

# ACADEMIC SKILLS

## LOWER ELEMENTARY

### LANGUAGE

#### INTRODUCTION

- The history of written language
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
- Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English
- Choose words and phrases for effect in writing and speaking

#### HANDWRITING

- Write in print form: lower and upper case letters with proper formation
- Write in cursive: lower and upper case letters

#### GRAMMAR

- Identify each part of speech: noun, article, adjective, verb, preposition, adverb, pronoun, conjunction, interjection
- Noun: proper and common; abstract and concrete; singular and plural; **regular and irregular**
- Article: indefinite and definite
- Verb: action, helping, linking
- **Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement**
- **Adverb: comparative and superlative**
- **Adjective: comparative and superlative**
- **Conjunction: coordinating and subordinating**
- **Write simple, compound, and complex sentences**

#### SENTENCE ANALYSIS

- Diagram sentences
- Identify subject, predicate, object and indirect object

#### WORD STUDY

- List words in alphabetical order
- Use guide words to locate words in a dictionary
- Identify and use compound words
- Correct use of capital letters
- Identify and understand antonyms and synonyms
- Use a thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms of given words
- Identify and define common suffixes and prefixes
- Create words with suffixes and prefixes

- Identify and understand homonyms, homophones, homographs
- Identify and understand analogies
- Form and use possessives
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade level reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships

## PUNCTUATION AND MECHANICS

- Punctuate sentence endings: period, question mark, exclamation point
- Capitalize initial words in sentences, proper nouns, and the pronoun “I”
- Correctly use comma, quotation marks, and apostrophe
- Understand the difference between phrases and sentences
- Identify types of sentences: statement, explanation, command, question
- Use conventional spelling for high-frequency words
- Use spelling patterns and generalizations
- Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings
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## WRITTEN LANGUAGE

- The Four Square method and Six Trait writing is used as our guide to help children learn how to structure their writing as well as how to express themselves through writing. The Four Square method helps the student to structure their writing by formulating a topic sentence, introduction paragraph, supporting details and paragraphs, and conclusion paragraph. The Six Trait writing includes ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions. Students’ progress is documented using a rubric on all final drafts.
- Writes in a variety of genres including: fiction and non-fiction narrative, research, letters, journal entries, and poetry (opinion pieces)
- Organizes ideas in a brief written response to reading
- Writes stories using beginning, middle and end
- Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.

- Write a paragraph using topic sentence and supporting details and conclusion
- Students engage in the writing process: pre-writing, rough draft, editing, final copy, and presentation
- Use a word list or a thesaurus to improve word choice
- Use linking words and phrases to connect ideas in writing
- Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order
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## READING

- Demonstrates grade level fluency and comprehension
- Demonstrates oral fluency by reading aloud with appropriate voice
- Reads for pleasure
- Identifies genres
- Identifies parts of writing including chapter, scene and stanza and describes how they build upon each other
- Reads across genres
- Identify parts of a story: characters, setting, plot, problem and solution
- Asks questions about a text
- Makes predictions
- Answers questions about a text using examples
- Retells a story in proper sequence and determines the main idea, lesson or moral
- Demonstrates and applies reading comprehension skills such as inferences, main idea, details, comparing and contrasting, cause and effect, fact and opinion, drawing conclusions and sequencing in both fiction and informational texts.
- Determines the difference between literal and nonliteral language
- Distinguishes personal point of view from that of the narrator or other characters
- Compare and contrast writing by the same author (such as that in a series)
- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect
- Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
- Distinguish personal point of view from that of the author of a text
- Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate

understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

- Decode multi-syllable words
- Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.
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## RESEARCH

- Generate questions and gather information from several sources
- Initiate a plan for searching for information and locating resources
- Use a table of contents and index
- Locate information on a title page

## LISTENING SKILLS AND SPOKEN LANGUAGE

- Orally present with logical sequence, clear voice, and eye contact
- Takes turns listening and speaking in a conversation
- Participates positively in collaborative discussions and activities building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
- Asks questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
- Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion
- Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally
- Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.
- Rephrases ideas and thoughts to express meaning using correct grammar
- Tells stories in logical sequence and summarizes

## TECHNOLOGY

- Uses a mouse and keyboard correctly
- Practices appropriate ergonomics
- Demonstrates proper care in the use of computer hardware, software, etc.
- Types, edits, saves, and prints a document
- Understands and uses email