how the geosphere (Earth’s surface), biosphere (living organisms), hydrosphere (water) and atmosphere interact with one another and be able to create a model showing these interactions.
- Create graphs to describe the amounts and locations of water on Earth.
- Understand that matter is made of particles too small to be seen and create a model showing this principle.
- Understand how plants get most of the materials they need to grow from air and water.
- Understand that animals’ food was once energy from the sun and create a model showing this principle.
- Recognize daily patterns of change in the length and direction of shadows, the amount of daylight and darkness, and the seasonal appearance of some stars in the night sky.

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to cook with you and discuss how, when you mix two or more substances or ingredients together, they sometimes form something new.
- Go outside on clear nights and look at the stars. Ask your child to describe patterns they see and explain how the sky looks different in summer and winter.
- Talk about how the construction of a new house or building might change the ecosystem.
- Research your town’s local recycling program or facility.

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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 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:

- Do you think animals communicate? If so, how?
- What are the best things about nature?
- Does the night sky look the same every night of the year? Why or why not?

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 do you think we should have for breakfast tomorrow? Why?
- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What was your favorite part of the week and why?
- How did you help someone in need 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, shadows change sizes throughout the day, the temperature usually gets cooler after a thunderstorm, 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 drinks stay colder longer in certain kinds of cups?"), 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 about materials that keep drinks warm or cold, your child could try to design or make a container that keeps drinks cold for a long time.)

Join the conversation!

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SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are becoming more independent learners who can come up with questions to guide their learning. They are able to understand different points of view on a given topic and how issues are connected. Fifth-graders will learn about the history of the United States, beginning with the settlement of Virginia at Jamestown in 1607 through the ratification of the Constitution of the United States in 1788. This information is a snapshot of learning in fifth-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies academic standards, click [here](#) or visit sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards.

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

- Understand why the English made the decision to explore and settle in Jamestown, Virginia; Plymouth, Massachusetts and the other colonies.
- Compare the three colonial regions and how members of different social classes experienced daily life in each.
- Learn how and why significant events led to armed conflict between the colonies and Great Britain.
- Explain why the ideals of equality, inalienable rights and consent of the governed were established in the Declaration of Independence.
- Analyze the significant military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War and how key individuals and groups made contributions to them (for example, Benjamin Franklin convinced the French to support American independence).
- Examine the issues and events that led to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787.
- Determine the main purposes of the U.S. government in the Preamble and Constitution and understand the liberties protected in the Bill of Rights.

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to compare exploration of the past with exploration today. What and where do we explore today?
- Ask your child to write a personal declaration of independence from something in their life using Thomas Jefferson's format.
- Listen to songs and watch videos that help explain our system of government.
- Read the Bill of Rights together and look for examples of these protected liberties in current events.



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SOCIAL STUDIES

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 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 could change one rule or law, what would you change and why?
- If you could go back in time and interview someone, who would it be and what would you ask?
- What makes you feel brave?

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Fostering Communication

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Support your child's communication skills with questions like these:

- What goals can you set to make tomorrow better than today?
- What activity or sport do you enjoy and why?
- How did you help someone in need 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

- Is this the type of book you usually choose? Why or why not?
- By looking at the cover, what do you think the author's reason for writing the book might be?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Will you read a short section to me with feeling in your voice?
- What do you do when you don't understand what you just read?
- What resources can you use to understand words you aren't familiar with?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme of the book? What lesson do you think the author wanted the reader to learn?
- How would you rewrite the ending to the story? Why would you change it?

Join the conversation!

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VISUAL ART

5

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 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!

FIFTH GRADE

What to expect:

In fifth grade, your child's ability in drawing, painting, sculpture, graphics and other forms of creative expression is growing, and they have greater confidence and skill with art media such as still life and collage. Students will also take greater satisfaction in creating art and be better able to express themselves, both in their own artwork and when discussing the artwork of others. They are also continuing to develop an understanding of why people create art and its importance throughout human history.

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

- Use more than one of the ideas they have learned about art to come up with a new type of art or way to make art (for example, creating a photomontage with digital images, found objects and traditional art supplies such as paint and fabrics).
- Practice new approaches and techniques that could be used to make art (for example, gathering soil of several colors from different locations and using it to paint).
- Use materials and tools with care to show the importance of high-quality craftsmanship.
- Write artist statements using art vocabulary correctly to explain why they created a given work of art.
- Be able to explain how a museum or gallery exhibition presents an idea about a concept or topic, using information from the exhibition to do so.

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 design of 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?"



OKLAHOMA
Education



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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