



Maine's Comprehensive
State Literacy Plan

Sample Literacy Learning Targets for Infants and Toddlers (Birth-Age 2)

This collection of literacy targets represents a set of skills infants and toddlers are developing during this age span. It is important to remember that these are learning targets that serve as reference points and help to guide instruction. Each learner is unique and acquires skills in different ways and at different times. Use the targets in this document to communicate with caregivers and educators and to support literacy learning at home and in the community.

LANGUAGE TARGETS

Infants and toddlers are learning to...

- maintain eye contact.
- use and respond with gestures or vocal signals.
- react to human voices.
- make sounds and begin to use simple words and phrases
- participate in games (peek-a-boo) and songs with an adult.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING TARGETS

Infants and toddlers are learning to...

- initiate communication with a caregiver.
- make a variety of repetitive sounds or gestures: babbles and coos, hand movements or facial expressions to express self: shake head "no"; nod "yes"; smile; frown.
- take turns in back-and-forth verbal play with caregiver that mimics a conversation.
- respond to caregiver's speech by babbling/uttering in reply.
- ask and answer simple what, why and where questions.
- use words or actions to request assistance.
- combine words into simple sentences: "Mommy bye-bye", "Milk all gone".
- ask questions to get help or information.
- describe familiar people, places, or things.
- speak audibly and express feelings, thoughts, and emotions.
- follow simple (one-step) instructions.

READING FOUNDATIONS TARGETS

Infants and toddlers are learning to...

- make eye contact when listening to an adult read.
- hold a book.
- identify a favorite book.
- point to pictures in a text.
- turn a page in a text.
- interact and engage in the text when listening to an adult read.
- name a character.
- tell one idea or event from the text.
- tell the title of the text.
- make observations about words and pictures.
- point to the top of a page.

WRITING TARGETS

Infants and toddlers are learning to...

- hold and use writing tools like pencils or crayons.
- name scribbles made with marker or crayon by telling others what the scribbles mean.