

Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten Language Arts at a Glance

First Six Weeks

- Listen: Increasing attention, different purposes
- Responding to books and questions
- Increasing social skills
- Follows simple spoken directions
- Uses words to communicate
- Recognizes environmental print (store signs, box labels)
- Understands parts of a book
- Recognizes favorite books by the cover
- Enjoys visiting the library
- Enjoys participating in finger plays and poems

Second Six Weeks

- Uses new words to communicate
- Understands that pictures have meaning
- Understands that print runs from left to right and top to bottom
- Tries to read and write independently
- Pretends to read with other children
- Understands that books and magazines are different
- Tells the teacher what to write

Third Six Weeks

- Hears rhyming words
- Tells a simple story
- Begins to tell order of events in a story
- Follows print as teacher reads aloud
- Begins to recognize a few letters
- Pretends to write (messages, lists)

Fourth Six Weeks

- Asks questions and makes comments about different activities
- Knows to take turns when someone is talking
- Begins to hear beginning sounds in words
- Understands that reading and writing are ways to obtain information
- Begins to recognize sight words
- Imitates stories

Fifth Six Weeks

- Begins to clap syllables
- Creates new words
- Understands that numbers and letters are different
- Begins to make a few letter/sound matches
- Predicts what will happen in a story
- Relates stories to real life experiences

Sixth Six Weeks

- Creates meanings for words
- Uses three or more words to make a sentence
- Begins to understand that letters make words
- Begins to understand that writing is used in different ways (recipes, lists, messages)
- Identifies 26 or more letters
- Begins to name characters, events, and ending of a story
- Identifies basic colors (red, blue, yellow, orange, green, purple, brown, black, white, pink)