



Maine's Comprehensive
State Literacy Plan

Sample Literacy Learning Targets for Preschoolers (Ages 3 - 5)

This collection of literacy targets represents a set of skills preschoolers 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

Preschoolers are learning to...

- speak in complete sentences.
- use the /s/ sound to indicate plurals (e.g., dogs, toys).
- use question words (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
- use some prepositions (e.g., to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with).
- ask and answer questions about new words.
- with prompting, identify words with similar meanings.
- recognize and use words learned from being spoken to and read to.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING TARGETS

Preschoolers are learning to...

- practice the rules of conversation, including taking turns, listening, and asking questions.
- engage in conversations with peers and adults about a topic.
- ask questions to gather information or clarify something.
- orally describe familiar people, places, or things with added details.
- speak audibly and express feelings, thoughts, and emotions.
- use words and phrases acquired through conversations, listening to books read aloud, activities, and play.

READING FOUNDATIONS TARGETS

Preschoolers are learning to...

- hold books correctly.
- follow print in a text from left to right and top to bottom.
- understand that a text has a title and an author.
- ask questions about a text.
- name a main character.
- tell the major events from a text.
- ask questions about words or pictures.
- produce rhyming words with support.
- begin to explore spoken language as whole words, syllables, and sounds.
- recognize and name letters and sounds they represent.
- recognize and produce the sounds of the letters in their name with support.
- connect a sound to a picture of an object that begins with that sound.
- write letters to represent sounds.

WRITING TARGETS

Preschoolers are learning to...

- draw, dictate to others, or begin to write to communicate an idea or topic.
- draw, dictate to others, or begin to write to tell a story.
- share drawings and writings with others and explain them.
- print some upper- and lowercase letters.
- write their own names.