

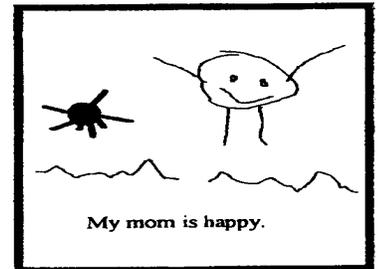
Conventions of Writing/Handwriting Developmental Scale

Pre-K - 2

Level 2: Pictorial (all descriptors must be evident)

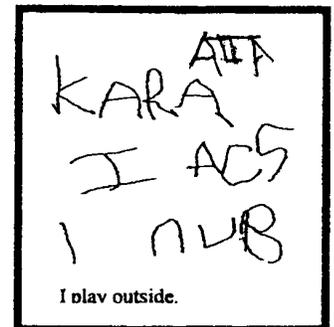
- **Benchmark: Beginning of Kindergarten**

- ___ Imitates writing - other than their name.
- ___ Draws somewhat recognizable picture.
- ___ Tells about his/her picture.



Level 3 Precommunicative (all descriptors must be evident)

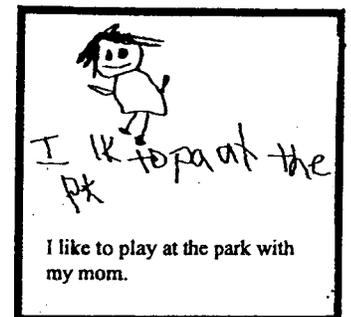
- ___ Picture is easily recognizable with some detail.
- ___ Writes to convey a message and attempts to read it back.
- ___ Uses letter-like forms, letters, or random letter strings.
- ___ Prints own name or occasional known word.
- ___ Picture and writing may convey a different message.



Level 4: Semiphonetic (all descriptors must be evident)

- **Benchmark: Middle of Kindergarten**

- ___ Correctly uses **some** letters to match sounds.
- ___ Usually (80% of the time) uses one beginning letter to write a word.
- ___ Usually (80% of the time) writes left to right (may reverse some letters 50%) and top to bottom.
- ___ Spells 25% of high frequency words correctly.
- ___ Writes the substance of one sentence (**one** meaningful thought) even though it may not be accurately punctuated.
- ___ Writing and drawing convey a similar message.
- ___ Holds pencil with 3 fingers, 2 tucked.
- ___ Primarily chooses same hand to write with.



Conventions of Writing/Handwriting Developmental Scale Pre-K - 2

Level 5 - Phonetic (all descriptors must be evident)

• Benchmark: End of Kindergarten, Beginning of First Grade

___ Usually (80% of the time) represents sensible beginning and ending consonant sounds.

___ Includes a **few** vowels (often not correct ones).

___ Writes left to right and top to bottom in a linear format using touchpoints on the line.

___ Usually (80% of the time) uses lower case letters appropriately.

___ Separates words with $\frac{1}{2}$ inch spaces.

___ Spells 50% of high frequency words correctly. Uses environmental print.

___ Usually (80% of the time) capitalizes the word "I".

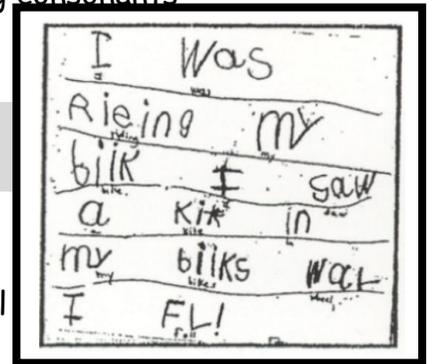
___ Writing enhances the drawing.

___ Writes the substance (two or more meaningful thoughts) of two or more sentences on a related topic even though it may not be accurately punctuated.

___ Holds pencil with open web space.

___ Bends thumb to write letters.

___ The writing piece is readable by others, including the student and other teachers.*



** To bridge to the next level, the child should move away from patterned writing to using varied sentence structures even though they may not be accurately punctuated.

Level 6 - Transitional (All descriptors must be evident)

• Benchmark: Middle of First Grade

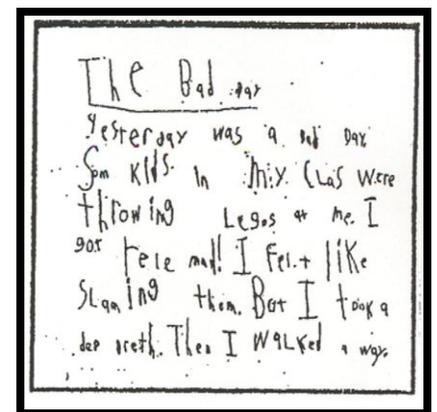
___ Uses logical phonetic spelling including vowels in most syllables (may not be correct ones).

___ Correctly spells 75% of high frequency words.

___ Uses environmental print and spells familiar words correctly, i.e., boy, mom, like.

___ Usually (80% of the time) capitalizes beginning of sentences, not pronoun "I".

___ Simple sentences **only** are punctuated correctly 70% of the time.



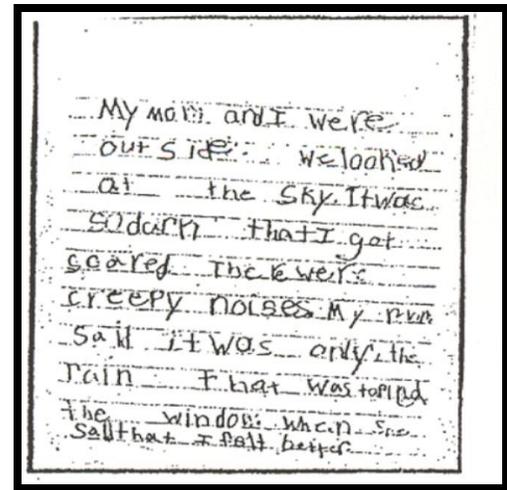
Conventions of Writing/Handwriting Developmental Scale Pre-K - 2

- ___ A variety of sentence structures and lengths are evident. More complex sentences may not be punctuated correctly.
- ___ Writes strings of sentences on a topic although development is limited.
- ___ Writing enhances drawing.
- ** To bridge to the next level, the child should use more varied complex sentence structure even though they may not be accurately punctuated (rather than a series of accurately punctuated simple sentences) and develop the topic with strings of related sentences.

Level 7 - Conventional (all descriptors must be evident)

• Benchmark: End of First Grade, Beginning of Second Grade

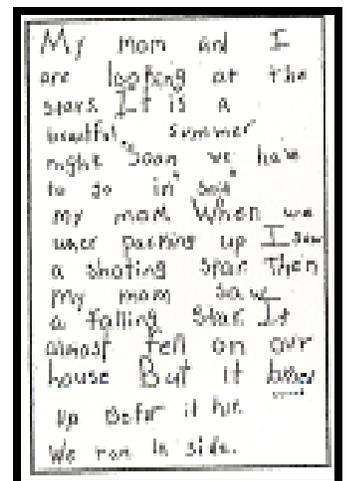
- ___ Spells patterned words correctly. May use phonetic spelling for advanced words.
- ___ Uses a larger correctly spelled vocabulary; correctly spells 80% of high frequency and familiar words.
- ___ Uses more varied and complex sentence structures. May not be punctuated correctly.
- ___ Simple sentences **only** are punctuated correctly 80% of the time.
- ___ Writes 4-7 related sentences or expanded paragraph(s) on a topic.
- ___ Writing includes development of several key ideas with descriptive phrases or details.
- ___ There is an attempt to sequence and develop a beginning, middle and end.
- ___ Writing reflects the author's voice even though word choice may extend beyond spelling ability.



Level 8 - Conventional 2 (all descriptors must be evident)

• Benchmark: Middle and End of Second Grade

- ___ Correctly spells 80% of words with regularly spelled patterns.
May use phonetic spelling for unfamiliar or advanced words.
- ___ Produces writing with 90% of high frequency words spelled correctly.
- ___ Uses a rich and descriptive written vocabulary.
- ___ Writes a minimum of the substance of 7-8 sentences or two paragraphs.
- ___ Uses details to develop central ideas. Sequence is logical.
There is a clear beginning, middle, and end.



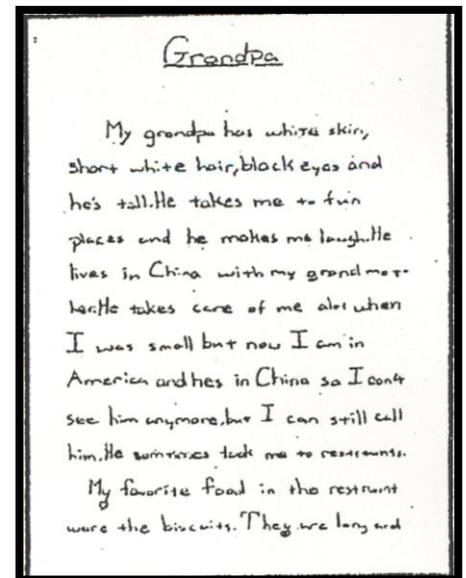
Conventions of Writing/Handwriting Developmental Scale Pre-K - 2

- ___ Uses a variety of sentence structures and lengths.
- ___ Uses correct end punctuation and capitalization in simple sentences **only**. Complex sentences may not be punctuated correctly.
- ___ Uses **some** advanced print conventions appropriately (quotation marks, commas, apostrophes, exclamation marks, contractions, possessives) though inconsistently.
- ___ Uses regular verb endings (ed, ing, d, es, etc.).

Level 9 - Advanced (all descriptors must be evident)

- **Advanced Second Grade-Includes third grade benchmarks and targets**

- ___ Uses conventional spelling and rules to include inflectional endings, plurals and verb tenses 80% of the time.
- ___ Correctly spells 90% of high frequency words.
- ___ Uses a rich and descriptive written vocabulary including adjectives and adverbs.
- ___ Uses a variety of sentence structure and lengths.
- ___ Incorporates transitional words and phrases.
- ___ There is an effective beginning, middle and ending.
- ___ Develops central ideas with rich and important details.
- ___ Uses advanced print conventions appropriately (i.e. quotation marks, commas, apostrophes, exclamation marks, contractions, possessives) **though use may still be inconsistent**.



Conventions of Writing/Handwriting Developmental Scale

Pre-K - 2

Level 1: Emerging

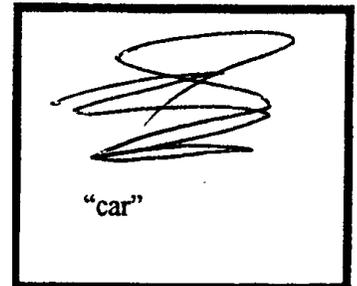
1A: Benchmark - Fall of Preschool

- ___ There is sensory exploration of writing tools.
- ___ Plays at making marks.
- ___ Does not name or label markings.



1B:

- ___ There is evidence of horizontal, vertical and circular scribbles.
- ___ Marks are more purposeful and planned, but not recognizable.
- ___ Verbally labels one or more items. *



1C: Benchmark - Spring of Preschool

- ___ There is emerging use of shapes and purposeful use of space.
- ___ Evidence that there are parts/pieces to the drawings but disconnected.
- ___ Begins to use simple phrases or sentences to tell about their drawing, but picture remains unidentifiable.

