

# Writing Assessment Development Scale

## Kindergarten through Grade 2

### EMERGENT WRITER

- 0 Uses pictures to communicate ideas.
- 1 Strings symbols together to represent words and sentences without directionality
- 2 Strings symbols together to represent words and sentences with directionality
- 3 Communicates ideas using letter-like forms (non-grouped)
- 4 Writes some letters connected resembling words (grouped) No knowledge of letter-sound relationship in spelling
- 5 Writers with letters representing sounds  
Knowledge of letter-sound relationship in spelling  
Inconsistent initial consonants  
Copies words from environment without meaning
- 6 Writes with words  
May have spaces between words  
Sense of word length  
Readable  
Copies words from environment with meaning

### EARLY WRITER

- 7 Writes simple, patterned and/or non-related sentences  
May have spaces between words  
Consistent initial consonants  
Infrequent use of capitalization and punctuation  
May have incomplete sentences
- 8 Writes simple, non-patterned and/or non-related sentences  
May have spaces between words  
Consistent initial consonants  
Infrequent use of capitalization and punctuation  
Uses complete sentences
- 9 Writes related, non-patterned sentences  
Sticks to topic  
Consistently uses spelling approximations  
Infrequent use of capitalization and punctuation  
Uses complete sentences  
Sense of story

## FLUENT WRITER

- 10 Writes related sentences
  - Sticks to topic
  - Consistently uses spelling approximations
  - Beginnings of an organized plan
  - Some capitalization and punctuation
  - Begins standardized spelling of common words
- 11 Writes related sentences
  - Uses varied sentence structures
  - Can control a chronological sequence
  - Begins to add details
  - Some capitalization and punctuation
  - Uses standardized spelling of most common words
- 12 Uses complex sentence structures
  - Clear organizational plan
  - Initial capitalization, ending punctuation used correctly most of the time
  - Imaginative, vivid language
  - Uses standardized spelling of common words
- 13 Sentence structure is varied
  - Author's voice is apparent, shows awareness of audience
  - Experimenting with uses of other punctuation
  - Uses standardized spelling of most common words
  - Begins to use figurative language
  - Initial capitalization, ending punctuation consistent