



*Davenport Community
Schools
Family and Community
Learning Guide*

Fifth Grade

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. Every grade level Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade has a Learning Guide. 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.

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 fifth grade?

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 that which 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 television, computer and video games. 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.
- Ask them about which activities they are participating in their Physical Education classes

...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 our many local parks. Visit the City of Davenport's Parks and Recreation Department online at <http://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/departments/?fDD=21-0>
- Join the YMCA. Visit the Scott County Family YMCA online at <http://www.scottcountyfamily.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 www.dadsclubsports.com

For more ideas about how to assist your fifth grader in his/her physical education and wellness development, visit Family Community Learning Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

Physical Education/Health and Wellness

- Grade Five Areas of Emphasis**
- Gymnasium Safety
 - Football
 - Soccer
 - Basketball
 - Rhythms/Dance
 - Tumbling and Balance
 - Volleyball
 - Jump Rope
 - Golf
 - Baseball/Softball
 - Track and Field
 - Golf
 - Fitness



The Physical Education standards for the Davenport Community School District are based on the National Physical Education Standards (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









By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Pass, catch, kick and punt a football
- Dribble, kick and goal tend in soccer
- Dribble, shoot and play defense in basketball
- Participate in dance and rhythm activities
- Perform basic tumbling and balance skills
- Pass, set and serve a volleyball
- Perform basic single jump rope skills
- Putt, chip and drive a golf ball
- Throw, field and bat a softball
- Participate in all track and field events
- Know how to do basic water rescues from land
- Participate appropriately in competitive team sport activities
- Be able to set and achieve personal fitness goals
- Participate in and be assessed during fitness activities

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 Davenport Community Schools’ student learning.

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Social and Emotional Development

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis

- Decision Making
- Standing up for themselves and others
- Communication Skills



The Davenport Community Schools uses a comprehensive social/emotional and character development program that includes Second Step, a violence prevention program, Too Good for Drugs, a drug prevention program, and Olweus, a bully prevention program. Each of these programs focuses 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 fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Manage their anger in appropriate ways
- Deal appropriately with an accusation
- Understand and deal with consequences for their actions
- Express themselves without hurting others
- Stand up for themselves and/or others if they are being bullied
- Stay out of a fight and resist revenge seeking behaviors
- Use the three-step method to calm themselves down when angry
 1. **Stop and Think**
 2. **Ask yourself** – how does my body feel
 3. Try these strategies: *take three deep breaths, count backward slowly, Think calm thoughts, use positive self talk*
- Use five-step method of problem solving:
 1. What is the problem
 2. What are some solutions
 3. for each solution ask - is it safe, how might people feel about it, is it fair, will it work??
 4. Chose solution and use it
 5. Is it working? If not, try again

For more ideas about how to assist your fifth grader in his/her personal skills development, visit Family Community Learning Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

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 fifth grader in their 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.

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- 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 Orchestra offers youth ensembles for string students grades 5–12 and for band students grades 7–12. www.qcsymphony.com

For more ideas about how to assist your fifth grader in his/her music development, visit Family Community Learning Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

Music

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis

- Blues music and River Currents Tour
- Choral performance opportunity
- String program continues
- Band program begins



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 quality. (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 long and short sounds. (rhythm)
- Music is expressed through many different genre. (style)

By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Sing a variety of songs, including unison and part-singing.
- Continue building skills on classroom percussion instruments.
- Improvise in various meters.
- Continue building skills in reading musical notation.
- Experience music from a variety of cultures and styles.
- Identify ways in which music connects to other disciplines.
- Demonstrate appropriate concert behavior (audience and performer).
- String orchestra program continues.
- All 5th grade string students are expected to prepare a solo for the district solo festival.
- Band program is offered to all students, beginning the summer prior to 5th grade.

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 fifth grader in their 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, sort the laundry, clear the dishes from the table, put away toys before getting out new ones, care for the pet, 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

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis



- Reading
- Speaking & Listening
- Writing
- Language

By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Read books that are grade level text with 95% accuracy
- Pace reading and self-correct to understand content
- Respond or construct questions about what they have read during discussions or in writing
- Summarize what they have read orally or in writing by selecting the main idea and supporting details
- Interpret nonliteral language by recognizing figurative words
- Use a variety of comprehension strategies to clarify the meaning of what they have read and locate information
- Make inferences using information from the text and prior knowledge to identify author's purpose
- Use strategies to figure out the meaning of words they do not know
- Use the 5-step writing process (pre-write, draft, revise, edit, publish) independently
- Use different kinds of writing for different purposes
- Use writing assessment rubrics to improve writing
- Make use of classroom resources independently: dictionary, thesaurus, atlas etc.
- Write in print and cursive
- Use correct grammar and punctuation in own writing
- Spell words that are appropriate for fifth grade
- Use active listening skills
- Use descriptive language during discussions
- Use a computer to create documents and spreadsheets
- Use keyboarding skills to write within a word processing program on the computer
- Use active listening skills and descriptive language when communicating ideas during discussions.

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 fifth grader in their learning:

- Following your child's tour of the Figge Art Museum, visit the museum as a family and ask your child to be the docent (tour guide).
- Either at home or in computer lab at the public library, encourage your child to explore computer graphics. Point out graphic art in advertising.
- Team up with your child to find used frames that fit favorite artworks from your child's portfolio. Frame these as cherished mementos.
- Add museum-style labels to the framed works—artist name, title, medium (materials), year.

...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>
- 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 fifth grader in his/her art skills development, visit Family Community Learning Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

Visual Arts

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis

- Line, color, shape, form, space, texture, proportion
- Drawing, painting, museums/displaying art, craft
- Explore preferences and how artistic choices influence meaning and mood.
- Create and present a personal portfolio.



By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Select from a variety of lines for expression with diagonal lines to create action.
- Mix and paint with complementary/analogous/warm-cool colors to create unity and mood.
- Mix color values and paint to create the illusion of depth.
- Use overlapping shapes and diminishing size to create the illusion of depth.
- Use horizon line and vanishing point to create the illusion of depth.
- Draw people with lifelike facial and body proportions.
- Understand museum purposes, practices, and careers.
- Explore ideas for art making through observation, imagination, and memory.
- Use images and symbols to alter reality to fantasy.
- Select visual ideas to tell personal story
- Know artistic styles and incorporate in own artwork.
- Support own responses to works of art and value others' opinions.
- Explore how artistic choices influence the meaning and mood of artworks
- Create and present a personal portfolio..

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 fifth grader in their learning:

- Listen to your child read. Help them locate grade-appropriate books, listen attentively and ask questions about what they read.
- Ask your child what happened *first*, *next*, *last* in a story. Ask them about the characters, main ideas, and what they think might happen next in the story.
- Model reading so your child knows what an important part of everyday life it is.
- Be sure to include books or magazine subscriptions 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. Try Trivial Pursuit or other games that involve reading cards.
- Research a topic your child is interested in together.
- Read for 20 minutes a day, even during school breaks.
- Help your child write an e-mail to a friend or relative.

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- 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 Avenue, 3000 Fairmount Street and 321 Main St.

For more ideas about how to assist your fifth grader in his/her language arts development, visit Family Community Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

Mathematics

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis

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



By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Describes relationships within repeating shape or number patterns
- Uses words and equations to describe real-world relationships
- Classifies shapes
- Describes angles and lines
- Converts and calculates time
- Converts between all units within the same system
- Explores circumference, pi, radius and diameter
- Uses fractions in measurement
- Solves and creates problems using appropriate measurement units
- Understands the difference between area, perimeter, and volume
- Estimates area, perimeter and volume
- Organizes information and create graphs
- Uses mean, median and mode
- Collects data, state possibilities, list outcomes, and make predictions for familiar events
- Compares, orders and sequences numbers beyond 1,000,000
- Understands place value for large numbers
- Understands how fractions and decimals are related
- Builds estimation strategies
- Multiplies 2-digit by 2-digit numbers, decimals and fractions
- Divides 2-digit or 3-digit numbers by multi-digit numbers, with and without remainders
- Compares and calculates rates

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 fifth grader in their 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 fourth graders are: picking up toys, putting away clean laundry, setting the table, cleaning their room, making the bed, and making simple snacks.
- Elementary School is a great time to begin giving 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 that might happen in those places.

...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!

- 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://>

For more ideas about how to assist your fifth grader in his/her social studies development

visit Family Community Learning Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

Social Studies

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis

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



By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Understand the changing nature of society
- Understand the influence on individual and group behavior and group decision making.
- Understand how governments throughout the world influence economic behavior.
- Understand factors that create patterns of interdependence in the world economy.
- Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places and environments.
- Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.
- Understand historical patterns, periods of time and the relationship among these elements.
- Understand how and why people create, maintain, or change systems of power, authority, and governance.
- Understand the role of individuals and groups within a society as promoters of change or the status quo.
- Understand the effects of geographic factors on historical events.
- Understand the cause and effect relationships and other historical thinking skills in order to interpret events and issues..
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.
- Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the enduring values and principles of democracy and republicanism.

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 fifth grader in their learning:

- Practice tracing letters or writing on graph paper will help them improve their number writing.
- Practice basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) by using flashcards, games, and computer programs).
- Check out math books from the library including Stuart J. Murphy books, Greg Tang books and Jerry Pallota books.
- Review math vocabulary to ensure children can define the skills they are learning.
- After they are finished with their work, allow children to "check" their work with a calculator.
- Play strategy games like Battleship, Yahtzee, Salute, Othello, etc.
- Approach word problems together. Suggest that children read aloud, repeat, and draw a picture of each problem.
- Explain how math applies to real life situations by showing how you use it at work, at home and when shopping.
- Check to be sure your child is approaching their homework properly. Be sure he/she understands what they are doing before they start doing it.

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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 Arts and Sciences for interactive exhibits with art, math, science and more. Find out more at <http://www.familymuseum.org/currentevents.htm>
- Use Davenport Public Library's Homework Helpline from 4 PM to 10 PM Daily. Visit <http://www.davenportlibrary.com/> for more information.

For more ideas about how to assist your fifth grader in his/her mathematics development, visit Family Community Learning Guides online at www.davenportschools.org/FCLG.

Science

Grade Five Areas of Emphasis

- Matter
- Energy
- Properties of Earth
- Water Cycle
- Weather systems on Earth
- Solar System



By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to:

- Know that energy occurs in many forms
- Understand the different forms of energy including light, heat, electrical and solar energy
- Classify matter based on its physical properties
- Identify patterns of change such as in weather and objects in the sky
- Know that the natural world included earth materials and object in the sky
- Identify the importance of the water cycle
- Identify the Sun as the major source of energy for the Earth
- Understand the Sun's role in the growth of plants, the creation of wind, and in the water cycle

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 fifth grader in their learning:

- Discuss powering our community with solar energy when possible
- Discuss how electricity gets to our homes.
- Look at the stars on a cloudless night.
- Consider science kits and books for holiday and birthday gifts. Teacher's helpers stores are great places to find these materials.
- Watch the Discovery Channel programs *Mythbusters* and *How Its Made*. Discuss how science is part of everyday life.
- Check out summer science camps at the Putnam Museum, Nahant Marsh, St. Ambrose University or College for Kids.

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- Nahant Marsh is an urban wetland in Southwest Davenport. Visit them at <http://www.nahantmarshgallery.com/>
- VanderVeer Botanical Park and Conservatory is a great place to see a variety of plants, trees and urban wildlife. Check it out at <http://www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/departments/division.asp?fDD=21-223>
- The Quad City Botanical Center offers great gardens in all seasons. Visit them at <http://www.qcgardens.com/>
- 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>
- Visit the planetarium at Augustana

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