



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. Establishes eye contact, 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 three step directions and asks questions to clarify.</p> <p>Begins to acquire expanded vocabulary, using complete sentences.</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. 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 and word attack 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>Familiarity with 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 cvc rhymes, able to blend, segment and substitute phonemes showing solid phonemic awareness.</p> <p>Identifies letter names and</p>	<p>Applies comprehension strategies: predicting, cause and effect, using background knowledge, summarizing, visualizing, questioning, generalizing, and making connections and inferences.</p> <p>Recognizes story structure, elements and point of view and author's purpose. Uses information text to retrieve information. Identifies characteristics of genres: fiction, non-fiction, myths, fables, poetry, biography.</p> <p>Responds creatively to texts: participates in class discussions, drawings, stories and written responses.</p> <p>Counts syllables, identifies rhymes, alliteration, and word families.</p> <p>Uses phonics and rules of</p>	<p>Uses a variety of comprehension strategies before, during and after reading: generalizing, making connections, predictions, inferences, retelling, visualizing and questioning.</p> <p>Comments on and critiques text using personal reflections and written responses.</p> <p>Identifies plot, theme, character, and setting. Can summarize and describe how these elements contribute to overall impact of a piece of literature.</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 vocabulary strategies to identify unknown words.</p>	<p>Using reading comprehension strategies independently, summarizes and makes generalizations from content and relates them to the purpose of the materials.</p> <p>Identifies text structure and creates a visual representation to use while reading.</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>



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	<p>sounds.</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 recognizes a word bank of sight words.</p>	<p>language to decode: short/long vowels, diphthongs, digraphs, prefixes, suffixes, root words, contractions, abbreviations and syllabication rules.</p> <p>Uses picture clues, 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 high frequency and sight words automatically.</p>	<p>Reads age-appropriate material with fluency and accuracy, continually self-monitoring.</p>	<p>Reads aloud fluently with appropriate inflection. Applies meta-cognitive strategies to check for understanding.</p>
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<p>Writing and Handwriting:</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>Names and labels objects and places.</p> <p>Retells familiar stories and summarizes in words or drawing non-fiction text.</p> <p>Communicates ideas through pre-writing: telling, discussing and drawing. Then emergent writing, journals, stories, poems and dictation.</p> <p>Makes effort to re-read writing.</p>	<p>Writes legibly in print and cursive.</p> <p>Prewriting strategies: drawings, brainstorming, story maps, graphic organizers and outlines.</p> <p>Uses topic sentence, supporting details, basic transition words, to create structured paragraphs culminating in report with introduction, conclusion and simple bibliography.</p> <p>Creative writing: Understanding character, dialogue, plot, setting, conflict and conclusion.</p> <p>Personal writing: observations, journals, letters, narrative, reading responses and poetry.</p>	<p>Writes legibly in print and cursive.</p> <p>Uses word processing and presentation software.</p> <p>Uses prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas.</p> <p>Develops thesis statement and supports it with details and evidence, uses point of view, audience and transitional phrases to craft writing.</p> <p>Composes multi-paragraph essays including narrative, instructional, expository and persuasive.</p> <p>Identifies and uses literal and figurative language: metaphors, similes, personification, foreshadowing, flashback, symbolism, alliteration, onomatopoeia, hyperbole,</p>	<p>Proficiency with a wide variety of software and applications.</p> <p>Composes multi-paragraph essays, both persuasive and narrative, 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>Cohesive persuasive and expository compositions with introduction, first and second level of support and a conclusion.</p> <p>Uses organizational patterns in writing (e.g.</p>



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		<p>Writing Process: drafting, rereading, feedback, revising, editing and publishing.</p>	<p>idioms and puns.</p> <p>Writes for a variety of purposes: poetry and story writing, observation and documentation, and reading responses.</p> <p>Writing Process: prewriting, drafting, peer review, revising, proofreading (using rubrics) and publication.</p>	<p>cause and effect or comparison).</p> <p>Analyzes effectiveness of oral and written presentations by self and others.</p> <p>Develops bibliography and source page using MLA format and parenthetical documentation to cite sources.</p>
<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>Knowledge of letter-sound relationships to spell.</p> <p>Recognizes and spells common sight words.</p> <p>Writing conventions: sentences, beginning capitalization and ending punctuation.</p> <p>Introduced to nouns and verbs.</p>	<p>Uses root words, affixes, compound words, synonyms, antonyms, homophones to understand vocabulary.</p> <p>Progresses from phonetic to conventional spelling using patterns and rules.</p> <p>Writing conventions: spacing, capitalization, punctuation, contractions.</p> <p>Identifies nine parts of speech and understands subject-verb agreement.</p>	<p>Uses homonyms, homophones, roots and affixes for spelling and vocabulary.</p> <p>Applies spelling rules, and uses tools for self-correction.</p> <p>Writing conventions: apostrophes, commas, quotation marks, colon, semi-colon.</p> <p>Identifies usage and mechanical errors, uses</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</p>



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			<p>dictionary and thesaurus.</p> <p>Writes and recognizes a variety of sentence structures.</p> <p>Appropriate use of nine parts of speech.</p>	<p>understands their various functions.</p>
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