This week your child is reading *The Earth Dragon Awakes*, a historical story set during the San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  Ask your child to role-play a reporter who is visiting the site of a recent earthquake. Ask him or her to report from the disaster area. Try to use these words.

**rubble  wreckage  debris  crushing  constructed**

**First You...**  Giving clear directions is important in an emergency. With your child, take turns giving each other a simple set of directions for a simple task, such as setting the table or cleaning a room. Use “time” words, such as first, next, after, that, and finally.

**Before the Earthquake**  San Francisco grew from a tiny town to a big city in the fifty years that preceded the earthquake in 1906. Help your child use the Internet to learn about what San Francisco looked like before the earthquake.

Help your child make a travel poster of San Francisco before the earthquake. What landmarks will you include on your poster? What will you say about the city?
**News Report**  Read and discuss this article about an actual event as it might have been reported at the time.

**Terrifying Earthquakes Throughout Mississippi Valley**

*February 8, 1812—* Yesterday, yet another mighty earthquake shook the central Mississippi Valley. The 400 residents of New Madrid, Missouri, awoke to a fearful roaring noise and a shaking so severe that the timbers of their log cabins collapsed into rubble around them. The town is no more.

A vast region continues to be strenuously shaken, with quakes centered in Arkansas and Missouri on December 16, 1811, and on January 23 of this year. High land dropped suddenly, so that the tops of trees were level with the surrounding ground. Crushing waves sank some boats on the Mississippi River, and mud-soaked banks have slid into the river. Steep waterfalls appeared, while whole islands disappeared.

The shocks from these quakes were felt in Washington, D.C., Detroit, and even in distant New York. In many cities and towns, church bells suddenly rang in their swaying towers, dishes clattered, and books and other possessions fell from the shelves. Frightened residents ran from their rocking homes.

Theories have been advanced to explain these terrible events, though scientific principles must be applied to the data in order to discover the true causes.

**How to Keep Safe in a Quake**  Together, search for websites or books that give information for what to do during an earthquake. Discuss the tips with your child and discuss why each of them is important for your safety.

**Book Links**
- *The Earth Dragon Awakes*, by Laurence Yep
- *Anna’s Blizzard*, by Alison Hart

**Internet Challenge**  Help your child search the Internet for information about major earthquakes in the United States. Learn some facts about at least three earthquakes.