



# LANGUAGE ARTS

FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU 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!

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### What to expect:

Learning is important in pre-kindergarten. At this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and are eager to learn. Language development leads to reading development, so it is important for children to see and discuss print in the world around them, in illustrated and written stories and in open-ended discussions. These opportunities allow them to explore language, which is critical in developing reading skills. This information is a snapshot of learning in Pre-K English language arts (ELA). For a complete set of ELA academic standards, [click here](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](https://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Identify their first name.
- Understand the right way to hold a book.
- Understand that print has meaning.
- Recognize familiar signs, symbols and print in their surroundings and community. For example, the red sign with white letters means STOP.
- Name a majority of letters.
- Connect some letters to sounds – T makes the sound /t/ and B is /b/, for example.
- Begin to recognize rhyme.
- Ask and answer questions that show interest in reading and writing.

### What to do at home:

- Make time for conversations that allow your child to have a voice and explore new information.
- Explore different kinds of printed material, such as labels, comics, books, etc.
- Read real-life and make-believe stories to your child.
- Identify common themes in print in the world around your child and discuss what they mean. For example, your child could explain that the golden "M" represents McDonald's.
- Provide opportunities for your child to attempt writing and reading. Start with the letters in your child's first name.



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# 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. Play is a wonderful way to develop 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:

- When you look around, do you see things that are alike or different? What are they, and how are they alike and different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to 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:

- What fruit would you like to eat for lunch?
- Do you think you will need a jacket today? Why or why not?
- What was the best part of the day? Why?
- How did you help someone 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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# MATH PK

FOR FAMILIES

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### What to expect:

Learning is particularly important in pre-kindergarten because at this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and a willingness to learn and be taught. Take advantage of this natural curiosity by encouraging them to make guesses, use their reasoning skills, take risks and solve problems. Children in Pre-K are developmentally ready to learn mathematical concepts like quantity, patterns, measurement and data. Play is a developmentally appropriate method for young learners to explore the world and make sense of their environment. This information is a snapshot of learning in mathematics for pre-kindergarten. For a complete set of mathematics academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Know number names and be able to count to 20.
- Count the number of objects in a group up to 10.
- Recognize and be able to repeat patterns such as red, yellow; red, yellow; red, yellow.
- Identify common shapes such as triangles and circles.
- Compare two objects. (For example, a circle and an oval both have curved lines, but the oval is flatter than a circle.)
- Describe, sort and compare real-world objects.

### What to do at home:

- Count common household objects (toys, coins, lamps, apple slices, etc.).
- Create simple patterns with sounds, movements and everyday objects, such as stomp, clap; stomp, clap; stomp, clap.
- Identify circles, squares, rectangles and triangles from everyday life. (For example, the sun is round, a flag is a rectangle, etc.)
- Identify objects as same or different and as more or less. (Use familiar things such as seasonal clothing items, things seen on a walk, etc., to classify the items.)
- Give your child opportunities to develop and apply all of the skills listed above with activities such as helping to put away the groceries or folding laundry.

**Y**OU 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 math learning at home. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic excellence!



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# MATH

## 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 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 about this object or group of objects? What do you wonder about them?
- What else would you like to learn about them?
- When you look around, what do you see that is alike? What do you see that is different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to 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:

- How many types of fruit would you like to eat for lunch? Which ones will you choose and why?
- How many buttons do we need to close on your jacket today? Why?
- What was the best part of the day and why?
- How did you help someone 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 DISCUSSION

- What do you notice about this math problem?
- What do you wonder about it?
- What do you think will happen next?

#### DURING DISCUSSION

- How can you understand more about this through playing or a game?
- What can you count and compare?
- Can you find patterns around us?

#### AFTER DISCUSSION

- What other places might we find these things?
- What other items could you count?
- Could this be figured out a different way? How?

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# MUSIC P K

FOR FAMILIES

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### What to expect:

Children in Pre-K should have fun with their singing voices and are learning how to tell the difference between how their voices are used for singing, talking, whispering and calling. Encourage your child to sing along with you, but don't force it. Give them opportunities to hear you sing and listen to different kinds of age-appropriate music (pop, classical, rock, hip-hop, country, etc.) to get them comfortable with singing. Find repetitive songs ("Old MacDonald," "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," etc.) and rhymes to sing or say aloud together.

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

- Learn to use their singing, talking, whispering and calling voices.
- Begin to understand musical comparisons, such as loud/soft, fast/slow, high/low.
- Practice a steady beat by clapping, patting or stepping to the beat.
- Understand how to work with others musically (moving and singing in groups with partners, for example).

### What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the songs your child is learning at school and ask them to teach them to you.
- Listen to music together in the car and at home.
- Ask your child questions about music, such as "Do you think this song is fast or slow?" and "Do you like this song?"
- Clap, pat or move to the beat of a song. Dance together!
- Sing lullabies to a baby, toy, doll or pet.

**Y**ou 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. 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 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.

### 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 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. An easy song to start with is "Down by the Bay." Change the animals and rhyming words as you sing the song.
- Share music from your childhood or teen years. Ask your child what they think of the music. Depending on the song, talk about 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).

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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

FOR FAMILIES

**Y**OU 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!

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### What to expect:

In physical education (also known as PE), children will explore how to safely balance and move their bodies by participating in fun, child-centered activities. They will have movement opportunities that include singing, dancing, playing and other creative activities.

They will learn locomotor skills (how to hop, jump, gallop, jog, side-slide and skip, for example), directions and levels, tempos and patterns of movement and basic skills like how to throw, catch, kick, dribble and strike. The focus will be on having fun while moving their bodies, not competition.

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

- Be able to use locomotor skills (hop, gallop, jog, step-slide, and skip) while maintaining their balance.
- Throw a ball or other object underhand and overhand without stepping with the opposite foot.
- Kick a ball from a stationary position.

### What to do at home:

- Help your child learn to cross the midline, which is an important part of child development. If you draw a line down the middle of your body, starting at the head, this is your midline. Crossing that line with either side of your body, such as when doing toe touches, is crossing the midline.
- Try toe touches. Ask your child to reach out to the side with both arms straight, like a letter "T." Ask your child to touch their right hand to their left toe, come up to a standing T, then touch their left hand to their right toe. Repeat 10 times.



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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## 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 nurture curiosity in children, so be sure to allow plenty of playtime and physical activity. It is important to understand the differences between physical education 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 are different ways you can move your body?
- What activities close to home could we try as a family, like biking, hiking and canoeing?

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:

- What did you learn about in PE class today?
- What is your favorite activity in PE class? Why?
- What makes physical activity enjoyable for you?

### 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 to physical activity using a nature scavenger hunt. Walk, jog, skip or gallop as you search for items on your list.
- Connect spoken language to the nature scavenger hunt by asking your child to use descriptive words to tell you about the objects they found. For example, your child could look at a leaf and say, "The leaf is pointy, brown and crunchy." Encourage your child to speak in complete sentences because it will help them learn to write in complete sentences.
- Ask your child to find a book or information about one item they found on the scavenger hunt.

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# SCIENCE

FOR FAMILIES

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### What to expect:

Science is particularly important in pre-kindergarten because at this age, children have a natural curiosity about the world around them and are eager to learn. Pre-K students should be encouraged to make observations and describe how they are interacting with their surroundings. Provide positive responses when they say things like “A plastic spoon feels different than a metal spoon,” “I am warmer when I put on a coat” and “A puddle splashes when I jump in it.” This information is a snapshot of learning in science for pre-kindergarten. For a complete set of science academic standards, [click here](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards).

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

- Show their curiosity about the natural world (plants, animals, etc.) while playing and using their senses (sight, sound, smell, touch and taste).
- Begin to participate in simple investigations like predicting what might happen next and testing their observations. (For example, students might roll a toy car down a ramp and test what makes the car go faster or slower.)
- Start putting items that are important in their world (toys, pets and foods, for example) into categories based on things they observe about them.
- Talk about major features of the Earth’s surface (streams, hills, etc.) found in the natural world around them.

### What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the things your child is interested in and what they are observing about the world. (For example, if your child says, “Look at the puppy!” ask them what color the puppy is or what made them notice it.)
- Describe where to find familiar plants and animals in your neighborhood or area.
- Talk about things your child notices about the different seasons.
- Encourage questions and make time for problem-solving to help your child find answers to questions. (For example, if your child notices ice melting in their cup, you could ask them why they think this is happening and how to make the melted ice solid again.)

**Y**OU 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!



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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 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 you look around, what things do you see that are alike and different?
- What do you see when you look outside?
- What do you like to 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 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 fruit would you like to eat for lunch? Why?
- Do you think you will need a jacket today? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the day and why?
- 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.)

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# 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](#) or visit [sde.ok.gov/oklahoma-academic-standards](http://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!



# 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 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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# VISUAL ART

FOR FAMILIES

## PRE-KINDERGARTEN

### What to expect:

Children in pre-kindergarten are noticing the shape, size and color of objects in the world around them and seeing strangeness, differences and beauty. In addition, they are learning through touch, feeling, hearing and motion.

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

- Engage in self-directed creative play with art materials like Play-Doh and pipe cleaners.
- Use a variety of art-making tools (crayons, pencils, etc.) and share materials with others.
- Create and talk about the artwork they have made.
- Know where art is displayed or saved (in a museum collection, local art fair, walls of school hallways, etc.).
- Recognize art and tell the difference between images (representations of real objects) and the objects themselves (for example, a photo of a dog, a painting of a dog and the dog itself).

### What to do at home:

- Ask questions about the art they made at school, such as “Why did you choose this color?” and “What does this mean?”
- Look for art in the world around your child, such as murals, statues, billboards, etc.
- Make art together at home. Be creative and use fabric, paper, beads, food, etc., to create art.
- Ask questions about consumer art (logos, food packaging, etc.) such as “Why do you think they chose that color? How would you feel if it was a different color?”

**Y**ou 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!



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# 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.

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