



SOCIAL STUDIES

FOR FAMILIES

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Children in Pre-K have a natural curiosity about the world around them and are eager to learn. At this age, they are ready to begin learning about the meaning of citizenship, economics, geography and history. Pre-K students enjoy talking about what they are learning in social studies at home, in their community and at school. This information is a snapshot of learning in Pre-K social studies. For a complete set of social studies 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:

- Explain why rules and responsibilities are important.
- Identify the United States flag as a symbol of our country.
- Discuss what it means to be a citizen.
- Describe how the people who work in a school (teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, etc.) are needed in the school community. This introduces children to the ways community members are impacting their lives.
- Understand and be able to explain that a map is a drawing of a place.
- Describe family customs and traditions, such as serving a favorite dessert on birthdays or going to a relative's house for a holiday meal.
- Identify basic needs all people have in common, such as food, clothing, safe drinking water and housing.

What to do at home:

- Ask your child to identify people at school such as teachers, counselors, principals, bus drivers, etc., and describe what they do. Afterwards, ask your child to draw a picture or role-play one of them doing their job.
- Talk about family traditions and ask your child to draw a picture to represent one that is important to them.
- Cut a round object such as an orange peel that can be flattened out and ask your child to talk about the changes that happen during the process. This sets the stage for learning how places are changed and distorted to create flat maps.
- Describe symbols that stand for companies or teams, like the yellow "M" for McDonald's, to help your child learn to recognize symbols like the U.S. flag.

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 social studies 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 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 were going to spend the whole day outside, what activities would you do? Why?
- If you drew everything that came into your head, what would you draw now?
- What sounds do you like best and 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 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 your favorite cartoon and why?
- What one thing do you do now that you usually need an adult to help you with but you would like to try to do all by yourself?
- What was your favorite thing about today?

Fostering Comprehension

Young children should have the opportunity to explore books. As you read together, allow your child to flip through the pages and discuss what they see. Use the following questions as a guide as you talk about the books you are reading together.

BEFORE READING

- What do you see on the cover?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- Who is in the book?
- What has happened so far?

AFTER READING

- Did you like reading this book? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

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KINDERGARTEN

What to expect:

Kindergarten is when children are beginning to grow academically, socially and emotionally in a more structured learning environment. Families play an important role in this growth as they model positive learning behaviors and become involved in school activities. Through activities focused on citizenship, economics, geography and history, kindergartners are beginning to understand the idea of fairness and are learning how to speak up for themselves and others. This information is a snapshot of learning in kindergarten 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 rules and responsibilities are important.
- Identify the United States flag and the Statue of Liberty as symbols of our country.
- Understand the purpose of the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Know the difference between a need and a want to begin learning how to use money responsibly.
- Be able to explain how a globe is a model of the Earth.
- Explain how we honor people and events of the past (for example, by establishing a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.).
- Identify basic cardinal directions (north, south, east and west).

What to do at home:

- Point out familiar symbols, such as the swoosh for Nike or Rumble for the Oklahoma City Thunder, and talk about how they are alike and different from the way we see the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of the United States.
- Ask your child to talk about the roles and responsibilities of each member of your family.
- Help your child point to Oklahoma on a map of the United States and work together to locate other places on a globe.
- Talk about the cause and effect relationship between work and earning money (for example, you have to do your chores to get your allowance).
- Visit businesses (the bank, grocery store, etc.) and organizations (the library, YMCA, etc.) in the community.



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Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- If you could grow anything in the yard, what would it be and why?
- Pretend you're a chef. What would you tell me about your restaurant and what foods you would serve?
- Where would you like to travel and why? How would you get there?

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's your superhero name, and what powers do you have?
- If you could learn a new language, what would it be?
- If you were a photographer for a day, what would you take pictures of and why?

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?

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FIRST GRADE

What to expect:

In first grade, children are becoming more independent as their reading skills improve and they are able to focus for longer periods of time. At this stage, they are ready to learn more about citizenship, economics, geography and history. They enjoy everyday tasks like cooking and taking photos, and school activities such as dressing up in career-related uniforms. First-graders ask many "what if?" questions but also need structured learning activities. This information is a snapshot of learning in first-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:

- Know the main reasons why we have a government with rules and laws with consequences for when they are broken.
- Explain the need for money, how we earn money, how money and credit can be used to meet needs and wants, and the costs and benefits of spending and saving.
- Compare the manmade and geographical features of urban and rural communities.
- Use the cardinal directions of east, west, north and south to locate specific places on a map.
- Understand the importance of people and places from history. (For example, Washington, D.C., is the capital city for the United States.)
- Begin to understand how to put events in time order.

What to do at home:

- Read a story with your child and ask them to repeat or act out the highlights using the correct sequence of events.
- Use cardinal directions east, west, north and south in familiar places. (For example: "Turn west after you pass the park" or "Go to the south entrance of the store.")
- Discuss family rules and the consequences for breaking them.
- Start a savings account for your child and ask them to notice when and why the balance goes up and down.
- Help your child locate the seven continents and five oceans on a map or globe.
- Ask your child to describe geographic and manmade features they see in urban and rural areas.



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Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- If you could build a treehouse for you and your friends, how would you design it?
- If you could ask an animal any question, what question would you ask and what animal would you ask?
- Would you rather visit a beach or go to the mountains? Why?

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

- If you wrote a book, what would it be about? Why?
- If you designed clothes, what would they look like?
- What makes you laugh?

Fostering Comprehension

Children who are on their way to becoming confident readers need time to read alone and with others. Take time as a family to talk about books, comics and other types of print with young readers. 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 do you think will happen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far?
- 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 did you learn from the book?
- Does it remind you of any other books you have read?

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SECOND GRADE

What to expect:

In second grade, children are beginning to ask more in-depth questions as their learning continues to grow. By asking questions about the world around them, new and exciting learning experiences take shape as they learn about citizenship, economics, geography and history. At this age, students are interested in how things work and do well with hands-on tasks. Second-graders also enjoy learning through games. Their listening skills are growing, which means they are better able to join in class discussions. This information is a snapshot of learning in second-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies 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:

- Be able to summarize the five key individual rights and liberties protected under the First Amendment.
- Understand the roles of national leaders, including the President of the United States, members of Congress and justices of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Describe the relationship between taxes and the community services they pay for, such as roads and bridges.
- Point out the state of Oklahoma, its major cities and the states bordering it on a map.
- Point out landforms and bodies of water in the world around them and on a map.
- Describe how people make changes in the environment to meet community needs (for example, building a drain to help with flooding).
- Understand and give examples of the concept of supply and demand (for example, when less gasoline is produced, it becomes more expensive).

What to do at home:

- Talk about community services like fire stations and schools paid for by taxes.
- Ask your child to find examples of First Amendment rights in current events.
- Discuss ways people can make changes in the environment (by building a dam, for example).
- Visit bodies of water like ponds, lakes and rivers and landforms like plateaus, valleys and hills.
- Discuss ways people pay for goods and services (for example, with cash, credit or trade).



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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 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 notice or wonder about in your community?
- Where is your favorite place to spend time? Why?
- If you could change any rule, what rule would you change and 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 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 your favorite outfit or shoes and why?
- If you could have any meal for your birthday, what would it be?
- What is your favorite game to play with other people? Why?

Fostering Comprehension

As children continue to strengthen their reading skills, they benefit from reading independently and with adults. Sharing a variety of print materials – books, comics, etc. – helps them explore new words and ideas. 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 do you think will happen?
- What kind of book is this?

DURING READING

- What do you think will happen next?
- Where and when does the story take place?
- What do you notice about the characters?

AFTER READING

- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What happened in the beginning, middle and end?
- What was your favorite part of the book?

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THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age are growing more independent and are learning more complex material. Third-graders are beginning to apply skills from earlier grades to learn about their state. Their social studies focus this year will be on Oklahoma's natural resources, local and state governments, important economic activities and the cultures that have settled in the state. This information is a snapshot of learning in third-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:

- Know the most important elected leaders of Oklahoma.
- Describe the historical importance of Oklahoma's state seal and flag.
- Understand how the development of Oklahoma's major economic activities (including oil and gas, agriculture and livestock, aviation, tourism, tribal enterprises and the military) have contributed to the growth of the state.
- Be able to identify and locate Oklahoma's major landforms, bodies of water and cities on a map.
- Describe the cultures of the American Indian tribes and nations living in present-day Oklahoma.
- Explain how the weather and environment affect the economy of Oklahoma.
- Be able to identify state and local landmarks (the State Capitol building, for example) and contributions of notable Oklahomans including Will Rogers, Wilma Mankiller, Ralph Ellison, etc.
- Understand that tribal governments have the right to self-government called sovereignty.

What to do at home:

- Be sure your child knows the names of your mayor, local state representative, state senator and city officials.
- Visit the State Capitol or local government offices.
- Visit local businesses important to your community such as the bank, hospital, etc.
- Visit local landforms and bodies of water.
- Visit local landmarks, museums, festivals or other community celebrations.
- Read books about Oklahoma or biographies about famous Oklahomans.
- Celebrate Oklahoma's birthday on November 16.

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Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- If you could grow up to be famous, what would you want to be famous for and why?
- If you could give \$100 to a charity, which one would you choose and why?
- If you could make a photo book of Oklahoma, what pictures would you include and 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

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

- What food would be served at your favorite meal?
- How did you show kindness to someone today?
- What is your favorite outdoor activity to do with family or friends?

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

- What made you pick this book?
- How is this book like another one you have read or a movie you have seen?
- What do you think the book will be about?

DURING READING

- What has happened so far in the story?
- What pictures do you see in your mind as you read?
- What words can I help you understand?

AFTER READING

- What was the most important event in the story? Why?
- What lesson do you think the author might want the reader to learn? What makes you think that?
- If you could give this book a different title, what would it be? Why?

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FOURTH GRADE

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.

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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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

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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?

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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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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?

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."

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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?

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SIXTH GRADE

What to expect:

Students at this age understand how to see the world from different points of view and are interested in learning new things. In social studies this year, they will explore how spatial patterns (the organization and placement of people and objects) form, change over time and relate to one another in the Western Hemisphere (North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean). This information is a snapshot of learning in sixth-grade social studies. For a complete set of social studies 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:

- Be able to identify, locate on a map and describe major landforms and bodies of water in the Western Hemisphere.
- Understand the impact of natural disasters on human populations affected by them.
- Describe the major political and economic systems in the Western Hemisphere.
- Know the countries, major urban centers and regions in the Western Hemisphere.
- Analyze reasons for conflict and cooperation among groups, societies, countries and regions of the Western Hemisphere.
- Describe the major cultural regions of the Western Hemisphere and their general locations.
- Understand how world trade operates and how global economies are dependent on one another.
- Describe how geography impacts population location, growth and change.
- Understand what developed countries have in common and what developing countries have in common.
- Explain the impact of the distribution of major renewable and nonrenewable resources.

What to do at home:

- Plan a trip using a paper map, not GPS.
- Explore places in the Western Hemisphere with your child through virtual field trips.
- Ask your child to help you come up with a family plan to recycle and conserve energy and water.
- Ask your child to share examples of cooperation in your community (for example, a neighborhood organizes a day to make repairs, plant flowers and clean up a park).
- Ask your child to help you come up with a family plan if there is a natural disaster.
- Ask your child to find out where the products in your house were made.
- Create a map of the Western Hemisphere with your child.

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



OKLAHOMA
Education



SOCIAL STUDIES

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. Provide opportunities for your child to ask questions, be creative, discover answers and explore their world.

Support your child's curiosity with questions like these:

- Where would you like to travel? How would you get there? What would you need?
- What makes a good leader? Why?
- If you had a magic wand, what would you create that would make the biggest difference in the world?

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:

- How can you make a positive difference for someone today?
- If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class? Why?
- Did you learn something that challenged you today, or was there something you didn't understand? Let's talk about 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 reading things you enjoy. Use the following questions to help your child understand what they are reading.

BEFORE READING

- Have you made a list of books you have already read? Why would it be good to keep a list like that?
- How is this book like another book you have read or a movie you have seen?
- Why did you pick this book?

DURING READING

- As you are reading, what questions do you have for the author?
- How does this book remind you of a book you have already read or something you already know?
- How can you find out the meaning of words you don't understand?

AFTER READING

- How did the setting of the story affect the characters and plot?
- What was the theme or central meaning 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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