

Writing Continuum

1. Preconventional (Ages 3-4)

- Relies primarily on pictures to convey meaning.
- Demonstrates awareness that print conveys meaning.
- Begins to label and add “words” to pictures.
- Makes marks other than drawing on paper (scribbles).
- Tells about own writing.
- Makes random recognizable letters to represent words.

2. Emergent (Ages 4-5)

- Uses picture and print to convey meaning.
- Copies names and familiar words.
- Understands sound-symbol relationships.
- Prints with upper case letters.
- Pretends to read own writing.
- Sees self as a writer.
- Takes risks with writing.
- Uses beginning consonants to make words.
- Uses ending consonants to make words.

3. Beginning (Ages 5-7)

- Writes names and favorite words.
- Begins to write noun-verb phrases.
- Begins to use spacing between words.
- Intermixes upper and lower case letters.
- Able to match letters and sounds.
- Chooses letters on the basis of sounds without regard for conventional spelling patterns.
- Begins to read own writing.
- Uses beginning, middle, and ending sounds to make words.