

Indicator #16
Conventions of English Language

Student demonstrates command of the conventions of Standard English when speaking.

*** ELL/DLL students should be scored on their English proficiency for this indicator ***

Research

By the age of 3 most children have already has exposure to rich, meaningful language. Children at this age can understand most sentences and they can also use pronouns along with some plurals when speaking. Parents and teachers help scaffold children’s language learning by modeling correct sentence structure and accurate use of nouns, verbs, pronouns, etc. These skills are the foundation of a child’s reading and academic success from which they will build upon. Children build upon language skills through exposure to strong and rich language when interacting with adults as well as children. Grammar instruction should take place through spoken language as well as written language. The use of proper grammar is helpful for children as they are learning to read and write. By the end of kindergarten most students demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Anthony, M. (n.d.). Language and Literacy Development in 3-5 Year Olds. Retrieved June 07, 2016, from <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/stages-milestones/language-and-literacy-development-3-5-year-olds>

Conventions of Standard English
1.5.PK.G

Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English when speaking based on pre-kindergarten level and content.

The learner will:

- Communicate in English with complete sentences about a variety of topics and concepts with limited grammatical errors

The learner may also:

- Speak in complete sentences that contain more than three words
- Use past tense
- Use plurals including those which do not end in “s”
- Use pronouns
- Use a variety of prepositions

The adult will:

- Speak to and engage children in group and individual conversation daily
- Re-phrase children’s sentence structure or grammar by repeating the sentence properly
- Model appropriate use of the conventions of standard English
- State phrases in both home language and standard English, as appropriate

ACTIVITIES

Activity:

Students answer open ended questions about a non-fiction text read aloud by the teacher.

Activity Prompts:

Tell the students, “When answering questions I ask, try to use some words you heard in the book.”

Extension Activity:

Have the students turn and talk to their peer about the text. They will practice answering and asking questions.

Evidence Collection Strategies:

- Teachers will observe and document students' ability to communicate in English using complete sentences.

Additional Supports:

When students are struggling with answering a question about the text, turn to the specific page in the read aloud that will support them in answering.

Home School Connection:

-Speak in complete sentences using correct English language.

Activity:

Weekend or Overnight Recall—During morning meeting, ask children to remember what they did over the weekend. Give an opportunity for children to respond.

Activity Prompts:

Good Morning, I am so happy to see you today. I am excited to tell you that this weekend I... Who wants to tell me about their weekend?

Evidence Collection Strategies:

- Teachers will observe and document students' ability to recall details of the weekend or night prior using command of the English language.

Home School Connection:

-Encourage parents to engage in conversations where children practice using complete sentences.

Activity:

Teach children to answer questions in a complete sentence by modeling appropriate use of language.

1. Practice asking questions: Teacher thinks of an object and students must ask questions to figure out what the object is.

Activity Prompts:

When student speaks incorrectly, the teacher will repeat the language correctly.

Extension Activity:

- Sage and Scribe – In partners, one child describes a person, or thing. The partner must draw a picture from the description. Encourage the students to speak in complete sentences.
- During a read aloud, discuss character traits, setting, plot, etc. using descriptive language.

Evidence Collection Strategies:

- Teachers will observe and document students' ability to use command of the English language.

Home School Connection:

- Encourage families to engage in conversation with each other.
Speak in complete sentences using correct English language.