

District 89

First Grade Benchmarks

A District 89 student in First Grade secures skills learned in Kindergarten and . . .

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic awareness is an oral skill, that is, spoken words and sounds.

- Repeats a sentence.
- Breaks sentence into separate words.
- Claps and counts words in a sentence.
- Recognizes rhyming words.
- Produces words that rhyme with a familiar word.
- Identifies beginning phoneme (individual sound).
- Blends individual words into compound words.
- Blends syllables into spoken words.
- Blends onset (beginning sound) with rime (ending syllable).
- Recognizes final phoneme (individual sound).
- Recognizes middle phoneme.
- Segments (separates) sentence into words.
- Segments syllables in words.
- Segments onsets and rimes.
- Segments phonemes.
- Substitutes one beginning sound with another.
- Substitutes ending sounds.
- Substitutes middle sounds.
- Adds words together to make compound words.
- Adds syllables to words or word parts.
- Adds beginning sounds to words.
- Adds ending sounds to words.
- Segments words in compound words.
- Deletes syllables from words.
- Deletes beginning sound from words.
- Deletes ending sound from words.

Phonics and Word Analysis

Phonics involves the connection of sounds to letters.

- Uses letter-sound correspondence to sound out unknown words.
- Uses a variety of decoding strategies (phonics, word patterns, context clues) to recognize new words in text.
- Applies knowledge of spelling patterns when reading.
- Recognizes compound words.
- Recognizes contractions.
- Recognizes and uses endings, such as: /s/, /ed/, /ing/.
- Recognizes the high frequency words on the District 89 Kindergarten and First Grade lists.

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Comprehension and Fluency

Done with appropriate teacher support.

- Uses pre-reading strategies, such as: story structure, making predictions, prior knowledge, picture clues, previewing, and setting a purpose.
- Participates in proficient reader strategies, such as: making connections, inferring with support from the text, confirming predictions, and determining importance of details.
- Continues using strategies after reading to increase understanding, such as: comparing and contrasting texts and/or ideas, drawing conclusions, cause and effect, characters, setting (time and place), events, and synthesis.
- Uses self-correcting strategies, such as: rereading, using known words as anchors, using pictures for information, and stopping when reading does not make sense.
- Retells a story with a beginning, middle, and end, using setting and problem/solution.
- Reenacts and retells stories, songs, poems, and plays.
- Reads aloud with expression, accuracy, and appropriate volume, paying attention to ending punctuation and dialogue (distinguishes between characters and narrator).
- Selects books at an appropriate level.
- Reads independently in a sustained way from 10 – 20 minutes.
- Finds important information in nonfiction.
- Distinguishes between poetry and prose.

Writing and Spelling

Done with appropriate teacher support.

- Use pre-writing strategies to generate and organize ideas.
- Writes simple (subject/verb/complement) sentences.
- Uses basic punctuation (end marks) and capitalization
- Creates written text for others to read, such as: lists, note cards, picture labels.
- Experiments with a variety of creative writing, such as; stories, descriptions, and journal entries.
- Presents and discusses own writing with other students.
- Responds constructively to other students' compositions.
- Applies new vocabulary to written composition.
- Uses basic components of writing process (prewriting, drafting, publishing) to develop narratives.
- Uses phonetic spelling to attempt unknown words.
- Spells the District 89 high frequency words on the Kindergarten and First Grade lists, three and four letter short vowel words, and phonetically regular long vowel words.

Listening and Speaking

- Listens and responds politely and appropriately to other speakers.
- Listens and comprehends appropriate content material.
- Participates in class discussion by contributing ideas and asking questions about the content of discussion.
- Expresses ideas clearly, thinks creatively, and organizes information.
- Speaks in a clear, audible voice.