



Summary of Language Foundations

Listening and Speaking consists of three substrands. *Language use and conventions* focuses on how children use their language for a number of purposes, including learning how to participate in short conversations. *Vocabulary learning* is one of the most important accomplishments of early childhood and is related to later reading comprehension. *Grammar* allows children to go beyond mere naming with their vocabularies to express their ideas in sentences. Understanding how words are put together in a sentence (i.e., grammar) is strongly related to reading comprehension—to understanding the meaning in books and stories. Speaking can be accomplished through oral language or **sign language**.

Summary of Literacy Foundations

Reading consists of five substrands. *Concepts about print* involves the understanding that print is meaningful and can be used for a variety of purposes. *Phonological awareness* concerns learning to notice that spoken words have parts. *Alphabetics and word/print recognition* includes identifying alphabet letters and linking letters in printed words to sounds in spoken words. *Comprehension and analysis of age-appropriate text* involves thinking that leads to understanding stories and other kinds of books. *Literacy interest and response* includes children's engagement in and motivation for reading.

Writing focuses on *understanding that print represents ideas* and on *learning to move* from drawing and **scribble writing** to using letters and words. Much exploration with paper and writing tools occurs before children will try to write to convey specific meanings. When children write to convey meaning, they are using their language, their physical ability to hold a crayon or pencil, and the cognitive understanding that the marks they make on the page are symbols that represent a meaning that can be shared.

Summary of the Strands and Substrands

Language

Listening and Speaking

- 1.0 Language Use and Conventions
- 2.0 Vocabulary
- 3.0 Grammar

Literacy

Reading

- 1.0 Concepts about Print
- 2.0 Phonological Awareness
- 3.0 Alphabetics and Word/Print Recognition
- 4.0 Comprehension and Analysis of Age-Appropriate Text
- 5.0 Literacy Interest and Response

Writing

- 1.0 Writing Strategies

Please refer to the map of the language and literacy foundations on page 169 for a visual explanation of the terminology used in the preschool learning foundations.