



## Language Arts Benchmark Achievements Elementary Language Arts (Ages 8-12)

As children participate in reading and listening to great literature and as they create their Science, Literature and History notebooks, they will naturally develop the skills listed below. Parents and mentors may monitor a child's progress to determine if a separate grammar, vocabulary, and spelling curriculum are necessary.

	<b>Penmanship</b>
	Regular practice in cursive writing (upper and lower case letters)
	<b>Words</b>
	Know common prefixes and suffixes and understand how the meanings of base words can be changed by them.
	Know about compound words.
	Know about synonyms.
	Know about antonyms.
	Know about homonyms.
	Know common prefixes and suffixes.
	Know how to shorten words with abbreviations.
	Be introduced to syllabication.
	Understand when words are used as metaphors to stand for something else.
	Recognize special words that are used for worship.
	Spell common English words accurately.
	<b>Grammar</b>
	Know that nouns are naming words.
	Recognize types of nouns – Singular and plural
	Recognize types of nouns - common and proper
	Recognize types of nouns - possessive
	Use of articles with a noun.
	Know that verbs tell action or state of being.
	Recognize types of verbs – present and past tense
	Recognize types of verbs – helping verbs
	Identify personal pronouns for 1 <sup>st</sup> person, 2 <sup>nd</sup> person, and 3 <sup>rd</sup> person
	Introduction to pronoun case and agreement

	Most sentences have a noun (subject) and a verb (predicate).
	Understand subject – verb agreement
	Be acquainted with sentences that tell, ask, command, and exclaim (declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory).
	Know the following parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, helping verbs, adjectives, adverbs, articles, conjunctions, interjections, prepositions
	Know that adjectives describe or tell “What kind?” and sometimes have the ending -ous.
	Know that adverbs tell “How?” and can often be recognized by an –ly ending.
	Know that sentences can be joined with a conjunction.
	Recognize and identify direct and indirect objects
	Recognize and identify linking verbs
	Be introduced to sentence diagramming and be able to diagram simple sentences.
	<b>Punctuation</b>
	Know the use of periods, questions marks and exclamation points to end sentences.
	Know these uses of commas: in dates and addresses; after greetings and closings of letters; in series; to set off no, yes, and similar words; to set off names when persons are addressed; when a person’s last name is written first; with quotation marks.
	Know the placement of quotation marks in short quotations and in quotations more than a paragraph long.
	Know the use of apostrophes in contractions and to show possession.
	<b>Indentation</b>
	Indent at the beginnings of paragraph, certain lines of poetry, and each time a different person speaks in a conversation of direct quotations.
	<b>Study Skills</b>
	Know how to alphabetize and use alphabetized helps such as dictionaries and encyclopedias.
	Use guide words at the tops of pages in these alphabetized study helps.
	Be able to use card catalogs or computerized catalogs in libraries.
	In a dictionary, understand the “fine print” of multiple meanings, parts of speech, accents, pronunciation symbols, and syllabication.
	Know how to use indexes and tables of contents in books.
	Know how to use a library.
	<b>Speaking</b>
	Show courtesy in conversation, answering a telephone, making introductions.
	Tell stories with events in sequential order.
	Give oral reports and take part in group dramatizations.

	Memorization and delivery of paragraphs and documents.
	Poem memorization
	<b>Writing</b>
	Write sentences in proper form.
	Write paragraphs in proper form.
	Write letters in proper form.
	Capitalization (months, days of the week, holidays, countries, cities, states, titles)
	Tell things in order.
	Keep each paragraph organized around a topic.
	Use variety in word order and types of sentences.
	Understand what it means to “personify” an object in writing.
	Include anecdotes in reports and articles to make them more interesting.
	Understand that original paragraphs need to be evaluated several times before publishing.
	Be able to write poems in one or more common rhythm and rhyme patterns.
	Organize and develop a brief essay (drafting, revising, proof-reading).
	Explain the definition of and proper presentation of a bibliography.
	<b>Reading</b>
	Recall details from a reading selection.
	Reflect about deeper meanings.
	Understand literal meaning and figurative meaning.
	Be introduced to critical reading, evaluate material as to its probable truth, and understand the difference between fact and opinion.
	Use good expression in oral reading.
	Understand the use of different reading speeds for different purposes.
	Begin to develop ability in skimming and fast reading.