

Pre-K Reading Standards

Pre-K Reading Standards for Literature [RL]

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year and help ensure that students gain adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is also infused through the requirement that students read increasingly complex texts through the grades. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades. Pre-K is for older 4-year-olds to younger 5-year-olds.*

Key Ideas and Details

1. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about a story or poem read aloud.
2. With prompting and support, retell a sequence of events from a story read aloud.
3. With prompting and support, act out characters and events from a story or poem read aloud.

Craft and Structure

4. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unfamiliar words in a story or poem read aloud. (See pre-kindergarten Language Standards 4–6 on applying knowledge of vocabulary to reading.)
5. Show awareness of the rhythmic structure of a poem or song by clapping or through movement.
6. With prompting and support, “read” the illustrations in a picture book by describing a character or place depicted, or by telling how a sequence of events unfolds.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. With prompting and support, make predictions about what happens next in a picture book after examining and discussing the illustrations.

For example, students listen as their teacher reads *Jump, Frog, Jump* by Robert Kalan. When each creature comes to the pond and hints at the next hazard for Frog, the teacher pauses in the reading and asks students to use the pictures and their prior knowledge to make a prediction about what will happen next. (RL.PK.6, RL.PK.7)

8. (Not applicable.)
9. With prompting and support, make connections between a story or poem and their own experiences.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Listen actively as an individual and as a member of a group to a variety of age-appropriate literature read aloud.

Pre-K Reading Standards for Informational Text [RI]

Key Ideas and Details

1. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about an informational text read aloud.
2. With prompting and support, recall important facts from an informational text after hearing it read aloud.

For example, students participate in discussions about the senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. They listen to read-alouds of a number of books on the topic, such as Alike’s *My Five Senses*, learn new vocabulary, and draw pictures and dictate words to show the importance of one of the senses. (RI.PK.2, RI.PK.4, W.PK.2, L.PK.6)

3. With prompting and support, represent or act out concepts learned from hearing an informational text read aloud (e.g., make a skyscraper out of blocks after listening to a book about cities or, following a read-aloud on animals, show how an elephant’s gait differs from a bunny’s hop).

Craft and Structure

4. With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unfamiliar words in an informational text read aloud. (See pre-kindergarten Language Standards 4–6 on applying knowledge of vocabulary to reading.)
5. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
6. With prompting and support, “read” illustrations in an informational picture book by describing facts learned from the pictures (e.g., how a seed grows into a plant).

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. With prompting and support, describe important details from an illustration or photograph.
8. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
9. With prompting and support, identify several books on a favorite topic or several books by a favorite author or illustrator.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

10. Listen actively as an individual and as a member of a group to a variety of age-appropriate informational texts read aloud.

Pre-K Reading Standards for Foundational Skills [RF]

These standards are directed toward fostering students’ understanding and working knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions of the English writing system. A research- and evidence-based scope and sequence for phonological and phonics development and the complete range of foundational skills are not ends in and of themselves. They are necessary and important components of an effective, comprehensive reading curriculum designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines. Instruction should be differentiated: as students become skilled readers, they will need much less practice with these concepts. Struggling readers may need more or different kinds of practice. The point is to teach students what they need to learn and not what they already know—to discern when particular children or activities warrant more or less attention.

Note: In pre-kindergarten and kindergarten, children are expected to demonstrate increasing awareness and competence in the areas that follow.

Print Concepts

1. With guidance and support, demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of printed and written text: books, words, letters, and the alphabet.
 - a. Handle books respectfully and appropriately, holding them right-side-up and turning pages one at a time from front to back.
 - b. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
 - c. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
 - d. Recognize and name some uppercase letters of the alphabet and the lowercase letters in their own name.
2. With guidance and support, demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
 - a. With guidance and support, recognize and produce rhyming words (e.g., identify words that rhyme with /cat/ such as /bat/ and /sat/).
 - b. With guidance and support, segment words in a simple sentence by clapping and naming the number of words in the sentence.
 - c. Identify the initial sound of a spoken word and, with guidance and support, generate several other words that have the same initial sound.
 - d. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)

- e. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)

Phonics and Word Recognition

- 3. Demonstrate beginning understanding of phonics and word analysis skills.
 - a. Link an initial sound to a picture of an object that begins with that sound and, with guidance and support, to the corresponding printed letter (e.g., link the initial sound /b/ to a picture of a ball and, with support, to a printed or written “B”).
 - b. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
 - c. Recognize their own name and familiar common signs and labels (e.g., STOP).
 - d. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)

Fluency

- 4. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)

Pre-K Writing Standards [W]

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. Each year in their writing, students should demonstrate increasing sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and syntax to the development and organization of ideas, and they should address increasingly demanding content and sources. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year’s grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades.* The expected growth in student writing ability is reflected both in the standards themselves and in the collections of annotated student writing samples in [Appendix C of the Common Core State Standards](#) and the [Massachusetts Writing Standards in Action Project](#). **Pre-K is for older 4-year-olds to younger 5-year-olds.**

Text Types and Purposes

Note: The intent of Writing Standards 1–3 is to ensure flexibility, not rigidity, in student writing. Many effective pieces of writing blend elements of more than one text type in service of a single purpose: for example, an argument may rely on anecdotal evidence, a short story may function to explain some phenomenon, or a literary analysis may use explication to develop an argument. In addition, each of the three types of writing is itself a broad category encompassing a variety of texts: for example, narrative poems, short stories, and memoirs represent three distinct forms of narrative writing. Finally, although the bulk of writing assigned in school should address the purposes described below, other forms of writing—for example, lists and notes, descriptive letters, personal reflections—should have a place in the classroom as well. To develop flexibility and nuance in their own writing, students need to engage with a wide range of complex model texts (see Reading Literature Standard 10 and Reading Informational Text Standard 10) and study authors who have written successfully across genres (see [Appendix B: A Literary Heritage](#)).

- 1. Dictate words to express a preference or opinion about a topic (e.g., “I would like to go to the fire station to see the truck and meet the firemen.”).
- 2. Use a combination of dictating and drawing to supply information about a topic.

For example, students draw pictures to show how they planted tulip bulbs in the school garden in the fall. They dictate words and sentences about the soil in the garden, the tools they used, and what the bulbs will become in the spring.
- 3. Use a combination of dictating and drawing to tell a story.

Production and Distribution of Writing

- 4. (Begins in grade 1.)
- 5. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)

6. Recognize that digital tools (e.g., computers, mobile phones, cameras) are used for communication and, with guidance and support, use them to convey messages in pictures and/or words.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
8. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)
9. (Begins in grade 4.)

Range of Writing

10. (Begins in kindergarten or when the individual child is ready.)

Pre-K Speaking and Listening Standards [SL]

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades. Pre-K is for older 4-year-olds to younger 5-year-olds.*

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners during daily routines and play.
 - a. Observe and use appropriate ways of interacting in a group (e.g., taking turns in talking, listening to peers, waiting to speak until another person is finished talking, asking questions and waiting for an answer, gaining the floor in appropriate ways).
 - b. Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.

For example, students practice holding conversations with one another when they are playing being shopkeepers and customers in a store, when they are getting ready for snack time, when they are counting blocks, or when they are in a circle discussing which books they liked the best that day at school.

2. Recall information for short periods of time and retell, act out, or represent information from a text read aloud, a recording, or a video (e.g., watch a video about birds and their habitats and make drawings or constructions of birds and their nests).
3. Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Describe personal experiences; tell stories.
5. Create representations of experiences or stories (e.g., drawings, constructions with blocks or other materials, clay models) and explain them to others.
6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

Pre-K Language Standards [L]

The following standards offer a focus for instruction each year to help ensure that students gain adequate mastery of a range of skills and applications. *Students advancing through the grades are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills and understandings mastered in preceding grades. For example, though sentence fragments may receive the most attention in grade 4, more nuanced discussions of the topic should develop throughout the later grades as students continue to analyze speakers' and authors' sentence structure, vary syntax for effect in their own speaking and writing, and more. Pre-K is for older 4-year-olds to younger 5-year-olds.*

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when speaking.
Sentence Structure and Meaning
 - a. Demonstrate the ability to speak in complete sentences and to form questions using frequently occurring nouns, verbs, question words, and prepositions; name and use in context numbers 0–10 (see pre-kindergarten mathematics standards for Counting and Cardinality).
For example, a student uses full sentences to tell the class about her new puppy, including how she played with the puppy, where he likes to sleep, and what he eats. (SL.PK.4, L.PK.1)
2. (Begins in kindergarten.)

Knowledge of Language

3. (Begins in grade 2.)

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Ask and answer questions about the meanings of new words and phrases introduced through books, activities, and play.
 - a. With guidance and support, generate words that are similar in meaning (e.g., *happy/glad, angry/mad*).
5. With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
 - a. Demonstrate understanding of concepts by sorting common objects into categories (e.g., sort objects by color, shape, texture).
 - b. (Begins in kindergarten.)
 - c. Apply words learned in classroom activities to real-life examples (e.g., name places in school that are *fun, quiet, or noisy*).
 - d. (Begins in kindergarten.)
6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, listening to books read aloud, activities, and play.