



Language Arts Curriculum

	Early Childhood 3-6 years	Lower Elementary 6-9 years	Upper Elementary 9-12 years	Middle School 12-14 years
<p>Listening and Speaking:</p> <p><i>The child will develop skills in attending and analyzing communications.</i></p> <p><i>The child will develop fluency in using language to communicate.</i></p>	<p>Alternates as listener and speaker. Greets people and constructs meaning from communication.</p> <p>Attends to and comprehends extended communication (i.e. a story or song). Confidently shares and describes objects or events in a group setting.</p> <p>Understands verbal three step directions and asks questions to clarify.</p> <p>Begins to acquire expanded vocabulary and speaks in complete sentences. Uses correct past, present, future tenses.</p> <p>Uses oral language for decision-making, negotiating, and social interaction.</p>	<p>Attends to speaker, demonstrating appropriate body language. Speaks clearly and fluently with appropriate rate and volume.</p> <p>Relates auditory information to prior knowledge and evaluates, analyzes and draws inferences.</p> <p>Uses clarity, sequencing, tone and eye contact when presenting in a group.</p> <p>Follows oral directions, recalls information and contributes appropriately.</p> <p>Listens and communicates effectively and respectfully with peers and teachers.</p>	<p>Waits for appropriate cues to enter a discussion or answer questions. Attends to audience and responds appropriately.</p> <p>Develops oral presentation skills with appropriate posture, eye contact, projection, enunciation, rhythm and vocabulary.</p> <p>Listens for major themes, summarizes and takes notes. Uses oral language to hypothesize, evaluate, plan and influence others.</p> <p>Articulates opinions effectively and respectfully, while actively listening to brainstorm and problem solve.</p>	<p>Speaks with appropriate pacing, modulation, and diction.</p> <p>Delivers oral presentations with appropriate posture, eye contact, projection, enunciation, rhythm and vocabulary. Gives interpretive, fact-based and evaluative feedback.</p> <p>Discriminates between important and irrelevant information and demonstrates efficient and useful note-taking skills.</p> <p>Anticipates and acknowledges different points of view. Constructs effective arguments and resolutions regarding contentious issues.</p>



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<p>Reading:</p> <p><i>The child will develop a love of reading and an ability to construct meaning from written text using a variety of reading strategies.</i></p> <p><i>The child will develop a variety of decoding skills appropriate to benchmarks.</i></p>	<p>Makes meaning from stories using pictures, prior knowledge, predictions and asking questions.</p> <p>Makes connections between story and self, world and other texts.</p> <p>Introduced to basic story elements and genres: main idea, character, setting, conflict and resolution; and fiction, non-fiction and poetry.</p> <p>Re-enacts and retells stories, songs, and poems. Creates art and/or writing demonstrating comprehension.</p> <p>Understands reading for informational purposes and engages in basic research.</p> <p>Identifies and generates rhymes, beginning/middle/end sounds, able to blend, segment and substitute</p>	<p>Reads independently for sustained periods of time.</p> <p>Uses comprehension strategies: context clues, making connections, questioning, visualizing, analyzing and predicting.</p> <p>Recognizes elements of a story: main idea and details, character, setting, plot, conflict and resolution. Uses information text to retrieve and acquire new information.</p> <p>Identifies characteristics of genres: fiction, non-fiction, fairy tales, fables, poetry, biography, etc.</p> <p>Responds creatively to texts: participates in class discussions, drawings, stories and written responses.</p>	<p>Reads independently from a variety of genres and understands that each text reflects an author's perspective.</p> <p>Uses a variety of comprehension strategies before, during and after reading: questioning, analyzing, inferring, interpreting, hypothesizing and making connections to self and other texts.</p> <p>Analyzes text for author's purpose and makes conclusions.</p> <p>Summarizes including only key details verbally and in written responses.</p> <p>Articulates verbal responses to a variety of texts and uses textual evidence to support analysis during read aloud and book groups.</p>	<p>Using reading comprehension strategies independently, summarizes and makes generalizations from content and relates them to the purpose of the materials.</p> <p>Connects text to self, others, prior knowledge, and world.</p> <p>Analyzes text, noticing structure, author's craft, and identifying purpose, character perspective, theme and point of view.</p> <p>Critiques writing at a social, political, historical, ethical, and allegorical level.</p> <p>Creates a visual representation to use while reading. Actively uses a visual note-taking system.</p>



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	<p>phonemes, showing solid phonemic awareness.</p> <p>Identifies letter names and sequences the letters of the alphabet.</p> <p>Has mastered sound/symbol correlation for each letter.</p> <p>Fluently reads and can spell CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words in and out of context.</p> <p>Demonstrates one to one correspondence with spoken and written word, pointing to each word.</p> <p>Memorizes and recites nursery rhymes, songs and poetry, developing fluency.</p> <p>Builds and automatically reads sight words: set 1.</p>	<p>Uses word attack skills: syllabication, prefixes, suffixes, word families.</p> <p>Uses phonics, blending strategies, and rules of language to decode: short/long vowels, diphthongs, digraphs, contractions, abbreviations in grade level text.</p> <p>Uses pictures, context, background knowledge, and patterns to determine meaning of new vocabulary.</p> <p>Reads with pacing and intonation, using punctuation and recognizing miscues, in age-appropriate texts.</p> <p>Reads and spells all sets of sight words automatically.</p>	<p>Recognizes figurative language and generalizes meaning from it.</p> <p>Uses prefixes, suffixes and root words to understand word meanings.</p> <p>Uses a combination of word analysis, context and resources to decipher and identify unknown words.</p> <p>Reads age-appropriate material with fluency and accuracy, continually self-monitoring.</p>	<p>Compares, contrasts, and evaluates ideas and information from various sources and genres.</p> <p>Demonstrates understanding of etymology.</p> <p>Applies word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections.</p> <p>Reads aloud fluently with appropriate inflection. Applies meta-cognitive strategies to check for understanding.</p>



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<p>Writing:</p> <p><i>The child will develop creative and technical skills in writing effectively for a variety of purposes, modes and audiences.</i></p>	<p>Develops fine motor skills through practical life and hands on pre-writing activities.</p> <p>Uses correct pencil grip and forms most lower and uppercase letters correctly.</p> <p>Understands print carries a message.</p> <p>Writes first name fluently.</p> <p>Names and labels objects and places.</p> <p>Draws lines and shapes to represent people, objects and places to tell a story.</p> <p>Writes a complete sentence with models.</p> <p>Writes ideas to tell a story. Revises writing with teacher support.</p> <p>Makes effort to re-read writing.</p>	<p>Writes legibly and fluently in print and cursive.</p> <p>Can generate and expand upon written ideas.</p> <p>Uses prewriting strategies: drawings, brainstorming, story maps, graphic organizers and outlines.</p> <p>Organizes writing with a connected beginning, middle and end.</p> <p>Writes stories and poems with structure, details, attention to word choice and where the reader can picture what is happening.</p> <p>Writes to develop characters, plot, setting, conflict and conclusion.</p> <p>Uses topic sentences, supporting details, and basic transition words, to</p>	<p>Uses legible handwriting, and/or word processing and presentation software to share ideas.</p> <p>Writes with deliberate word choice, tone and is developing variation in sentences, structure and writing style to engage reader.</p> <p>Organizes writing thoughtfully into paragraphs by topic, using transition words and phrases to introduce subsequent ideas.</p> <p>Writes multi-paragraph stories, and poems, elaborating with action, dialogue, thoughts and feelings so the reader can visualize what is happening.</p> <p>Identifies and uses literal and figurative language: metaphors, similes, personification, foreshadowing, flashback, symbolism, alliteration,</p>	<p>Proficiently utilizes a wide variety of software and applications.</p> <p>Composes multi-paragraph essays, in argument, information and narrative form, that establish context, point of view, and a focused impression.</p> <p>Composes expository pieces with clear thesis and supporting evidence (e.g. article, pamphlet, report, manual and business letter).</p> <p>Creates cohesive persuasive and expository compositions with introduction, first and second level of support and a conclusion.</p> <p>Uses organizational patterns in argument writing (e.g. cause and effect or comparison).</p>



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		<p>create structured paragraphs connected to a big idea.</p> <p>Can create a non-fiction piece of writing with an introduction, body and conclusion with teacher support.</p> <p>Shares personal reflections through written observations, reflections on self, and letters.</p> <p>Bring pieces of writing through the entire writing process: drafting, reading, getting feedback, rereading and revising, editing and publishing.</p>	<p>onomatopoeia, hyperbole, idioms and puns.</p> <p>Composes opinion and information writing with introductions to hook the reader and a conclusion to sum up the main idea.</p> <p>Elaborates in opinion and information writing by explaining reasons/examples including a variety of strategic facts and details to convey a message to readers.</p> <p>Writes for a variety of purposes, including self-reflection, observations, documentation, self-expression and reading responses.</p> <p>Engages independently in the Writing Process: prewriting and planning, drafting, reading and peer review, revising, proofreading (using rubrics) and publication.</p>	<p>Analyzes effectiveness of oral and written presentations by self and others.</p> <p>Develops bibliography and source page using APA or MLA format and parenthetical documentation to cite sources.</p>



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<p>Word Study, Spelling, Mechanics and Grammar:</p> <p><i>The child will understand the conventions of written language and how to apply them.</i></p>	<p>Uses word families, synonyms and antonyms to build vocabulary.</p> <p>Uses knowledge of letter-sound relationships to spell. Spells CVC (consonant vowel consonant) words correctly.</p> <p>Uses phonetic/inventive spelling to write thoughts, ideas, words, and stories.</p> <p>Recognizes and spells set 1 of sight words.</p> <p>Practices writing conventions: writing in complete sentences, using beginning capitalization, ending punctuation, and spacing between words.</p> <p>Introduced to nouns and verbs.</p>	<p>Uses root words, affixes, compound words, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones to understand and build vocabulary.</p> <p>Progresses from phonetic to conventional spelling using phonics rules, patterns and resources.</p> <p>Identifies misspellings in own writing.</p> <p>Spells all sets of sight words correctly.</p> <p>Consistently uses appropriate spacing, capitals and endmarks in writing.</p> <p>Identifies nouns, articles, adjectives, verbs, prepositions, adverbs, and understands subject-verb agreement.</p>	<p>Uses homonyms, homophones, roots and affixes to build correct spelling and vocabulary.</p> <p>Applies spelling rules, and uses tools for self-correction.</p> <p>Uses correct punctuation in writing, including: apostrophes, commas, quotation marks, colons, semi-colons.</p> <p>Identifies usage and mechanical errors, uses dictionary and thesaurus.</p> <p>Identifies nine parts of speech and analyzes sentence structure.</p>	<p>Consistent application of spelling rules and patterns, dictionary and thesaurus use to expand vocabulary.</p> <p>Identifies and consistently uses correct grammar, mechanics and sentence structure.</p> <p>Distinguishes phrases from clauses and understands their various functions.</p>