

# District 89 Kindergarten Literacy Benchmarks

*A District 89 student in Kindergarten . . .*

## **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.*

- Produces sounds corresponding to letters of the alphabet.
- Understands the alphabetic principle (a sequence of letters in a written words represents the sequence of sounds [phonemes] in a spoken word).
- Knows that a word is made of sounds.
- Recognizes the initial consonant sound in a printed word.
- Blends short vowel words.
- Blends long vowel words.
- Produces short vowel sounds.
- Produces sound corresponding to consonant diagraph - /sh/.
- Produces sound corresponding to consonant diagraph - /th/.
- Produces sound corresponding to consonant diagraph -/ch/.
- Produces sound corresponding to - /ing/.

## **Concept of Print**

- Distinguishes letters.
- Distinguishes words.

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- Distinguishes sentences.
- Recognizes punctuation marks, such as: period, question mark, exclamation point, quotation marks, and comma.
- Matches spoken word to print.
- Understands that print conveys meaning.
- Recognizes the use of capital letters at the beginning of a sentence and for names.

### **Knowledge of Books**

- Knows the parts of a book and their function: title page, author, illustrator, and cover.
- Tracks print left to right and top to bottom.
- Tracks printed words one-to-one.

### **Knowledge of the Alphabet**

- Recites the letters of the alphabet in sequence.
- Identifies all the uppercase letters, out of sequence.
- Identifies all the lowercase letters, out of sequence.
- Matches upper and lowercase letters, out of sequence.

### **High Frequency Words**

- Recognizes the District 89 high frequency words on the Kindergarten list.
- Recognizes the eight basic color words.
- Recognizes the number words one through ten.
- Recognizes the names of the days of the week.
- Recognizes the names of the months of the year.

### **Comprehension and Fluency**

*Done with appropriate teacher support.*

- Uses pre-reading strategies such as: using story structure, making predictions, generating questions, making connections to prior knowledge, and using picture clues to support understanding of the text.
- Participates in proficient reader strategies, such as: making connections, inferring, and visualizing.
- Continues using strategies after reading, such as: comparing and contrasting texts and/or ideas, drawing conclusion, determining cause and effect, and noting details and/or facts.
- Understands sequence of events.
- Categorizes and classifies.
- Approximates reading by looking at pictures and inventing text.
- Distinguishes between fantastic and realistic fiction.
- Comprehends stories read aloud.
- Retells stories in sequence.
- Reads with expression, such as: using appropriate volume, paying attention to punctuation, and reading in phrases (not word by word).
- Begins to read independently, using picture clues and text.

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## **Writing and Spelling**

*Done with appropriate teacher support,*

- Draws a picture that tells a story.
- Labels pictures with semi-phonetic spelling with some sound letter correspondence.
- Copies uppercase letters of the alphabet.
- Copies lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Writes his/her name correctly.
- Spells the words on the District 89 high frequency Kindergarten word list.
- Capitalizes the first word in a sentence and names in writing.
- Uses ending punctuation in a sentence.
- Uses the concept of written word boundaries (spacing).
- Experiments with creative writing: story, poetry, song.
- Presents and discusses own writing with other students.
- Responds constructively to other students' compositions.

## **Listening and Speaking**

- Listens attentively to teacher and others.
- Follows two-step oral directions.
- Follows three-step oral directions.
- Speaks in complete sentences.
- Describes objects and events with general and specific vocabulary.