

✍️ WRITING CONTINUUM

Preconventional Ages 3–5	Emerging Ages 4–6	Developing Ages 5–7	Beginning Ages 6–8	Expanding Ages 7–9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Relies primarily on pictures to convey meaning. 📄 Begins to label and add “words” to pictures. 📄 Writes first name. 📁 Demonstrates awareness that print conveys meaning. ✍️ Makes marks other than drawing on paper (scribbles). 😊 Writes random recognizable letters to represent words. 😊 Tells about own pictures and writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Uses pictures and print to convey meaning. 📄 Writes words to describe or support pictures. 📄 Copies signs, labels, names, and words (environmental print). 📁 Demonstrates understanding of letter/sound relationship. ✍️ Prints with upper case letters. ✍️ Matches letters to sounds. ✍️ Uses beginning consonants to make words. ✍️ Uses beginning and ending consonants to make words. 😊 Pretends to read own writing. 😊 Sees self as writer. 😊 Takes risks with writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes 1-2 sentences about a topic. 📄 Writes names and familiar words. 📁 Generates own ideas for writing. ✍️ Writes from top to bottom, left to right, and front to back. ✍️ Intermixes upper and lower case letters. ✍️ Experiments with capitals. ✍️ Experiments with punctuation. ✍️ Begins to use spacing between words. ✍️ Uses growing awareness of sound segments (e.g., phonemes, syllables, rhymes) to write words. ✍️ Spells words on the basis of sounds without regard for conventional spelling patterns. ✍️ Uses beginning, middle, and ending sounds to make words. 😊 Begins to read own writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes several sentences about a topic. 📄 Writes about observations and experiences. 📄 Writes short nonfiction pieces (simple facts about a topic) with guidance. 📁 Chooses own writing topics. ✂️ Reads own writing and notices mistakes with guidance. ✂️ Revises by adding details with guidance. ✍️ Uses spacing between words consistently. ✍️ Forms most letters legibly. ✍️ Writes pieces that self and others can read. ✍️ Uses phonetic spelling to write independently. ✍️ Spells simple words and some high frequency words correctly. ✍️ Begins to use periods and capital letters correctly. 😊 Shares own writing with others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes short fiction and poetry with guidance. 📄 Writes a variety of short nonfiction pieces (e.g., facts about a topic, letters, lists) with guidance. 📁 Writes with a central idea. 📁 Writes using complete sentences. 📁 Organizes ideas in a logical sequence in fiction and nonfiction writing with guidance. 📁 Begins to recognize and use interesting language. ✂️ Uses several prewriting strategies (e.g., web, brainstorm) with guidance. ✂️ Listens to others’ writing and offers feedback. ✂️ Begins to consider suggestions from others about own writing. ✂️ Adds description and detail with guidance. ✂️ Edits for capitals and punctuation with guidance. ✂️ Publishes own writing with guidance. ✍️ Writes legibly. ✍️ Spells most high frequency words correctly and moves toward conventional spelling. 😊 Identifies own writing strategies and sets goals with guidance.
Bridging Ages 8–10	Fluent Ages 9–11	Proficient Ages 10–13	Connecting Ages 11–14	Independent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes about feelings and opinions. 📄 Writes fiction with clear beginning, middle, and end. 📄 Writes poetry using carefully chosen language with guidance. 📄 Writes organized nonfiction pieces (e.g., reports, letters, and lists) with guidance. 📁 Begins to use paragraphs to organize ideas. 📁 Uses strong verbs, interesting language, and dialogue with guidance. ✂️ Seeks feedback on writing. ✂️ Revises for clarity with guidance. ✂️ Revises to enhance ideas by adding description and detail. ✂️ Uses resources (e.g., thesaurus and word lists) to make writing more effective with guidance. ✂️ Edits for punctuation, spelling, and grammar. ✂️ Publishes writing in polished format with guidance. ✍️ Increases use of visual strategies, spelling rules, and knowledge of word parts to spell correctly. ✍️ Uses commas and apostrophes correctly with guidance. 😊 Uses criteria for effective writing to set own writing goals with guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Begins to write organized fiction and nonfiction (e.g., reports, letters, biographies, and autobiographies). 📄 Develops stories with plots that include problems and solutions with guidance. 📄 Creates characters in stories with guidance. 📄 Writes poetry using carefully chosen language. 📁 Begins to experiment with sentence length and complex sentence structure. 📁 Varies leads and endings with guidance. 📁 Uses description, details, and similes with guidance. 📁 Uses dialogue with guidance. ✂️ Uses a range of strategies for planning writing. ✂️ Adapts writing for purpose and audience with guidance. ✂️ Revises for specific writing traits (e.g., ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions) with guidance. ✂️ Incorporates suggestions from others about own writing with guidance. ✂️ Edits for punctuation, spelling, and grammar with greater precision. ✂️ Uses tools (e.g., dictionaries, word lists, and spell checkers) to edit with guidance. 😊 Develops criteria for effective writing in different genres with guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes persuasively about ideas, feelings, and opinions. 📄 Creates plots with problems and solutions. 📄 Begins to develop the main characters and describe detailed settings. 📄 Begins to write organized and fluent nonfiction, including simple bibliographies. 📁 Writes cohesive paragraphs including reasons and examples with guidance. 📁 Uses transitional sentences to connect paragraphs. 📁 Varies sentence structure, leads, and endings. 📁 Begins to use descriptive language, details, and similes. 📁 Uses voice to evoke emotional response from readers. 📁 Begins to integrate information on a topic from a variety of sources. ✂️ Begins to revise for specific writing traits (e.g., ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions). ✂️ Uses tools (e.g., dictionaries, word lists, spell checkers) to edit independently. ✂️ Selects and publishes writing in polished format independently. ✍️ Begins to use complex punctuation (e.g., commas, colons, semicolons, quotation marks) appropriately. 😊 Begins to set goals and identify strategies to improve writing in different genres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes in a variety of genres and forms for different audiences and purposes independently. 📄 Creates plots with a climax. 📄 Creates detailed, believable settings and characters in stories. 📄 Writes organized, fluent, and detailed nonfiction independently, including bibliographies with correct format. 📁 Writes cohesive paragraphs including supportive reasons and examples. 📁 Uses descriptive language, details, similes, and imagery to enhance ideas independently. 📁 Begins to use dialogue to enhance character development. 📁 Incorporates personal voice in writing with increasing frequency. 📁 Integrates information on a topic from a variety of sources independently. 📁 Constructs charts, graphs, and tables to convey information when appropriate. ✂️ Uses prewriting strategies effectively to organize and strengthen writing. ✂️ Revises for specific writing traits (e.g., ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions) independently. ✂️ Includes deletion in revision strategies. ✂️ Incorporates suggestions from others on own writing independently. ✍️ Uses complex punctuation (e.g., commas, colons, semicolons, quotation marks) with increasing accuracy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📄 Writes organized, fluent, accurate, and in-depth nonfiction, including references with correct bibliographic format. 📄 Writes cohesive, fluent, and effective poetry and fiction. 📁 Uses a clear sequence of paragraphs with effective transitions. 📁 Begins to incorporate literary devices (e.g., imagery, metaphors, personification, and foreshadowing). 📁 Weaves dialogue effectively into stories. 📁 Develops plots, characters, setting, and mood (literary elements) effectively. 📁 Begins to develop personal voice and style of writing. ✂️ Revises through multiple drafts independently. ✂️ Seeks feedback from others and incorporates suggestions in order to strengthen own writing. ✂️ Publishes writing for different audiences and purposes in polished format independently. ✂️ Internalizes writing process. ✍️ Uses correct grammar (e.g., subject/verb agreement and verb tense) consistently. 😊 Writes with confidence and competence on a range of topics independently. 😊 Perseveres through complex or challenging writing projects independently. 😊 Sets writing goals independently by analyzing and evaluating own writing.