

STAGES	SYNERGEIA BENCHMARKS		
	LISTENING AND SPEAKING	READING	WRITING
EARLY EMERGENT LITERACY (3 – 5 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening and speaking behaviors show language development Shows growing facility with the uses of language Enjoys word play Shows increasing knowledge of grammar and other language conventions (simple to complex words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has acquired some concepts about books or prints Familiar with various rhymes and fairy tales Begins to construct meanings Enjoys literature and language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows the purpose of writing Tries to communicate in writing Connects reading and writing
EMERGENT LITERACY (5 – 7 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits early emergent oral language behaviors to some degree Gradual development in use of standard sentence construction Facility with speaking reflects reading text he/she is exposed to Shows pleasure in language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits progressive development in early emergent reading behaviors Acquires word recognition skills Has acquired some of the concepts about print Uses print in carrying out simple tasks (one/two-step instructions) Constructs meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits continued growth in many of the early emergent writing behaviors Uses spelling and other conventions Becomes familiar with the writing process Constructs meaning in writing
BEGINNING READING AND WRITING (6 – 8 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits emergent oral language Use of standard English continues to develop Facility with language is growing Progressive development listening skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues to show growth in the many emergent reading behaviors Acquires any additional word recognition skills and strategies Understands the meaning of the word from print 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits continued growth in many emergent writing behaviors Exhibits a variety of general writing behaviors Grows in the use of mechanics and conventions of writing Uses the writing process
ALMOST FLUENT READING AND WRITING (7 – 9 years old)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits continued growth in many of the beginning oral language behaviors Use of standard English continues to develop Facility with language continues to grow Continues to take pleasure in the use of the language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits continued growth in beginning reading behaviors Regularly uses all word recognition strategies Ability to construct meaning is growing Reads for a variety of purposes Learns research skills (applicable to grades 3 and 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits continued growth in beginning writing behaviors Writes for a variety of purposes Shows growth in the mechanics and conventions of writing Shows pleasure in writing Connects reading and writing
FLUENT READING AND WRITING (children 9 – 10 years old and above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhibits continued growth in behaviors from previous stages Facility with language is growing Uses oral language for a variety of purposes Continues to enjoy language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continues to display many of the reading behaviors from the almost fluent reading and writing stages Seeks assistance with word recognition when needed Uses a wide variety of strategies to construct meaning with teachers' assistance Enjoys reading books with illustrations Uses dictionary skills with teachers' guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior writing behaviors strengthen and deepen Writes for a variety of purposes and reasons Applies the mechanics of writing Uses the writing process Sees self as a competent writer Connects reading and writing

*Source: Synergeia Thematic Workshop in Reading