

DECEMBER 2026

Building Knowledge Across Disciplines

This Month's Focus: Literacy and knowledge go hand in hand. This month's focus is helping students build background knowledge in science, social studies, and the world around them through reading and conversation.

Tips for Parents & Families

- Read nonfiction together — articles, magazines, or books about topics your child is curious about.
- Visit a museum, library program, or community event and talk about what you learned afterward.
- Connect what your child is reading in school to something happening in real life.
- Ask "why" and "how" questions that go beyond simple facts.

Tips for School Volunteers & Tutors

Grade Band	Volunteer & Tutor Tip
K-3	Read aloud simple nonfiction or science/social studies picture books and talk about new facts learned.
4-6	Support a short research mini-project on a topic of interest, using two or more sources.
7-8	Encourage writing that connects ideas across subjects — for example, how history connects to a current event.
9-12	Support research and seminar preparation by asking students to explain background knowledge before they read.

Try This at Home: Knowledge Builder

Pick one topic your child is curious about (space, animals, another country). Read three short pieces about it this month and see how much they can teach you by the end.

"Interconnected topics that recur throughout the content increase retention and support comprehension."