



*Davenport Community  
Schools  
Family and Community  
Learning Guide*

# Kindergarten

Our mission is to enhance each student's abilities by providing a quality education, enriched by our diverse community.

*Where Learning Comes to Life!*

**Have you ever thought about:**

***What happens in my child's classroom?***

***How can I help my child learn?***

***Is my child "keeping pace?"***

The mission of the Davenport Community School District is "to enhance each student's abilities by providing a quality education, enriched by our diverse community." The mission celebrates the role of parents and community partners in supporting and extending learning beyond the school day. Our district goals align with the statewide efforts of The Iowa Core, dedicated to improving teaching and learning for each and every student  
<http://www.corecurriculum.iowa.gov>

This resource guide is designed to assist in that process, providing additional information and resources to assist parents and community members in their work with elementary-aged students at each grade level. These Guides contain key concepts and learning goals in a variety of subject areas that students will receive in each grade in Davenport classrooms. This approach is known as "standards-based education."

### **What is standards-based education?**

Standards-based learning focuses on what a student should know and be able to do as a result of what they experience in school—not what classes they have taken. The underlying belief of standards-based education is that all students can learn and be successful with the proper foundation.

### **How are these standards defined?**

Education experts choose specific skills that students should be able to perform to show that they have learned in a particular area. Often called benchmarks, these skills must be clearly defined and easy to measure so that school staff can determine if a student has mastered each standard.

Family and Community Learning Guides and website resources were created by the Davenport Network for Community & School Partnerships, a partnership of community agencies and citizens serving the students and families of Davenport. Many thanks to the Federal Programs Office of the Davenport Community Schools, the Davenport Schools Foundation and Iowa State University Extension-Scott County for their support of this project. More information is available on the website at [www.davenportschools.org](http://www.davenportschools.org)

## **CONNECT WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL THROUGH PARENT PORTAL**

Parent Portal offers busy parents an opportunity to become a partner in their child's educational success. As the parent of an elementary school student you'll be able to :

- Check the school calendar to learn about events at your child's school
- Verify your child's attendance
- View school notices
- Contact your child's teacher directly
- Update your contact and family information

You can log on 24/7 through your computer or free apps are available for your tablet or phone. Sign up for Parent Portal at the Main Office of your child's school and stay connected!



**How do we know if standards are being reached?**

Your child's classroom will use a variety of assessment tools to determine if students are "on track" and to change instruction to meet their needs. An assessment is anything that allows a student to show the specific skills they have developed in a particular area. An assessment could include activities such as a math test, a band performance, a persuasive speech, or the development of a portfolio.

**What assessments are used in kindergarten?**

Formative assessments provide students with feedback and help teachers improve instruction throughout the teaching and learning process. Students learn to monitor their progress by looking at their results. If a teacher observes that some students do not understand a concept, he or she can design a review activity or use a different teaching approach. Teachers observe students many times during the day to check for understanding, as well as use quizzes, hands-on activities, and tests to personalize teaching to meet the needs of your child.

Summative assessments measure student understanding when a learning unit has been completed. They are used to measure students' progress toward grade-level standards and benchmarks. Teachers also use summative assessments to identify areas that need additional instruction. Their results provide information for student progress reports/report cards.

**What if my student is not mastering these standards?**

Parents and families can support students at home by using the activities and resources included in this Learning Guide. Parents may see gaps in their child's understanding or abilities in these areas and may not be sure what to do. Davenport Community Schools has many resources available for families who believe their child needs additional support in school. School and community-based supports including school counselors, reading specialists, small group assistance, and community-based services including referrals for in-home support and counseling are available. If you believe your child needs additional support beyond what can be provided at home, please contact your school for information on learning supports and programs available for students identified as Talented and Gifted or in need of special education services.

**Why are standards important?**

Ultimately, these standards are important because they are designed to create a foundation for knowledge. Grade-level benchmarks are established according to the skills that the community has determined all students will need when they graduate. Davenport's Student Learning Goals are the general expectations that students graduating from Davenport Community School District will:

- Apply reading, writing, and speaking skills to communicate effectively
- Understand and apply mathematical ideas
- Understand our earth, ecological impact, the physical world, and the cycles of life
- Understand the development of civic responsibility and the influence of history, geography, government, and economics on individuals and societies
- Understand, perform, and value music
- Understand, produce, and value visual art
- Demonstrate appropriate physical movement and form
- Demonstrate skills and knowledge needed for making life-long health decisions
- Demonstrate technical knowledge and skills needed to be productive within the context of real life
- Be knowledgeable about career choices across a variety of areas
- Apply critical thinking skills when making decisions and solving problems
- Use technology and other sources of information for a variety of purposes

### How can I support my student's education?

You can use this guide to better understand some of these critical benchmarks in all subject area in each grade level. Each subject area includes simple activities that parents can do at home with their children that will support learning. The guide also suggests several community destinations and additional resources that support the classroom experience and assist students in their learning. Experiences outside of the classroom are important for students to be able to connect their learning to the real world, to bring learning to life.

Time spent with your student in even the simplest activities can include new vocabulary words, simple question-and-answer conversations, and asking your child "what happens next?" Experiential learning means "making meaning from direct experiences." There is no better place for direct experiences than at home and in the community.

All Davenport Community Schools' elementary students will experience a Great Minds activity at each grade level that will bring grade-level benchmarks to life. This grade-level Great Minds experience, sponsored by the Davenport Community Schools and Davenport Schools Foundation, is detailed on the back cover of this Learning Guide.

### What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are vital to the physical growth and development of the children we serve, especially in the areas of fitness and wellness. Serving as role models by participating in physical activity is a great way to get your child involved in activity outside the Physical Education setting. Developing healthy eating habits, good sleep habits and proper hygiene in your child will help them grow into healthy adults. Here are some additional things you can do at home to assist your child in the area of Physical Education:

- Enroll them in Martial Arts classes
- Take a walk or jog with them after school
- Make healthy snacks and meals
- Register them for dance or gymnastics lessons
- Limit your child's television, computer and video game. Encourage them to play outside.
- Play catch with any type of ball.
- Get a neighborhood basketball game started.
- Encourage them to walk to school if within realistic walking distance.
- Take them golfing.

### ...Out in the Community?

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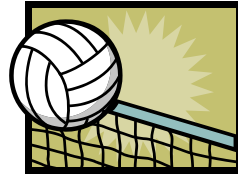
- Visit our many local parks. Visit the City of Davenport's Parks and Recreation Department online at [www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/parks](http://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/parks) or River's Edge, 700 W. River Dr., Davenport.
- Join the YMCA. Visit the Scott County Family YMCA online at <http://www.scottcountyfamilyy.org/>
- The American Red Cross can help you plan for family safety. Visit them online at <http://www.qcredcross.org/>
- The Davenport Associated Dads' Club mission is to develop and deliver quality youth sports programs in a fun, family environment. Visit them online at <http://www.dadstodads.com/>

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her physical education and wellness development, visit Family-Community Guides online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG)

### Physical Education/Health and Wellness

#### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Throwing, catching, kicking, striking
- Rhythm activities
- Jump Rope
- Tumbling
- Dry Land Water Safety
- Fitness



The Kindergarten standards for the Davenport Community School District are based on the National Physical Education Standards ([www.naspe.org](http://www.naspe.org)). All students will receive instruction, practice and assessment in four major areas. These areas include:

- Basic knowledge and vocabulary used in sports and fitness
- Skill instruction
- Fitness benefits and personal goal-setting
- Large group activities to practice interpersonal skills









#### It is expected that by the end of kindergarten students will be able to:

- Walk, run, hop, jump, gallop
- Throw and catch a variety of objects
- Dribble a ball with their hands and feet
- Kick a motionless and a moving ball
- Strike objects using their hands
- Participate in a variety of dance and rhythm activities
- Jump a long rope turned by others
- Demonstrate basic water safety rules
- Perform basic tumbling and balance skills
- Participate in strength, cardio respiratory and flexibility activities
- Understand the benefits of physical activity

### How is this Learning Guide organized?

The guide includes grade-level benchmarks in a series of subject areas that allow students, families and education professionals to measure whether students are “keeping pace” to meet Student Learning Goals by the time they graduate. These expectations are established in character education, language arts, math, science, social studies, visual arts, music, and physical education/health and wellness. Each series of benchmarks includes simple activities and community resources that parents and community agencies can use to support student learning.

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## Social & Emotional Development

### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Caring for Others
- Identifying Emotions
- Problem Solving



The Davenport Community Schools uses a comprehensive social/emotional character development program that includes Second Step, violence prevention program, Too Good for Drugs, a drug prevention program and Olweus, a bully prevention program. Each of these programs focus on the development of respect, empathy, impulse control, anger management and problem solving. As elementary students learn to understand their emotions and how to react to them, they are able to stay focused on their academic work

### By the end of kindergarten, your child should be able to:

- Identify and name their own feelings
- Understand others body language
- Appropriately show care and concern for others
- What it means to be and have friends
- Calm down using various strategies
- Problem solve
- Ignore distractions
- Interrupt politely
- Play fairly and include others

## What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are children's first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children's education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Demonstrate your love of music by singing and playing age appropriate songs and nursery rhymes with your children.
- Expose your children to a variety of musical opportunities. This could include attending the Bix Fest, Blues Fest, River Music Experience, concerts at area colleges and high schools, Quad City Symphony education events, and community theater.
- Teach your children appropriate audience behavior for the context and style of music being performed.
- Encourage your children to become involved in their own music-making. Support their desire to take music lessons and help them establish a daily routine for practice.
- Expose your family to a variety of music available at our area public libraries.
- Monitor your child's music listening exposure for age appropriate language and content.

## ... Out in the Community?

Davenport Community School District is proud to partner with many agencies and organizations around the Quad Cities Area that assist in enhancing and enriching students' education. Consider visiting some of our community partners!

- The River Music Experience exists to allow Quad City Area residents and visitors an opportunity to experience the music of the Mississippi. Find out more at <http://www.rivermusicexperience.org/>
- The objective of the Mississippi Valley Blues Society is to educate the general public about the native art form of blues-related music through performance, interpretation and preservation, thus enhancing appreciation and understanding. Visit them online at <http://mvbs.org/>
- Ballet Quad Cities provides classical and contemporary dance to the entire bi-state region through outstanding performances, entertaining lecture-demonstrations and innovative educational outreach programs for people of all ages. Visit them online at <http://www.balletquadcities.com/About-Ballet-Quad-Cities.aspx>
- The Quad City Symphony offers youth ensembles for string students grades 5 through 12 and for band students grades 7–12. [www.qcsymphony.com](http://www.qcsymphony.com)

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her personal skills development, visit Family Community Learning Guide online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG).

## Music

### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Sing a variety of simple songs
- Respond to music through movement



The purpose of the Davenport Community School Districts' elementary music curriculum is to introduce the music experience to students according to the following ideas:

- Music is central to the human experience.
- Music moves at varying rates. (tempo)
- Music includes varying levels of loud and soft sounds. (dynamics)
- All sound has tone color. (timbre)
- Musical structure is the relationship of parts to the whole. (form)
- Music often has layers of sound that create vertical pitch. (harmony)
- Pitches move upward, downward, or repeat creating linear pitch. (melody)
- Music exists in time, including rhythm, long and short sounds.
- Music is expressed through many different genre. (style)

#### By the end of kindergarten, it is expected that children will:

- Sing a variety of simple songs.
- Use their voices to speak, chant and sing.
- Work to maintain a steady beat.
- Explore voices and classroom percussion instruments.
- Respond to music through movement.
- Develop active listening skills.

## What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are children's first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children's education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Provide clear and consistent rules and expectations in your household by showing a good example, addressing misbehavior and enforcing appropriate consequences.
- Help children develop a daily routine. Try to make your schedule as predictable as possible.
- Pay attention to the messages you send. Children can tell when the adults around them are stressed, distracted or angry. Think about how you can use the situation to teach your child about the right way to handle these kind of emotions.
- Encourage personal responsibility by teaching your child to hang up his coat, help sort the laundry, assist in clearing the dishes from the table, put away toys before getting out new ones, etc.
- Help your child learn to tell friends to "please stop" instead of hitting or yelling. Talk with your child about adults that can help when friends are being mean, and ways to prevent arguments and fights.
- Use television shows to help children think about social skills. Ask questions like, "What do you think about the way that person on TV reacted? What do you think would happen if someone reacted that way in real life?" or "That didn't seem nice to me. What else could that person have done?"
- Assist your child in thinking of ways to help others. Could you scoop snow or rake leaves for the person next door? Could you take a meal to an elderly friend or neighbor? Could you volunteer at a food pantry, animal shelter, church or synagogue?
- Encourage your child to "keep trying" even if it is hard. Be sure they know that you believe in their abilities and you know they can do it. Offer praise for how hard your child tried at a task, not just how well they did.
- Teach your child that things don't always work out like we expect. Ask, "What do you think happened here? What did you learn?"

## Language Arts

### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking/Listening
- Language



### By the end of kindergarten, your child should be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts about print by reading left to right, matching letter sounds to letter combinations, noting punctuation marks
- Read at least 25 common words quickly
- Notice when they make a reading mistake and self-correct it
- Retell stories in order
- Answer different types of questions related to their reading
- Predict what might happen next in a story and explain his/her prediction
- Learn new vocabulary words weekly
- Identify and name all capital letters and lower case letters
- Be able to produce a word that rhymes with a given word
- Write for different purposes interactively with the teacher
- Begin to use capital letters and punctuation independently
- Identify the beginning, middle and end sounds of words
- Print legibly using manuscript letters
- Spell words by making sound letter connections
- Communicate using appropriate volume, eye contact and clear speech
- Listen while others speak and take turns
- Use a computer mouse and tape recorder

## What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are children's first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children's education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Following your child's study trip to Vander Veer Conservatory to study trees, ask him/her to draw or paint trees and tell about them.
- Keep simple supplies—crayons, watercolors, paper, play dough— within easy reach in the kitchen and encourage your child to make art.
- Show your child how much their artwork is appreciated by posting it—the “Modern Refrigerator of Art” is a classic home gallery.
- Have your child help you select favorite artwork to save in a folder or box. This “portfolio” will become a cherished memento of your child's artistic life.

## ...Out in the Community?

Davenport Community School District is proud to partner with many agencies and organizations around the Quad Cities Area that assist in enhancing and enriching students' education. Consider visiting some of our community partners!

- Visit the Bettendorf Family Museum of Art and Science for interactive displays about art, math, science and more. Find out more at <http://www.familymuseum.org/currentevents.htm>
- Enjoy Quad City Arts Visiting Artist series at [www.quadcityarts.org](http://www.quadcityarts.org)
- Visit Davenport's Figge Art Museum. Designed to promote life-long learning in the visual arts, stimulate independent and critical thinking skills, visitors will learn to see the world around them differently. Find out more at <http://www.figgeartmuseum.org/Education.aspx>
- Visit the Putnam Museum to learn more about other cultures' artwork and objects. Visit them online at <http://www.putnam.org>
- Visit Bucktown Center for the Arts, a downtown arts warehouse where artists make, display, and sell their work. Visit them online at <http://www.bucktownarts.com>

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her art skills development, visit Family-Community Guides online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG)

## Visual Arts

### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Line, color, shape, form, texture, pattern
- Drawing, painting, sculpting, printmaking
- Talk about own and other's artwork
- Share portfolio with family (end of year)



### It is expected that by the end of kindergarten, children will be able to:

- Identify and create types of lines.
- Identify and name primary colors. (red, yellow, blue)
- Explore mixing primary colors to create new colors.
- Draw/paint/cut and name different shapes.
- Explore and describe different types of texture.
- Create simple patterns from lines, shapes, and colors.
- Explore ideas for art making through observation, imagination, and memory.
- Draw with a variety of materials. (crayon, marker, pencil, sharpie)
- Paint with tempera and watercolors.
- Explore form by creating sculpture from a variety of materials.
- Explore printmaking using a variety of tools. (sponge, found objects)
- Understand that art tells the story of one's self and others.
- Create and describe works of art that show self, family, and friends.
- Talk about own artwork and that of others. (What do you notice?)

## What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are children's first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children's education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Have writing materials available to your child
- Read to your child at least fifteen minutes every day
- Let your child cross off items on your grocery list as you put them in the cart
- Have children's books available to your child at all times
- Find letters and words on billboards and street signs
- Ask your child what happened *first*, *next*, *last* in a story
- Be sure your child sees you reading so he/she knows what an important part of everyday life it is
- Be sure to include books as a part of your child's birthday and holiday presents
- Play card and board games together as a family. Games provide opportunities for academic and social growth from preschool through adulthood. Be sure to focus on playing fair and having fun—not winning.
- Place magnetic letters on your refrigerator.
- Read labels in magazines and newspapers to your child.
- Help your child recognize and write his/her own name.

## ...Out in the Community?

Davenport Community School District is proud to partner with many agencies and organizations around the Quad Cities Area that assist in enhancing and enriching students' education.

- Visit your local library on a regular basis. Find out more about the Davenport Public Library's hours of operation, services and programs online at <http://www.davenportlibrary.com> Branch locations: 6000 Eastern Ave., 3000 Fairmount Street and 321 Main St.

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her language arts development, visit Family-Community Learning Guides online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG).

## Mathematics

### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Numbers and Operations (addition, subtraction)
- Geometry
- Measurement (length, weight, time, area and volume)
- Data Analysis and Probability



### Examples of kindergarten expectations include:

- Reads number words and write numbers to 10
- Recognizes numbers to 20
- Identifies the size of a small group of objects by sight
- Puts numbers in order
- Represents and counts objects to 20
- Identifies missing numbers in a sequence to 10
- Identifies pennies and nickels
- Understands whole and one-half
- Increases a group of objects by adding one more
- Decreases a collection by taking away one
- Uses the terms “more” and “less” correctly
- Makes equal groups of objects
- Sorts objects by their characteristics
- Describes and makes patterns
- Names 3-D and 2-D shapes

## What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are children’s first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children’s education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Household chores are great ways for children to participate in the day-to-day functioning of your family. Not only does this develop a child’s sense of self-esteem, but it allows them to learn and practice important skills. Appropriate chores for kindergarteners are: picking up toys, putting away clean laundry, setting the table, making the bed, and making simple snacks.
- Kindergarten is a great time to begin given children an allowance. This teaches important financial literacy skills. Talk with your child about saving and spending money, and be sure they use some of their allowance for each. Help them open a bank account for their savings.
- Taking care of the earth is everyone’s responsibility. Ensure your family recycles paper, glass, plastic and metal. Purchase items that have been made from recyclables when you are shopping. Your child can help you look for the recycle symbol on items.
- Use maps and globes to talk about where you live, where your friends and family members live, where events on the news take place, etc. Be sure to talk about the people and traditions in those places, and about the traditions that might happen there.

## ...Out in the Community?

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- Junior Achievement Worldwide is a partnership between the business community, educators and volunteers – all working together to inspire young people to dream big and reach their potential. Visit them online at <http://www.ja.org/>
- Scott County Waste Commission was formed to make sound solid waste management decisions regarding landfilling, source reduction, material reuse, recycling, composting and energy recovery. Visit them online at <http://www.wastecom.com/>

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her social studies development, visit Family-Community Learning Guides online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG)

## Social Studies

## Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Interdependence and self-reliance
- Change and constancy
- Diversity and commonality

**By the end of kindergarten, your child should be able to::**

- Understand all people have individual traits.
- Understand interactions between self and peer group.
- Understand the universal economic concept of needs and wants.
- Understand how geographic processes and human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.
- Understand how and why people create and participate in governance.
- Understand how economic needs and wants affect individual and group decisions.
- Understand the basic concepts of government and democracy and that the Constitution defines the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

**What Can Our Family Do Together?**

Families are children's first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children's education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Use descriptive words to describe where things are in space. For example, "your cup is next to your plate" or "your napkin is on the floor."
- Let your child use simple measuring tools while helping you cook.
- Practice measuring with things like your hand or a block. For example, "How many hands tall is your bed?" or "How many blocks wide is this table?"
- Have your child practice sorting by putting away the silverware or sorting the laundry, buttons, pencils, cups, etc.
- Practice matching by matching colored socks, buttons, rocks, etc.
- Turn a trip to the grocery store into a math experience. Look for numbers, shapes, and sizes of different items.
- Count the number of chairs, lamps, tables, etc. in a room or in a book.
- Make sure your child observes you using math tools such as calendars, scales, clocks, watches, measuring tapes, etc.
- Use a deck of cards or dice to make up simple math games.
- Choose books with math concepts such as counting, colors, sorting and shapes.

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- Visit the Bettendorf Family Museum of Arts and Sciences for interactive exhibits with art, math, science and more. Find out more at <http://www.familymuseum.org/currentevents.htm>

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her mathematics development, visit Family-Community Learning Guides online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG)

## Science

### Kindergarten Areas of Emphasis

- Trees
- Living and non-living things
- Understanding change
- Connecting science to reading



The kindergarten standards for science stress the use of basic science skills to explore common materials, objects, and living things. Emphasis is placed on using the senses to gather information. Students are expected to develop skills in posing simple questions, measuring, sorting, classifying, and communicating information about the natural world. These science skills are an important focus as students investigate trees to learn about life processes and the concept of change.

- Identifies a simple question and finds its answer through observations or investigations.
- Uses drawings and language to describe objects
- Classifies objects as living or non-living
- Sorts and classifies objects based on their characteristics
- Makes observations and communicates them to others
- Uses appropriate scientific tools to gather data and make measurements.
- Organizes information in a table or graph

## What Can Our Family Do Together?

Families are children's first and most important teachers. When families are involved in children's education, children try harder and do better in school. Try these ideas to assist your kindergartener in his/her learning:

- Cooking is a great way to begin to explore science. Talk with your child about how the characteristics of ingredients change as you mix them together. Turn on the oven light and watch a cake bake. Ask your child what is happening.
- Use the bathroom scale to weigh objects around the house, such as books, canned food, blocks, pillows, dolls, toy trucks, etc. Ask your child to predict which items weigh more or less.
- Kindergarteners love to collect common objects such as rocks, sea shells, paperclips or coins. Help your child think about ways to classify the items in their collections. For example, try putting all the silver coins in one jar and the copper coins in another jar. Put the smooth rocks in one pile and the rough rocks in another pile.

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- Visit VanderVeer Botanical Park and Conservatory with your family. Visit them online at <http://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com>
- The Putnam Museum of History and Natural Science houses thousands of exhibits and shares a location with the IMAX theater. Find out more at <http://www.putnam.org>
- Read about science—visit the library
- Nahant Marsh is an urban wetland in Southwest Davenport. Visit them at <http://www.nahantmarshgallery.com>

For more ideas about how to assist your kindergartener in his/her science development, visit Family-Community Learning Guides online at [www.davenportschools.org/FCLG](http://www.davenportschools.org/FCLG)