# **Writing Continuum**

Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
• creates a picture and talks about the message or story it conveys			
• creates a picture that includes scribble writing, letter-like shapes, random letters and/or numbers, and talks about the message or story it conveys	combines pictures and text to communicate ideas to others		
• is aware that talk can be written down (e.g., dictates a message for an adult to scribe)			
• is aware that writing contains a message that can be read (e.g., asks an adult to read a writing attempt or rereads own writing attempt; this "rereading" may contain different content every time it is read)			
• understands that writing has a purpose (e.g., This is my shopping list or It tells you how to feed my dog)	• tries writing for different purposes (e.g., letters, stories, persuasive accounts, lists, and greeting cards)	writes for an increasing range of purposes	writes for a wide range of purposes and audiences
• is aware of an audience for writing (e.g., <i>This card is for my Mom</i> )	• is developing an awareness of different audiences for writing (e.g., He'll like this card and Mom will use this recipe)	• is aware that writers have a range of possible audiences	
• has initial awareness of voice (e.g., <i>I write like I talk</i> )	shows some awareness of voice in writing (e.g., an expressive, personal voice for a social letter and an informative, more impersonal voice for writing directions)	• is aware of voice (expressive, personal, informative, and artistic/poetic)	changes voice appropriately (from personal-expressive to factual-impersonal to poetice)
writes using a small range of text types	writes accounts using a range of text types (e.g., retellings, descriptions, and narratives)	• uses a wider range of text types (e.g., explanations, directions, persuasion, and narrative)	demonstrates knowledge of wide range of text types and decides which is appropriate for a particular writing purpose
	• uses some forms of writing (e.g., letter, story, poem)	• uses a variety of forms of writing (e.g., story, letter, poem, report, directions, recipe, play)	• uses a wide range of forms of writing (e.g., reports, poems instructions, stories)

Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
• initiates personal writing	initiates own writing for personal purposes, to tell a story, to write a message, or to write down information	initiates own writing for different purposes	initiates own writing projects for a variety of purposes
• chooses a topic to write about	chooses topics that are of personal interest to write about	chooses an increasing range of topics (e.g., personal accounts, reports on animals, a play about a fairytale)	chooses a wide variety of topics: some of them may require research
• makes artistic or dramatic responses to literature, but may include some writing (e.g., to accompany a picture or a label on a play prop)	begins to make written responses to literature, often accompanied by a picture	makes written responses to literature, forms opinions, and makes book recommendations for others	• makes written response to literature using a variety of forms, e.g., letters, plays, poems, book recommendations
records observations with pictures: may add scribble, letters, or words to indicate the message	• records observations with pictures and some supportive text: may offer some explanations, but needs support	• records observations with text and supportive pictures: offers a written explanation	• records and explains observations with text and appropriate illustrations (e.g., a chart, picture, or diagram)
	expresses a brief opinion without necessarily supporting the viewpoint	expresses an opinion and tries to justify the view (may need support)	expresses and justifies a viewpoint
	develops an idea into a brief account (may need support to finish it)	develops an idea into a competed account	develops an idea or topic into a complete and detailed account
draws a picture of an event from a story and may add scribbles, letters, or words to describe it	• writes a story with a setting, characters, problems, and resolution (may need support)	writes a story with a setting, characters, problems, events, and a resolution	develops a complete and logical plot for a narrative with characters, settings, problems, events, and resolutions
draws pictures, adding a few scribbles, letters, or words to make a report. May ask somebody questions or look at picture books to research the topic.	• writes a report using pictures and sentences. Does basic research by asking others and reading simple texts on the topic.	writes a report containing main and supporting details, and illustrated with pictures and charts. Obtains researched information from a couple of sources.	writes reports in paragraphs integrating research from several sources, and presents ideas with supporting illustrations

Language Structure			
Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
• orally retells the content of a writing attempt			
• orally dictates a message for an adult to scribe; the adult needs to ask clarification questions to confirm the message			
• is beginning to recognize that written language is in complete sentences (e.g., orally dictates a message for an adult to scribe and uses sentences matching oral pace to the written scribing, or rereads own writing attempt in whole sentences)	• rereads own writing		
	• uses repeated, familiar language patterns to create accounts, (e.g., <i>I like</i> , <i>I like</i> )		
	• begins many sentences with <i>I/We</i>		
uses simple sentence structures	• uses a variety of sentence beginnings	• uses a variety of sentence structures (simple, compound, and complex)	
tries compound sentences (e.g., two simple sentences joined with "and" or "but")	uses simple, compound, and complex sentence structures	• varies sentence structures within an account	
	• uses first-person but changes to third-person for stories and reports (needs support)	uses first-person and third- person, depending on the text structure, purpose, and audience	• uses first- and third-person with awareness about which is appropriate for the text structure, purpose, and audience
	language tends to be "talk written down"	• is starting to use "book language" rather than "talk written down"	• uses "book language" more consistently, and uses key words that relate to text structures (e.g., "first," "next," "then," and "finally" for procedural writing)
	• uses age-appropriate grammar most of the time (irregular past tenses and plural agreements will be inconsistent)	uses age-appropriate grammar (irregular past tenses may still be inconsistent)	• uses age-appropriate grammar
	• tenses may be inconsistent (present and past)	• tenses are becoming consistent	• maintains tense consistency (on most occasions)

Language Structure			
Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
		paragraphs are used but paragraph divisions may be inconsistent	• uses paragraphs
	often uses "and" or "then" to link two ideas	• uses a selection of linking ideas to combine ideas (e.g., "and," "but," "so")	uses a variety of linking words to combine ideas
	• writes in sentences (may need support at times)	• writes in sentences	recognizes the difference between jot notes and sentences
		• is beginning to use dialogue in written accounts	• uses dialogue in written accounts
	• uses a small selection of verbs in accounts (needs support to increase the variety and to include adjectives and adverbs)	• uses a variety of verbs in accounts and is beginning to use adjectives and adverbs to enrich descriptions	uses a variety of verbs, adverbs, and adjectives to enhance written accounts
		• uses simple words to indicate comparisons (e.g., "but," "so")	• uses words to indicate comparisons ("but," "although," "similar") and cause and effect ("if," "then," "because")

Writing Process			
Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
Planning and Research • talks about ideas for writing (e.g., with a buddy)	Planning and Research  • talks about ideas for writing (e.g., with a buddy, a group, parents, and people in school)	Planning and Research  • talks about ideas for writing (e.g., with a buddy, a group, people in schools, interviews)	Planning and Research  • talks about ideas for writing with a variety of people: may interview or survey people to do research
• draws ideas for a plan	draws pictures and makes visual plans	makes visual and written plans (may use a graphic organizer)	• makes written plans (may use a graphic organizer)
	• jots down ideas (possibly using a graphic organizer)		
• gathers information by: asking others; using picture books; watching visual media (films, videos, DVDs)	• gathers information by: asking others; using picture books with simple texts; using charts and diagrams; watching visual media (films, videos, and DVDs)	• gathers information by: talking with others; interviewing informed people; using books, labels, and diagrams; and watching visual media (films, videos, and DVDs)	• gathers information by: interviewing informed people; using books, charts, CDs, visual media, and websites
			makes jot notes to record research findings

Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
			• organizes notes to cluster ideas (with some support)
Drafting produces a writing attempt	Drafting • writes a first draft with or without an organizer	• writes a first draft with or without an organizer	Drafting • prepares a first draft with or without an organizer
Revising  adds ideas after discussion with others	Revising • adds or deletes ideas after discussion with others	Revising	Revising  • adds, deletes, and substitutes ideas
	• revises ideas with a buddy (will need support)	• revises ideas with a buddy (will need some support)	• revises ideas with a buddy of independently (with suppor available, if needed)
Editing	Editing • uses classroom resources for checking spellings (e.g., Word Wall, wall charts, picture dictionary)	Editing • checks spellings with class resources (e.g., Word Wall, wall charts) and a picture dictionary	Editing • checks spellings with class resources (e.g., Word Wall, charts) or a dictionary
	• checks for simple punctuation conventions (e.g., capitals and periods)	checks for punctuation conventions (e.g., capitals, periods, question marks, exclamation marks, dialogue)	• checks punctuation conventions (capitals, periods, question marks, exclamation marks, dialogue apostrophes for possessives and contractions)
		uses a proofreading guide with a buddy or independently	uses a proofreading guide with minimal support
	• prints clearly	• prints clearly to ensure legibility	prints clearly or uses legible handwriting to ensure legibility
	checks that pictures support the information provided in the account	• checks that the text has appropriate visual features (e.g., illustrations, tables of content, labels on diagrams)	check that the text has appropriate visual features (e.g., illustrations, tables of content, diagrams, glossary)
Sharing and Publishing	Sharing and Publishing • chooses a favourite text for publishing	Sharing and Publishing • selects text to be published	Sharing and Publishing • selects text to be published
orally shares writing attempts with others	shares writing in an oral presentation	shares writing in an oral presentation	
	• publishes writing in simple book form	• publishes writing in a book or similar print form	• publishes writing in a variet of ways (oral presentation, books, charts, and posters)

Conventions			
Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
Form (listed in developmental order) • explores with a pencil, pen, crayon, or marker (drawing and scribble writing)	Form	Form	Form
• creates letter-like forms			
• prints or scribbles randomly down or across a page			
• demonstrates an interest in consistency of letter-like shapes (e.g., repeats a shape frequently or creates patterns including several letter-like shapes)			
• demonstrates an awareness of directionality (e.g., scribbles left to right along the lines, or produces letter- like or letter shapes in left- to-right sequence)			
• prints letters (reversals will occur)	• prints letters clearly: uses upper and lowercase letters more conventionally	printing is legible and letters are correctly formed	moves from printing to cursive writing: forms letters clearly
• prints letters and word attempts in a left-to-right direction and moves to a new line (line movement	incorporates directionality conventions into writing (e.g., left to right, and line movement down a page)	written accounts are spatially organized	written accounts are spatially well-organized
may be inconsistent)	• uses spaces between words		
• copies print around the classroom	• copies words from classroom resources (e.g., Word Wall and charts)	• uses classroom resources for spelling support (Word Wall, charts, and picture dictionary)	• uses classroom resources for spelling support (Word Wall charts, and picture dictionary)
• copies own name			
• prints own name			
	• title of a written account is clear and helpful for a reader	titles and labels are clear and helpful for a reader	• titles, labels, and headings are clear and helpful for a reader
	• illustrations support the text	• illustrations, charts, and diagrams are used to support the text	• illustrations, charts, diagrams, tables of content, indexes, and glossaries are used to support the text
<b>Spelling</b> (First half of kindergarten)	Spelling (First half of grade one)	Spelling (First half of grade two)	Spelling • spells words conventionally (less than 10 per cent are invented spellings)

Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
• scribble and letter-like forms	• uses letters to represent consonant sounds in words	uses an increasing range of high-frequency words	• incorporates visual, sound, and meaning cues into spelling less familiar words
• use of letter forms	adds vowels to words and syllables	• incorporates an increasing number of visual patterns into spellings	• identifies words that "don't look right" in an account
	• uses simple high-frequency words from the Word Wall (e.g., "I," "the," "you")	demonstrates knowledge of word patterns and transfers those patterns to spell new words	• generates strategies for confirming spelling accuracy (e.g., using a dictionary or a book used for research)
(Second half of kindergarten)	(Second half of grade one)	(Second half of grade two)	
• mixture of random letters and matching of letters to sounds (DBG = dog, PHSD = party)	• incorporates visual cues into spelling (e.g., double letters, final "e"s on words, vowel digraphs)	spells more words conventionally	
	• uses a range of high- frequency words from the Word Wall	builds a larger bank of instantly recalled high- frequency words	
	• generates new words by comparing them with familiar word patterns (e.g., If I know cat, I can work out how to spell sat.)		
Punctuation and Capitalization • prints using a mixture of upper and lowercase letters	Punctuation and Capitalization • usually uses capitals for names, places, and beginnings of sentences (may need support)	Punctuation and Capitalization • usually uses capitals for names, places, months, days of the week, titles, and	Punctuation and Capitalization • capitalizes appropriately
<ul> <li>prints own name with a capital at the beginning and other letters in lowercase form</li> </ul>		beginnings of sentences	
• uses periods unconventionally (e.g., as letter or word spacers	may start to use question marks and exclamation marks (usage may not always be accurate)	• uses periods, question marks, or exclamation marks at the conclusion of sentences (some inconsistency may be apparent with exclamation marks)	uses periods and question marks with ease and exclamation marks with some guidance
		• uses dialogue for speech (commas may be inconsistent)	• uses dialogue conventions (may still be inconsistent at this stage)
		• uses commas in lists (with support)	uses commas more confidently
		• uses apostrophes for contractions	• uses apostrophes for contractions and possession