



Snapshot of a Kindergarten Student: Language Arts

Learning to read and write is the basis for all learning. In kindergarten, students work on beginning reading and writing skills that will lead to success in subsequent grade levels. Specifically, the focus is on letters, sounds, and words, as well as reading and writing with accuracy, fluency rate, and expression to support comprehension. Students use reading and writing skills throughout the school day as part of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies classroom activities. Gwinnett County Public Schools' Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum for Language Arts emphasizes literacy skills across the content areas. Activities include interactive read-alouds, shared reading and writing experiences, small-group guided reading, and independent reading and writing times—all within the context of a balanced literacy classroom.

Students entering Kindergarten should be able to:

- Listen to and respond on topic to conversations and group discussions
- Listen to and follow multi-step directions
- Expand on thoughts and ideas
- Connect new vocabulary to prior experiences
- Effectively communicate wants and needs
- Use spoken language that can be understood with ease
- Use expanded sentences to ask and answer questions
- Prior to reading, use prior knowledge, story title and pictures to make predictions
- Retell familiar stories
- Listen to and differentiate between sounds that are the same or different
- Identify and produce rhyming words
- Segment sentences into words and words into syllables
- Recognize and name most upper and lowercase letters
- Track words from left to right, top to bottom and page to page
- Recognize and read environmental print
- Identify the front, back, top and bottom of a book
- Point to the title and author of a book and knows where to begin reading
- Draw pictures to communicate ideas
- Use writing tools to copy letters and numbers
- Write some letters of the alphabet

Home Support:

- Read frequently with your child and discuss the books while you read together
- Visit your local library frequently to check out books
- Talk with your child about what is going on around them to build vocabulary
- Ask your child open ended questions that require details
- Point out letters and numbers in every day print
- Sing songs with your child
- Have fun writing and drawing with your child
- Ask your child to help you with chores at home that require multiple steps