

Connections

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Literacy



Writing, the other part of literacy

When we think of the term literacy, we often think reading. While this is part of literacy, the term is fully defined as the ability to read, write, sign/speak, and listen/view in a way that allows for effective communication and use of language for thinking. Reading and writing are two sides to the same coin. The success of one is dependent on the success of the other. Having strong writing skills indicates strong reading skills.

Reading and writing skills develop simultaneously for most children. Students cannot begin to write with intention until they understand words in print. Children cannot understand words in print until they have a solid language foundation.

Writing Development

Example skills through the years

Early Years

- Age 2—Random scribbling
- Age 3—Writing across the paper in a linear fashion, repeating patterns over and over
- Age 3 to 4—Make mock letters or approximations of letters
- Age 4—write letters to represent words and symbols. Ability to write own name

Elementary

- Age 4 to 5—Group letters to form a word. Use of invented spelling. Will copy words seen in environment
- Age 5 to 7—Correctly writing most words as well as adding punctuation. Organizing words in lines with spaces between, moving left to right. Begin to revise written work
- Age 8 to 10—Write more complex sentences; Use a variety of sentences to express ideas clearly. Understand the process of planning, drafting and revising

Our [IDEAL](#) parent document has language and literacy milestones for children birth through the age of 10. The English and ASL milestones are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). In addition, we have Spanish Language Milestones, also available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

The Next Steps document was created to include language and literacy milestones for middle and high schoolers as well as young adults. This is also available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Middle and High School

- Develop complex grammar knowledge and vocabulary
- Write more complex narratives
- Cite sources on information or research papers
- Explore various subjects through writing such as science, social studies and literature
- Use of planning and organization strategies

Tips for Home

Early Years:

- Expose your child to print throughout your daily interactions
- Read with your child and let them see you read for enjoyment
- Have paper and writing tools available. Join your child in writing play.
- Have magnetic letters available. Model spelling things with the letters, such as your child's name
- Form letters in play, such as in the sand, with playdough, fingerpainting, etc.

School Age:

- Continue to read with your child and/or read the same book as your child and talk about it
- Have a family message board and model writing to each other
- Encourage and model writing in a journal
- Write letters to your child and have them write letters to extended family members and/or friends
- Create a story together through shared writing. You can use a large piece of paper and have all members of your household contribute to a silly story.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

