



KCDS English Language Arts: Pre-Kindergarten

The preschool foundations for learning in the English Language Arts are critical to all other curricular areas, as well as to a child's social and emotional development. Preschool instruction will incorporate the development of skills and strategies in the four components of language: reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Students will be exposed to a variety of fiction and non-fiction sub-genres, such as fairy tales, folk tales, fables, informational texts, poetry, and songs. Specific texts are selected according to themes, student interests, content areas and/or genres.

Pre-literacy strategies and skills for reading and writing will be introduced. Students will develop familiarity with the forms of alphabet letters, awareness of print, and letter forms. They will link letters with sounds in play activities and recognize/supply rhymes. Students will use words or illustrations to describe their experiences, tell stories, or communicate information. They will use emergent writing skills to make letters/words in many settings and for many purposes.

Strategies and skills for speaking and listening will also be introduced. Students will listen to a wide variety of age-appropriate literature (read aloud) and actively engage in activities by asking questions, offering ideas, predicting, or retelling important parts of a text. They will listen to, recite, sing, and dramatize a variety of age-appropriate literature as well. Students will also listen to, identify, and manipulate language sounds to develop auditory discrimination and phonemic awareness.

Literacy skills and strategies are viewed as foundational knowledge that will be re-visited through the year-long curriculum, and added to in years to come. Additionally, these items of knowledge, that spiral through the year, can be differentiated based upon specific learning needs.

KCDS Pre-Kindergarten: Language Arts (Grade Level at a Glance)

1st Trimester

Let's Pave the Road to Literacy—Refining Pre-Literacy Skills

Reading: Through letter of the week activities, students will visually recognize upper and lower case letters Aa through Kk and their sounds. Students will recognize frequently used sight words beginning with these letters. Long and short vowels a, e, and i will be introduced. Students will recognize and read their first name and the first names of their classmates. They will independently select and demonstrate proper handling of books.

Writing: Students will practice formation of D'Nealian upper and lower case letters Aa through Kk. Students will practice writing their first name properly and trace words/simple sentences to enforce left to right progression. Students will journal about letter of the week themes by drawing pictures and labeling the initial letter sounds of words.

Speaking: Students will orally describe the contents of their Show and Tell bags each week (through the 2nd Trimester). They will orally participate in circle time discussions when prompted by the teacher and will speak in declarative and polite imperative sentences. Students will recite and sing nursery rhymes, phonics songs, and nonsense rhymes (on-going). Students will make oral text-to-self comparisons and predictions in discussions.

Listening: Students will distinguish the number of syllables in a word. Students will listen to a variety of fictional and informational texts. Students will listen while others speak, raise their hands to share, and follow one-step directions.

2nd Trimester

Let's Build the Bridge: Connecting Pre-Literacy to Emergent Literacy

Reading: Through letter of the week activities, students will visually recognize upper and lower case letters Ll through Zz and their sounds. Students will recognize frequently used sight words beginning with these letters. Long and short vowels o and u will be introduced. Students will recognize first names and last name initials to identify themselves and their classmates. Students will independently select books and identify some words in context.

Writing: Students will practice formation of the D'Nealian uppercase and lowercase letters Ll through Zz. First name and last name initials will be written by students on all work. Students will practice using thinner writing utensils and engaging in more intricate fine motor activities. Students will journal about letter of the week themes through drawing and labeling via "brave spelling" of words. Students will copy words, phrases, and simple sentences in writing to build left to right progression.

Speaking: Students will formulate questions during discussions using interrogative words introduced by the teacher. Students will respond to story discussions by making text-to-text comparisons and predictions. Students will sequence stories they have heard.

Listening: Students will listen and identify the number of words in sentences as well as the number of letters in simple words. Students will listen to, and follow, two-step directions.

3rd Trimester

On the Road to Kindergarten: Continuing the Journey from Emergent Reader to Early Reader, and Beyond

Reading: Diagraphs, blends and silent letters will be introduced. Students will "read the room," looking for printed text. Students will select "just right" books at their level. Leveled books will be given to students as appropriate.

Writing: Students will practice D'Nealian uppercase and lowercase letters Aa through Zz on lined paper. Students will write first and last names on all work. Students will journal with pictures and label their work by "brave spelling" multiple words to express their ideas. Students will copy and create sentences.

Speaking: Students will reenact familiar stories and sequence stories with greater depth. Students will express themselves with emotion (exclamatory usage) while speaking and acting. Students will make oral text-to-world comparisons.

Listening: Students will listen and then segment words into isolated sounds. Students will listen to, and follow, multi-step directions.