Minnesota Early Childhood Indicators of Progress

Language, Literacy and Communications: Cognitive

Component L1: Listening and Understanding; Receptive Language

L1 Language comprehension: Child understands the meaning of words and phrases (receptive) and uses those words and phrases to communicate effectively (expressive) L1

Birth to 6 months

L1.1 Turns toward and focuses on nearby adult caregiver who is speaking L1.1

L1.2 Watches caregiver actions and gestures L1.2

6-15 months

L1.3 Responds to nonverbal and verbal cues L1.3

L1.4 Responds to conversation, questions, and requests L1.4

L1.5 Responds to an object or action label such as ball or eat L1.5

15-24 months

L1.6 Responds to increasingly complex sentences L1.6

L1.7 Responds to descriptive language about objects, actions, and concepts L1.7

2-3 years

L1.8 Shows understanding of questions and statements about people, objects, ideas, and feelings L1.8

L1.9 Points to or places an object in/out, under/ over and top/ bottom when asked L1.9

L1.10 Notices when adults use unusual or uncommon words L1.10

3-4 years

L1.11 Responds to direct questions and follows simple direction L1.11

L1.12 Points to or places objects before, after, above, and below based on verbal cues L1.12

4-5, K-Readiness

L1.13 Follows directions that involve two or more steps L1.13

L1.14 Responds to increasingly complex prepositional directions, such as beside, around and next to L1.14

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Components L2-3: Communicating and Speaking; Expressive Language

L2 Social conversation: Child meaningfully engages in talk with others to express feelings, wants and ideas L2

Birth to 6 months

L2.1 Coos and gurgles, babbles, and imitates facial expressions to caregivers L2.1

L2.2 Begins a conversation through body movements L2.2

6-15 months

L2.3 Uses sounds, gestures, or actions to communicate and express needs and wants L2.3

L2.4 Makes different sounds in response to objects, people, or activities L2.4

15-24 months

L2.5 Uses real or made-up words or signs to express basic wants and needs L2.5

L2.6 Adds to or extends conversations with others L2.6

2-3 years

L2.7 Uses sounds, signs, words, phrases for desires and interests L2.7

L2.8 Begins to ask “why” questions L2.8

L2.9 Starts conversations with others L2.9

3-4 years

L2.10 Continues conversations with comments or questions L2.10

4-5, K-Readiness

L2.11 Negotiates, shares, plans, and solves problems with others L2.11

L2.12 Asks and answers questions to seek help or get information L2.12

L3 Vocabulary and syntax: Child understands word order and grammatical rules L3

Birth to 6 months

L3.1 Imitates and repeats pitch and duration of caregiver sounds L3.1

6-15 months

L3.2 Uses a few words or word approximations to represent concepts L3.2

L3.3 Names a few objects and people L3.3

L3.4 Imitates animal and other environmental sounds L3.4

15-24 months

L3.5 Constructs simple two- word sentences (object and action) L3.5

L3.6 Rapidly increases use and number of sounds and words L3.6

2-3 years

L3.7 Uses increasingly complex and varied vocabulary and language L3.7

L3.8 Rapidly increases use of descriptive words such as giant, scary, silly L3.8

L3.9 Uses verbs such as have, had, or will in everyday conversation L3.9

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3-4 years

L3.10 Uses short sentences to shares information about experiences, people, places, and things L3.10

L3.11 Uses increasingly precise adverbs such as quietly, loudly, quickly L3.11

L3.12 Uses more new and precise words L3.12

L3.13 Correctly uses some past tense and irregular verbs (go, went, gone) L3.13

4-5, K-Readiness

L3.14 Uses sentences that express logical relationships between concepts L3.14

L3.15 Uses increasingly specific words to name objects and their features and functions L3.15

L3.16 Shares information about experiences, people, places, and things in sequence L3.16

Components L4-8: Emergent Reading

L4 Motivation, engagement: Child has an interest in and sustained attention for literacy acts L4

Birth to 6 months

L4.1 Likes to be read to and shown pictures L4.1

6-15 months

L4.2 Makes sounds while looking at text or images L4.2

L4.3 Points to a few pictures in books and in response to adult questions L4.3

L4.4 Demonstrates interest and involvement with books and other print materials L4.4

15-24 months

L4.5 Relates an object in a book or print to the real object L4.5

L4.6 Imitates reading L4.6

2-3 years

L4.7 Shows interest in both pictures and text L4.7

L4.8 Asks for or picks out favorite texts L4.8

L4.9 Focuses on a book while listening to the reader L4.9

3-4 years

L4.10 Shows persistence with longer and more complex narratives and informational text L4.10

L4.11 Offers a personal response to stories read aloud L4.11

4-5, K-Readiness

L4.12 Actively participates in reading activities with enjoyment and purpose L4.12

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L4.13 Retells familiar stories using the book as a guide L4.13

L5 Phonological awareness: Child is able to hear and understand the discrete sounds that make up language L5

Birth to 6 months

L5.1 Looks at caregiver's lips and face when caregiver is speaking L5.1

L5.2 Pays attention to sounds in the environment and the spoken language from caregivers L5.2

6-15 months

L5.3 Shows interest in songs, rhymes, chants, and stories L5.3

L5.4 Recognizes sounds used by speakers of child's home language L5.4

15-24 months

L5.5 Imitates sounds heard in the environment L5.5

L5.6 Identifies sounds heard in the environment L5.6

2-3 years

L5.7 Repeats different sounds in rhymes and familiar words L5.7

L5.8 Distinguishes between spoken language and environmental sounds L5.8

L5.9 Recalls previously heard words, songs, and rhymes L5.9

3-4 years

L5.10 Shows interest in and associates sounds with words L5.10

L5.11 Playfully explores sounds, words, and language, including rhyme and alliteration L5.11

4-5, K-Readiness

L5.12 Identifies and continues sound patterns in words L5.12

L5.13 Plays with the sounds in spoken language, independent of meaning L5.13

L6 Letter recognition: Child recognizes the shapes of letters and recalls the names of letters L6

Birth to 6 months

L6.1 Recognizes familiar faces L6.1

6-15 months

L6.2 Shows interest in familiar photos, pictures, and drawings L6.2

15-24 months

L6.3 Recognizes familiar photos, pictures, drawings L6.3

2-3 years

L6.4 Recognizes symbols, colors, and shapes L6.4

3-4 years

L6.5 Points to and names some letters (especially in their own name) L6.5

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4-5, K-Readiness

L6.6 Recognizes how features of a letter combine to make a specific letter L6.6

L6.7 Differentiates between letters and other symbols L6.7

L7 Concepts of print: Child understands the fundamentals of print, such as orientation, organization, and features of print L7

Birth to 6 months

L7.1 Explores books by grasping and bringing to mouth to suck and chew L7.1

6-15 months

L7.2 Attempts to hold board books with both hands L7.2

L7.3 Turns pages of board books L7.3

15-24 months

L7.4 Turns book or text right side up L7.4

2-3 years

L7.5 Identifies front and back of book L7.5

L7.6 Demonstrates understanding that print has meaning L7.6

3-4 years

L7.7 Looks at books or shares them from front to back L7.7

4-5, K-Readiness

L7.8 Recognizes some parts of a book and conventions of print L7.8

L7.9 Knows that English print is left to right and top to bottom L7.9

L7.10 Points to words and attempts to read, or asks, “what does it say?” L7.10

L8 Comprehension of narrative text: Child understands the events and order of events in a story L8

6-15 months

L8.1 Pays attention to stories read out loud L8.1

L8.2 Points to or gestures toward characters during reading L8.2

15-24 months

L8.3 Understands stories read or told L8.3

L8.4 Talks about, gestures, or points to characters and events during reading or storytelling L8.4

L8.5 Relates objects in stories to objects in the real world L8.5

L8.6 Talks about characters and events during reading L8.6

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2-3 years

L8.7 Asks and answers questions during story reading L8.7

L8.8 Acts out, draws, or describes parts of a story L8.8

L8.9 Can identify and describe basic information from the text L8.9

3-4 years

L8.10 Retells important information from a story L8.10

L8.11 Tells simple stories and experiences about own life L8.11

L8.12 Responds to and uses vocabulary related to key concepts in the text L8.12

4-5, K-Readiness

L8.13 Predicts what will happen next in a story using words or drawings L8.13

L8.14 Retells a story using a variety of media, materials, and props L8.14

L8.15 Restates and describes the concepts from the text L8.15

Component L9: Writing

L9 Writing conventions: Child understands the forms and function of written language L9

Birth to 6 months

L9.1 Grasps and squeezes a toy or object L9.1

L9.2 Uses hands or feet to make a connection with objects or people L9.2

6-15 months

L9.3 Coordinates eye and hand movements and has control over grasp L9.3

15-24 months

L9.4 Uses small muscles to do simple tasks L9.4

L9.5 Attempts to use a variety of writing tools such as crayons and markers L9.5

2-3 years

L9.6 Uses scribbles, shapes, or pictures to represent thoughts and ideas L9.6

L9.7 Demonstrates interest in writing as a way of communicating L9.7

3-4 years

L9.8 Uses letter-like symbols to make letters or words L9.8

L9.9 Uses drawing to represent writing L9.9

4-5, K-Readiness

L9.10 Writes own name, and words about things that interest them L9.10

L9.11 Understands there are different purposes for writing, such as stories, lists, signs, etc. L9.11

L9.12 Uses invented spelling L9.12

L9.13 Uses words, pictures, letters, or letter-like symbols to communicate information and ideas, or compose original stories L9.13