



Benchmarks from Illinois Early Learning Standards



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Language Arts

- Understand that pictures and symbols have meaning and that print carries a message.
- Understand that reading progresses from left to right and top to bottom.
- Identify labels and signs in the environment.
- Identify some letters, including those in own name.
- Make some letter-sound matches.
- Predict what will happen next using pictures and content for guides.
- Begin to develop phonological awareness by participating in rhyming activities.
- Recognize separable and repeating sounds in spoken language.
- Retell information from a story.
- Respond to simple questions about reading material.
- Demonstrate understanding of literal meaning of stories by making comments.
- Understand that different text forms, such as magazines, notes, lists, letters, and story books, are used for different purposes.
- Show independent interest in reading-related activities.
- Use scribbles, approximations of letters, or known letters to represent written language.
- Dictate stories and experiences.
- Use drawing and writing skills to convey meaning and information.
- Listen with understanding and respond to directions and conversations.
- Communicate needs, ideas and thoughts.
- Seek answers to questions through active exploration.
- Relate prior knowledge to new information.
- Communicate information with others.

Mathematics

- Use concepts that include number recognition, counting and one-to-one correspondence.
- Count with understanding and recognize “how many” in sets of objects.
- Solve simple mathematical problems.
- Explore quantity and number.
- Connect numbers to quantities they represent using physical models and representations.
- Make comparisons of quantities.
- Demonstrate a beginning understanding of measurement using non-standard units and measurement words.

- Construct a sense of time through participation in daily activities.
- Show understanding of and use comparative words.
- Incorporate estimating and measuring activities into play.
- Sort and classify objects by a variety of properties.
- Recognize, duplicate and extend simple patterns, such as sequences of sounds, shapes and colors.
- Begin to order objects in series or rows.
- Participate in situations that involve addition and subtraction using manipulatives.
- Describe qualitative change, such as measuring to see who is growing taller.
- Recognize geometric shapes and structures in the environment.
- Find and name locations with simple words, such as “near”.
- Represent data using concrete objects, pictures, and graphs.
- Make predictions about what will happen next.
- Gather data about themselves and their surroundings.

Science

- Use senses to explore and observe materials and natural phenomena.
- Collect, describe and record information.
- Use scientific tools such as thermometers, balance scales and magnifying glasses for investigation.
- Become familiar with the use of devices incorporating technology.
- Investigate and categorize living things in the environment.
- Show an awareness of changes that occur in themselves and their environment.
- Describe and compare basic needs of living things.
- Make comparisons among objects that have been observed.
- Describe the effects of forces in nature (e.g. wind, gravity and magnetism).
- Use common weather-related vocabulary (e.g. rainy, snowy, sunny, windy).
- Participate in recycling in their environment.
- Identify basic concepts associated with night / day and seasons.
- Begin to understand basic safety practices.
- Express wonder and ask questions about their world.
- Begin to be aware of technology and how it affects their lives.

Social Science

- Recognize the reasons for rules.
- Participate in voting as a way of making choices.
- Develop an awareness of roles of leaders in their environment.
- Identify community workers and the services they provide.
- Begin to understand the use of trade to obtain goods and services.
- Recall information about the immediate past.
- Locate objects and places in familiar environments.
- Express beginning geographic thinking.
- Recognize similarities and differences in people.
- Understand that each of us belongs to a family and recognize that families vary.

Physical Development and Health

- Engage in active play using gross motor skills.
- Engage in active play using fine motor skills.
- Coordinate movements to perform complex tasks.
- Follow simple safety rules while participating in activities.
- Participate in developmental activities related to physical fitness.
- Exhibit increased endurance.
- Follow rules and procedures when participating in group physical activities.
- Demonstrate ability to cooperate with others during group physical activities.
- Participate in simple practices that promote healthy living and prevent illness.
- Identify body parts and their functions.
- Act independently in caring for personal hygiene needs.
- Use appropriate communication skills when expressing needs, wants and feelings.
- Use socially acceptable ways to resolve conflict.
- Participate in activities to learn to avoid dangerous situations.

Fine Arts

- Dance: Investigate the elements of dance.
- Drama: Investigate the elements of drama.
- Music: Investigate the elements of music.
- Visual Arts: Investigate the elements of visual arts.
- Describe or respond to their own creative work or the creative work of others.

- Dance: Participate in dance activities.
- Drama: Participate in drama activities.
- Music: Participate in music activities.
- Visual Arts: Participate in the visual arts.
- Use creative arts as an avenue for self-expression.

Foreign Language

- Maintain the native language for use in a variety of purposes.
- Use and maintain the native language in order to build upon and develop transferable language and literacy skills.

Social/Emotional Development

- Describe self by using several basic characteristics.
- Exhibit eagerness and curiosity as a learner.
- Exhibit persistence and creativity in seeking solutions to problems.
- Show some initiative and independence in actions.
- Use appropriate communication skills when expressing needs, wants, and feelings.
- Begin to understand and follow rules.
- Manage transitions and begin to adapt to change in routines.
- Show empathy and caring for others.
- Use the classroom environment purposefully and respectfully.
- Engage in cooperative group play.
- Begin to share materials and experiences and take turns.
- Respect the rights of self and others.
- Develop relationships with children and adults.