

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARD

Grade – First

Standard

Benchmark

Indicators

By the end of the K-2 program, students will...

Communications: Oral and Visual Standard

Students learn to communicate effectively through exposure to good models and opportunities for practice. By speaking, listening and providing and interpreting visual images, they learn to apply their communication skills in increasingly sophisticated ways. Students learn to deliver presentations that effectively convey information and persuade or entertain audiences. Proficient speakers control language and deliberately choose vocabulary to clarify points and adjust presentations according to audience and purpose.

Communication is used in all content areas and should be incorporated within the instruction and assessment of the content-specific standards and benchmarks.

- A. Use active listening strategies to identify the main idea and to gain information from oral presentations.
- B. Connect prior experiences, insights and ideas to those of a speaker.
- C. Follow multi-step directions.
- D. Speak clearly and at an appropriate pace and volume.
- E. Deliver a variety of presentations that include relevant information and a clear sense of purpose.

- 1. Use active listening skills, such as making eye contact or asking questions.
- 2. Compare what is heard with prior knowledge and experience.
- 3. Follow simple oral directions.
- 4. Speak clearly and understandably.
- 5. Deliver brief informational presentations that:
 - a. demonstrate an understanding of the topic;
 - b. include and sort relevant information and details to develop topic;
 - c. organize information with a clear beginning and ending; and
 - d. express opinions.
- 6. Deliver brief informal descriptive presentations recalling an event or personal experience that convey relevant information and descriptive details.
- 7. Deliver simple dramatic presentations (e.g., recite poems, rhymes, songs and stories).
- 8. Listen attentively to speakers, stories, poems and songs.

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Phonemic Awareness, Word Recognition and Fluency Standard

Students in the primary grades learn to recognize and decode printed words, developing the skills that are the foundations for independent reading. They discover the alphabetic principle (sound-symbol match) and learn to use it in figuring out new words. They build a stock of sight words that helps them to read quickly and accurately with comprehension. By the end of the third grade, they demonstrate fluent oral reading, varying their intonation and timing as appropriate for the text.

By the end of the K – 3 program, students will . . .

- A. Use letter-sound correspondence knowledge and structural analysis to decode words.
- B. Demonstrate fluent oral reading, using sight words and decoding skills, varying intonation and timing as appropriate for text.

1. Identify and distinguish between letters words and sentences.
2. Identify and say the beginning and ending sounds in words.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of letter-sound correspondence by saying the sounds from all letters and from a variety of letter patterns, such as consonant blends and long- and short-vowel patters, and by matching sounds to the corresponding letters.
4. Decode by using letter-sound matches.
5. Use knowledge of common word families (e.g., -ite or -ate) to sound out unfamiliar words.
6. Blend two to four phonemes (sounds) into words.
7. Add, delete or change sounds in a given word to create new or rhyming words.
8. Demonstrate a growing bank of sight words.
9. Read text using fluid and automatic decoding skills, including knowledge of patterns, onsets and rimes.
10. Read aloud with changes in emphasis, voice, timing, and expression that show a recognition of punctuation and an understanding of meaning

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students will . . .

Acquisition of Vocabulary Standard

Students acquire vocabulary through exposure to language-rich situations, such as reading books and other texts and conversing with adults and peers. They use context clues, as well as direct explanations provided by others to gain new words. They learn to apply word analysis skill to build and extend their own vocabulary. As students progress through the grades, they become more proficient in applying their knowledge of words (origins, parts, relationships, meanings) to acquire specialized vocabulary that aids comprehension.

- A. Use context clues to determine the meaning of new vocabulary.
- B. Read accurately high-frequency sight words.
- C. Apply structural analysis skills to build and extend vocabulary and to determine word meaning.
- D. Know the meaning of specialized vocabulary by applying knowledge of word parts, relationships and meanings.
- E. Use resources to determine the meanings and pronunciations of unknown words.

1. Use knowledge of word order and in-sentence context clues to support word identification and to define unknown words while reading.
2. Identify words that have similar meanings (synonyms) and words that have opposite meanings (antonyms).
3. Classify words into categories (e.g., colors, fruits, vegetables).
4. Recognize common sight words.
5. Recognize that words can sound alike but have different meanings (e.g., homophones such as hair and hare.)
6. Predict the meaning of compound words using knowledge of individual words (e.g., daydream, raindrop).
7. Recognize contractions (e.g., isn't, aren't, can't, won't) and common abbreviations (e.g., Jan., Feb.).
8. Read root words and their inflectional endings (e.g., walk, walked, walking).
9. Determine the meaning of unknown words using a beginner's dictionary.
10. Recognize plurals.
11. Recognize possessives.

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Reading Process: Concepts of Print, Comprehension Strategies and Self-Monitoring Strategies Standard

Students develop and learn to apply strategies that help them to comprehend and interpret informational and literary texts. Reading and learning to read are problem solving processes that require strategies for the reader to make sense of written language and remain engaged with texts. Beginners develop basic concepts about print (e.g., that print holds meaning) and how books work (e.g., text organization). As strategic readers, students learn to analyze and evaluate texts to demonstrate their understanding of text. Additionally, students learn to self-monitor their own comprehension by asking and answering questions about the text, self-correcting errors and assessing their own understanding. They apply these strategies effectively to assigned and self-selected texts read in and out of the classroom.

By the end of the K – 3 program, students will . . .

- A. Establish a purpose for reading and use a range of reading comprehension strategies to understand literary passages and text.
- B. Make predictions from text clues and cite specific examples to support predictions.
- C. Draw conclusions from information in text.
- D. Apply reading skills and strategies to summarize and compare and contrast information in text, between text and across subject areas.
- E. Demonstrate comprehension by responding to questions (e.g., literal, informational and evaluative).
- F. Apply and adjust self-monitoring strategies to assess understanding of text.

- 1. Describe the role of authors and illustrators.
- 2. Establish a purpose for reading (e.g., to be informed, to follow directions or to be entertained).
- 3. Visualize the information in texts and demonstrate this by drawing pictures, discussing images in texts or writing simple descriptions.
- 4. Make predictions while reading and support predictions with information from the text or prior experience.
- 5. Compare information (e.g., recognize similarities) in texts with prior knowledge and experience.
- 6. Recall the important ideas in fictional and non-fictional texts.
- 7. Create and use graphic organizers such as Venn diagrams or webs, with teacher assistance, to demonstrate comprehension.
- 8. Answer literal, simple inferential and evaluative questions to demonstrate comprehension of grade-appropriate print texts and electronic and visual media.

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By the end of the K-3 program,
students will . . .

- 9. Monitor comprehension of independently- or group—read texts by asking and answering questions.
- 10. Use criteria to choose independent reading materials (e.g., personal interest, knowledge of authors and genres or recommendations from others).
- 11. Independently read books for various purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, for literary experience, to gain information or to perform a task).

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**Reading Applications:
Informational, Technical and
Persuasive Text Standard**

Students gain information from reading for purposes of learning about a subject, doing a job, making decisions and accomplishing a task. Students need to apply the reading process to various types of informational texts, including essays, magazines, newspapers, textbooks, instruction manuals, consumer and workplace documents, reference materials, multimedia and electronic resources. They learn to attend to text features, such as titles, subtitles and visual aids, to make predictions and build text knowledge. They learn to read diagrams, charts, graphs, maps and displays in text as sources of additional information. Students use their knowledge of text structure to organize content information, analyze it and draw inferences from it. Strategic readers learn to recognize arguments, bias, stereotyping and propaganda in informational text sources.

- A. Use text features and structures to organize content, draw conclusions and build text knowledge.
- B. Ask clarifying questions concerning essential elements of informational text.
- C. Identify the central ideas and supporting details of informational text.
- D. Use visual aids as sources to gain additional information from text.
- E. Evaluate two- and three- step directions for proper sequencing and completeness.

1. Use title page, photographs, captions and illustrations (text features) to develop comprehension of informational texts.
2. Identify the sequence of events in informational text.
3. Ask questions concerning essential elements of informational text (e.g., why, who, where, what, when and how).
4. Identify central ideas and supporting details of informational text with teacher assistance.
5. Identify and discuss simple diagrams, charts, graphs and maps as characteristics of nonfiction.
6. Follow multiple-step directions.

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By the end of the K-3 program,
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Reading Applications: Literary Text Standard

Students enhance their understanding of the human story by reading literary texts that represent a variety of authors, cultures and eras. They learn to apply the reading process to the various genres of literature, including fables, tales, short stories, novels, poetry and drama. They demonstrate their comprehension by describing and discussing the elements of literature (e.g., setting, character and plot), analyzing the author’s use of language (e.g., word choice and figurative language), comparing and contrasting texts, inferring theme and meaning and responding to text in critical and creative ways. Strategic readers learn to explain, analyze and critique literary text to achieve deep understanding.

- A. Compare and contrast plot across literary works.
- B. Use supporting details to identify and describe main ideas, characters and setting.
- C. Recognize the defining characteristics and features of different types of literary forms and genres.
- D. Explain how an author’s word choice and use of methods influences the reader.
- E. Identify the theme of a literary text.

- 1. Provide own interpretation of story, using information from the text.
- 2. Identify characters, setting and events in a story.
- 3. Retell the beginning, middle and ending of a story, including its important events.
- 4. Identify differences between stories, poems and plays.
- 5. Recognize predictable patterns in stories and poems.

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Writing Process Standard

Students’ writing develops when they regularly engage in the major phases of the writing process. The writing process includes the phases of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing and publishing. They learn to plan their writing for different purposes and audiences. They learn to apply their writing skills in increasingly sophisticated ways to create and produce compositions that reflect effective word and grammatical choices. Students develop revision strategies to improve the content, organization and language of their writing. Students also develop editing skills to improve writing conventions.

By the end of the K-2 program, students will...

- A. Generate ideas for written compositions.
- B. Develop audience and purpose for self-selected and assigned writing tasks.
- C. Use organizers to clarify ideas for writing assignments.
- D. Use revision strategies and resources to improve ideas and content, organization, word choice and detail.
- E. Edit to improve sentence fluency, grammar and usage.
- F. Apply tools to judge the quality of writing.
- G. Publish writing samples for display or sharing with others, using techniques such as electronic resources and graphics.

1. Generate writing ideas through discussions with others.
2. Develop a main idea for writing.
3. Determine purpose and audience.
4. Use organizational strategies (e.g., brainstorming, lists, webs and Venn diagrams) to plan writing.
5. Organize writing to include a beginning, middle and end.
6. Construct complete sentences with subjects and verbs.
7. Mimic language from literature when appropriate.
8. Use available technology to compose text.
9. Reread own writing for clarity.
10. Add descriptive words and details.

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By the end of the K-2 program,
students will...

11. Use resources (e.g., a word wall, beginner’s dictionary, word bank)to select effective vocabulary.
12. Proofread writing to improve conventions (e.g., grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization).
13. Apply tools (e.g., rubric, checklist, feedback) to judge the quality of writing.
14. Rewrite and illustrate writing samples for display and for sharing with others.

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By the end of the K-2 program,
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Writing Applications Standard

Students need to understand that various types of writing require different language, formatting and special vocabulary. Writing serves many purposes across the curriculum and takes various forms. Beginning writers learn about the various purposes of writing; they attempt and use a small range of familiar forms (e.g., letters). Developing writers are able to select text forms to suit purpose and audience. They can explain why some text forms are more suited to a purpose than others and begin to use content-specific vocabulary to achieve their communication goals. Proficient writers control effectively the language and structural features of a large repertoire of text forms. They deliberately choose vocabulary to enhance text and structure their writing according to audience and purpose.

A. Compose writings that convey a clear message and include well-chosen details.

B. Write responses to literature that demonstrate an understanding of a literary work.

C. Write friendly letters and invitations complete with date, salutation, body, closing and signature.

1. Write simple stories with a beginning, middle and end that include descriptive words and details.

2. Write responses to stories that include simple judgments about the text.

3. Write friendly letters or invitations that follow a simple letter format.

4. Produce informal writings (e.g., messages, journals, notes and poems) for various purposes.

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Writing Conventions Standard

Students learn to master writing conventions through exposure to good models and opportunities for practice. Writing conventions include spelling, punctuation, grammar and other conventions associated with forms of written text. They learn the purpose of punctuation: to clarify sentence meaning and help readers know how writing might sound aloud. They develop and extend their understanding of the spelling system, using a range of strategies for spelling words correctly and using newly learned vocabulary in their writing. They grow more skillful at using the grammatical structures of English to effectively communicate ideas in writing and to express themselves.

By the end of the K-2 program, students will...

- A. Print legibly using appropriate spacing.
- B. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly.
- C. Use conventions of punctuation and capitalization in written work.
- D. Use grammatical structures in written work.

- 1. Print legibly and space letters, words, and sentences appropriately.
- 2. Spell words correctly with regular short vowel patterns and most common long vowel words (e.g., time, name).
- 3. Spell high-frequency words correctly.
- 4. Create phonetically-spelled written work that can usually be read by the writer and others.
- 5. Spell unfamiliar words using strategies such as segmenting, sounding out and matching familiar words and word parts.
- 6. Use end punctuation correctly, including question marks, exclamation points and periods.
- 7. Use correct capitalization (e.g., the first word in a sentence, names and the pronoun I).
- 8. Use nouns, verbs and adjectives (descriptive words).

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By the end of the K-2 program,
students will...

Research Standard

Students define and investigate self-selected or assigned issues, topics and problems. They locate, select and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference and technological sources. Students use an appropriate form to communicate their findings.

Research is used in all content areas and should be incorporated within the instruction and assessment of the content-specific standards and benchmarks.

- A. Generate questions for investigation and gather information from a variety of sources.
- B. Retell important details and findings.

- 1. Discuss ideas for investigation about a topic or area of personal interest.
- 2. Utilize appropriate searching techniques to gather information, with teacher assistance, from a variety of locations (e.g., classroom, school library, and public library or community resources).
- 3. Use books or observations to gather information to explain a topic or unit of study with teacher assistance.
- 4. Recall important information about a topic with teacher assistance.
- 5. Report information to others.