



# Skills Progression: English Writing



| Skills                                   | 3 and 4 Year-Olds<br>Reception<br>Early Learning Goals   | Year 1   | Year 2   | Year 3   | Year 4  | Year 5  | Year 6  |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Phonics &amp; Whole Word Spelling</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: spot and suggest rhymes, count or clap syllables in words and recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother.</li> <li>Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy.</li> <li>Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.</li> <li>Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.</li> <li>Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.</li> <li>Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell words containing each of the 40+ phonemes taught</li> <li>spell common exception words</li> <li>spell the days of the week</li> <li>name the letters of the alphabet in order</li> <li>using letter names to distinguish between alternative spellings of the same sound</li> <li>using the spelling rule for adding -s or -es as the plural marker for nouns and the third person singular marker for verbs</li> <li>using the prefix un-</li> <li>using -ing, -ed, -er and -est where no change is needed in the spelling of root words</li> <li>apply simple spelling rules and guidance from Appendix 1"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>segmenting spoken words into phonemes and representing these by graphemes, spelling many correctly</li> <li>learning new ways of spelling phonemes for which 1 or more spellings are already known, and learn some words with each spelling, including a few common homophones</li> <li>learning to spell common exception words</li> <li>distinguishing between homophones and near-homophones</li> <li>learning the possessive apostrophe (singular)</li> <li>learning to spell more words with contracted forms</li> <li>add suffixes to spell longer words, including -ment, -ness, -ful, -less, -ly</li> <li>apply spelling rules and guidelines from Appendix 1"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell further homophones</li> <li>spell words that are often misspelt (Appendix 1)</li> <li>use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them</li> <li>place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals and in words with irregular plurals</li> <li>use the first 2 or 3 letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell further homophones</li> <li>spell words that are often misspelt</li> <li>use further prefixes and suffixes and understand how to add them</li> <li>place the possessive apostrophe accurately in words with regular plurals and in words with irregular plurals</li> <li>use the first 2 or 3 letters of a word to check its spelling in a dictionary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell some words with 'silent' letters</li> <li>continue to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused</li> <li>use knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically</li> <li>use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them</li> <li>use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words</li> <li>use the first 3 or 4 letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spell some words with 'silent' letters</li> <li>continue to distinguish between homophones and other words which are often confused</li> <li>use knowledge of morphology and etymology in spelling and understand that the spelling of some words needs to be learnt specifically</li> <li>use further prefixes and suffixes and understand the guidance for adding them</li> <li>use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words</li> <li>use the first 3 or 4 letters of a word to check spelling, meaning or both of these in a dictionary</li> </ul> |
| <b>Transcription</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy.</li> <li>Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.</li> <li>Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.</li> <li>Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</li> <li>Give focused attention to what the teacher says, responding appropriately even when engaged in activity, and show an ability to follow instructions involving several ideas or actions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs and common exception words taught so far.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher that include words using the GPCs, common exception words and punctuation taught so far.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>write from memory simple sentences, dictated by the teacher, that include words and punctuation taught so far.</li> </ul>  |   |   |

| Skills               | 3 and 4 Year-Olds<br>Reception<br>Early Learning Goals  | Year 1  | Year 2   | Year 3  | Year 4  | Year 5   | Year 6   |
|----------------------|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| Handwriting          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write some letters accurately.</li> <li>Use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils.</li> <li>Show a preference for a dominant hand.</li> <li>Form lower-case and capital letters correctly.</li> <li>Develop the foundations of a handwriting style which is fast, accurate and efficient.</li> <li>Write recognizable letters, most of which are correctly formed.</li> <li>Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</li> <li>Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly begin to form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place</li> <li>form capital letters</li> <li>form digits 0-9</li> <li>understand which letters belong to which handwriting 'families' and to practise these</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>form lower-case letters of the correct size relative to one another</li> <li>start using some of the diagonal and horizontal strokes needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined</li> <li>write capital letters and digits of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another and to lower-case letters</li> <li>use spacing between words that reflects the size of the letters</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined</li> <li>increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use the diagonal and horizontal strokes that are needed to join letters and understand which letters, when adjacent to one another, are best left unjoined</li> <li>increase the legibility, consistency and quality of their handwriting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters</li> <li>choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>choosing which shape of a letter to use when given choices and deciding whether or not to join specific letters</li> <li>choosing the writing implement that is best suited for a task'</li> </ul>  |
| Contexts for Writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to make sense of their own life-story and family's history.</li> </ul>   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>writing narratives about personal experiences and those of others (real and fictional)</li> <li>writing about real events</li> <li>writing poetry</li> <li>writing for different purposes"</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussing writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own</li> <li>in writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own</li> <li>in writing narratives, considering how authors have developed characters and settings in what pupils have read, listened to or seen performed</li> </ul> |
| Planning             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver."</li> <li>Articulate their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.</li> <li>Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.</li> <li>Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.</li> <li>Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>saying out loud what they are going to write about</li> <li>composing a sentence orally before writing it"</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>planning or saying out loud what they are going to write about</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussing and recording ideas</li> <li>composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discussing and recording ideas</li> <li>composing and rehearsing sentences orally (including dialogue), progressively building a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary</li> </ul>   |

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|--------------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Drafting           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.</li> <li>Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.</li> <li>Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.</li> <li>Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.</li> <li>Invent, adapt and recount narratives and stories with peers and their teacher.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sequencing sentences to form short narratives</li> <li>re-reading what they have written to check that it makes sense"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary</li> <li>encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence"</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organising paragraphs around a theme</li> <li>in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot</li> <li>in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices (headings &amp; subheadings)"</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>organising paragraphs around a theme</li> <li>in narratives, creating settings, characters and plot</li> <li>in non-narrative material, using simple organisational devices (headings &amp; subheadings)"</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning</li> <li>in narratives, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action</li> <li>precising longer passages</li> <li>using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs</li> <li>using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader</li> </ul>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning</li> <li>in narratives, describing settings, characters and atmosphere and integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action</li> <li>precising longer passages</li> <li>using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs</li> <li>using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader"</li> </ul>               |
| Editing            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense.</li> <li>CoEL: Begin to correct their mistakes themselves.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>discuss what they have written with the teacher or other pupils</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evaluating their writing with the teacher and other pupils</li> <li>rereading to check that their writing makes sense and that verbs to indicate time are used correctly and consistently, including verbs in the continuous form</li> <li>proofreading to check for errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements</li> <li>proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences</li> <li>proofread for spelling and punctuation errors"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggesting improvements</li> <li>proposing changes to grammar and vocabulary to improve consistency, including the accurate use of pronouns in sentences</li> <li>proofread for spelling and punctuation errors"</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing</li> <li>proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning</li> <li>ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing</li> <li>ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural, distinguishing between the language of speech and writing and choosing the appropriate register</li> <li>proofread for spelling and punctuation errors</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>assessing the effectiveness of their own and others' writing</li> <li>proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning</li> <li>ensuring the consistent and correct use of tense throughout a piece of writing</li> <li>ensuring correct subject and verb agreement when using singular and plural, distinguishing between the language of speech and writing and choosing the appropriate register</li> <li>proofread for spelling and punctuation errors</li> </ul> |
| Performing Writing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to develop complex stories using small world equipment like animal sets, dolls and dolls houses etc.</li> <li>Develop storylines in their play.</li> <li>Perform songs, rhymes, poems and stories with others.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read their writing aloud clearly enough to be heard by their peers and the teacher.</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read aloud what they have written with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read their own writing aloud, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read their own writing aloud, to a group or the whole class, using appropriate intonation and controlling the tone and volume so that the meaning is clear.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear."</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>perform their own compositions, using appropriate intonation, volume, and movement so that meaning is clear."</li> </ul>   |

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|------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vocabulary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a wider range of vocabulary.</li> <li>Engage in extended conversations about stories, learning new vocabulary.</li> <li>Learn new vocabulary.</li> <li>Use new vocabulary through the day.</li> <li>Connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives.</li> <li>Use new vocabulary in different contexts.</li> <li>Listen to and talk about selected non-fiction to develop a deep familiarity with new knowledge and vocabulary.</li> <li>Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary.</li> <li>Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.</li> <li>Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.</li> <li>Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems during role play.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>leaving spaces between words</li> <li>joining words and joining clauses using "and"</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expanded noun phrases to describe and specify</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although</li> <li>choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition</li> <li>using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause (and place)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>extending the range of sentences with more than one clause by using a wider range of conjunctions, including when, if, because, although</li> <li>choosing nouns or pronouns appropriately for clarity and cohesion and to avoid repetition</li> <li>using conjunctions, adverbs and prepositions to express time and cause (and place)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use a thesaurus</li> <li>using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely</li> <li>using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>use a thesaurus</li> <li>using expanded noun phrases to convey complicated information concisely</li> <li>using modal verbs or adverbs to indicate degrees of possibility</li> </ul>   |
| Grammar    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop their phonological awareness, so that they can: spot and suggest rhymes, count or clap syllables in words and recognise words with the same initial sound, such as money and mother.</li> <li>Use some of their print and letter knowledge in their early writing. For example: writing a pretend shopping list that starts at the top of the page; writing 'm' for mummy.</li> <li>Understand that we read English text from left to right and from top to bottom.</li> <li>Spell words by identifying the sounds and then writing the sound with letter/s.</li> <li>Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.</li> <li>Spell words by identifying sounds in them and representing the sounds with a letter or letters.</li> <li>Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>regular plural noun suffixes (-s, -es)</li> <li>verb suffixes where root word is unchanged (-ing, -ed, -er)</li> <li>un- prefix to change meaning of adjectives/adverbs</li> <li>to combine words to make sentences, including using and</li> <li>Sequencing sentences to form short narratives</li> <li>separation of words with spaces</li> <li>sentence demarcation (. ! ?)</li> <li>capital letters for names and pronoun 'I')</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sentences with different forms: statement, question, exclamation, command</li> <li>the present and past tenses correctly and consistently including the progressive form</li> <li>subordination (using when, if, that, or because) and co-ordination (using or, and, or but)</li> <li>some features of written Standard English</li> <li>suffixes to form new words (-ful, -er, -ness)</li> <li>sentence demarcation</li> <li>commas in lists</li> <li>apostrophes for omission &amp; singular possession</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using the present perfect form of verbs in contrast to the past tense</li> <li>form nouns using prefixes (super-, anti-)</li> <li>use the correct form of 'a' or 'an'</li> <li>word families based on common words (solve, solution, dissolve, insoluble)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using fronted adverbials</li> <li>difference between plural and possessive -s</li> <li>Standard English verb inflections (I did vs I done)</li> <li>extended noun phrases, including with prepositions</li> <li>appropriate choice of pronoun or noun to create cohesion</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using relative clauses beginning with who, which, where, when, whose, that or with an implied (i.e. omitted)</li> <li>relative pronoun</li> <li>converting nouns or adjectives into verbs</li> <li>verb prefixes</li> <li>devices to build cohesion, including adverbials of time, place and number</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recognising vocabulary and structures that are appropriate for formal speech and writing, including subjunctive forms</li> <li>using passive verbs to affect the presentation of information in a sentence</li> <li>using the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause</li> <li>differences in informal and formal language</li> <li>synonyms &amp; Antonyms</li> <li>further cohesive devices such as grammatical connections and adverbials</li> <li>use of ellipsis</li> </ul> |

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|-------------|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Punctuation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand that print has meaning.</li> <li>Understand that print can have different purposes.</li> <li>Write short sentences with words with known sound-letter correspondences using a capital letter and full stop.</li> <li>Write simple phrases and sentences that can be read by others.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>beginning to punctuate sentences using a capital letter and a full stop, question mark or exclamation mark</li> <li>using a capital letter for names of people, places, the days of the week, and the personal pronoun 'I'</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>learning how to use both familiar and new punctuation correctly, including full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks, question marks, commas for lists and apostrophes for contracted forms and the possessive (singular)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using and punctuating direct speech (i.e. Inverted commas)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using commas after fronted adverbials</li> <li>indicating possession by using the possessive apostrophe with singular and plural nouns</li> <li>using and punctuating direct speech (including punctuation within and surrounding inverted commas)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using commas to clarify meaning or avoid ambiguity in writing</li> <li>using brackets, dashes or commas to indicate parenthesis</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>using hyphens to avoid ambiguity</li> <li>using semicolons, colons or dashes to mark boundaries between independent clauses</li> <li>using a colon to introduce a list</li> <li>punctuating bullet points consistently</li> </ul> |
| Terminology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alphabet.</li> <li>Letter.</li> <li>Word.</li> <li>Phonemes and graphemes.</li> <li>Digraphs and trigraphs.</li> <li>Tricky words.</li> <li>Capital letter, full stop, exclamation mark and question mark.</li> <li>Singular and plural.</li> </ul>   | letter, capital letter, word, singular, plural , sentence punctuation, full stop, question mark, exclamation mark"   | noun, noun phrase, statement, question, exclamation, command, compound, adjective, verb, suffix , adverb tense (past, present) , apostrophe, comma "   | adverb, preposition conjunction, word family, prefix, clause, subordinate clause, direct speech, consonant, consonant letter vowel, vowel letter, inverted commas (or 'speech marks') | determiner, pronoun, possessive pronoun, adverbial"  | modal verb, relative pronoun, relative clause, parenthesis, bracket, dash, cohesion, ambiguity "  | subject, object, active, passive, synonym, antonym, ellipsis, hyphen, colon, semi-colon, bullet points   |