



SCIENCE 3

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!

THIRD GRADE

What to expect:

In third grade, children are learning about the natural and physical world around them while beginning to observe, experiment and share what they have learned. Third-graders will discover answers to questions such as, "What is typical weather in different parts of the world during different times of year?", "How are organisms like plants and animals different?", "How are plants, animals and environments of the past similar to or different from the ones of today?", "What happens to organisms when their environment changes?" and "How do pushes or pulls such as gravity or magnetism on an object affect that object?" This information is a snapshot of learning in science for Grade 3. 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:

- Organize and use data such as temperature, precipitation and wind direction to predict what kind of weather will happen in a specific place during a specific season.
- Be able to describe the similarities and differences in the life cycles of plants and animals.
- Understand inherited traits (eye color, stem length, etc.) and how living things can adapt to their environment.
- Explain how differences in characteristics among members of the same species may provide advantages in finding mates, reproducing and survival. (For example, plants with thorns may be less likely to be eaten by predators.)
- Plan and conduct investigations on the effects of forces on moving objects.
- Develop an understanding of how changes in the environment make an impact on organisms. (For example, an animal without sufficient water will be forced to move to new territory in order to survive.)
- Determine the cause and effect relationships of magnetic interactions. (For example, students will examine how the distance between objects affects the strength of the force.)

What to do at home:

- Talk about what causes a swing or seesaw to move or come to a complete stop.
- Discuss the weather forecast each day, including temperature, wind and precipitation.
- Take a nature walk and notice living things and how they are able to survive in their environment.
- Visit a zoo or farm and identify how the animals and their offspring are alike and different.
- Look for things a magnet will attract or stick to.



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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:

- When I kick a ball, is it possible to keep it moving without stopping? Why or why not?
- What differences do you notice between the seasons in temperature, clouds, rainfall, temperature, etc.?
- What animals could live outside close to where we live? What animals couldn't? 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 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? Why?

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, adult butterflies look different from young caterpillars, some objects are difficult to see in the dark, 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 magnets interact with objects differently?"), 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 how magnets can be used to sort recyclable items, your child could research examples of how a magnetized recycling program has been engineered to work.)

Join the conversation!

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