

# Kindergarten Language Arts Grade K Course Overview

Content Area: **English/Language Arts**  
Course(s): **ILA-READING-K, ILA-WRITING-K**  
Time Period:  
Length: **Full Year**  
Status: **Published**

## Cover

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### **EAST BRUNSWICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS** East Brunswick New Jersey

**Superintendent of Schools**  
Dr. Victor P. Valeski

### **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS** **Grade K**

Course No. 4000 (Reading)  
Course No. 4010 (Writing)

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Course Adoption: 04/21/1986  
Curriculum Adoption: 08/01/2001  
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## Course Overview

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Kindergarten Balanced Literacy Curriculum

The Kindergarten Balanced Literacy Program is primarily implemented through the Reading and Writing Workshop Model. Typically, each "workshop" begins with a mini-lesson during which the teacher models a particular reading or writing strategy. Students have an opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and try the strategy, often by turning and talking with a partner as the teacher listens in. Following the mini-lesson students read or write independently for an extended period during which time the teacher observes, confers, and/or works with small groups of students with similar needs. At the culmination of the workshop session, selected students share their strategies and work with the class.

Direct Instruction in phonics, vocabulary, and word study is an important part of any Balanced Literacy Program. What is explicitly taught is carried into both the Reading and Writing Workshops.

## **Components of a Balanced Literacy Program**

### **Phonics and Word Study**

[Wilson Foundations](#) provides all students in K-3 classrooms with a systematic program in the foundational skills for reading (decoding) and spelling (encoding), emphasizing phonemic awareness, phonics-word study, fluency, vocabulary, handwriting, and spelling. [Level K Foundations®](#) will set a very strong foundation for reading and writing. It is important to note that teachers should combine Foundations with a wide variety of text experiences, and expose students to poetry, narrative, and informational text.

### **Reading Workshop**

**Mini Lesson (5-7 minutes):** A mini-lesson focuses on a specific concept. A typical mini-lesson includes a direct statement and modeling of the concept by the teacher, followed by a class discussion and execution of the concept taught.

- Connection - Teacher states the teaching point simply, clearly, and explicitly. He/she cues students so they get ready for the teaching point by using language such as, "Today, I am going to teach you..." or "Today you will learn..."
- Teach - Teacher models/explains/gives examples of the skill, strategy, or behavior she/he wants students to learn.
- Active Involvement - Students "have a go;" this is the time for students to practice the work the teacher just taught them.
- Link -Teacher ends the mini-lesson by linking the lesson to the work students will do during independent reading; linking is where the teacher reiterates his/her teaching point and directs the students to the work they will be doing during independent reading.

**Independent Reading:** During this time the teacher confers with individual students, takes conference notes on each child and meets with a guided and/or strategy group(s). At the beginning of the year this will be just a few minutes. Teachers will work to increase students' stamina gradually. By the end of the year, students will be reading independently for as long as 20 minutes.

- Guided Reading - Teacher may meet with one to two guided reading groups each day. Guided reading groups consist of no more than six students on the same instructional reading level. Guided reading groups are flexible, constantly changing as the students' reading levels change.
- Strategy Group - Strategy groups are established based on who needs instruction on specific skills rather than level. Strategy groups are flexible and always changing based on students' needs. They should have no more than six students.
- Mid-Workshop Interruption - An intentional announcement used to communicate a brief pointer, reminder, or compliment halfway through independent practice. While students are working on an independent task, the teacher makes a brief interruption using a signal that gains everyone's attention (e.g. a bell, a patterned clap). Once everyone is attending, the teacher uses the moment to reinforce a teaching point, share an observation, address a misconception, or highlight an exemplar. Afterward, the teacher uses another signal to return students' attention back to their independent tasks. Giving a planned Mid-Workshop Interruption increases students' ability to maintain focus on a challenging task by allowing the brain to refresh and refocus; it is an opportunity to provide a framework for how students can continue working diligently for the remainder of the

workshop.

**Partner Reading (5-10 minutes):** Students will talk with their partner about the books they are reading. Teachers facilitate the pairing of students in several different ways (same reading levels, below benchmark student with meeting or exceeding grade level student, meeting with exceeding, below grade level with approaching, etc.); what works in one classroom does not always work in another. Partnerships participate in discussions to strengthen their use of reading strategies and their understanding of the text.

**Share (3-5 minutes):** Students and teacher return to meeting area to reinforce expectations and good reading habits. Teacher will choose several student/partnership exemplars to share what they did during independent practice and/or partner work.

### **Writing Workshop**

**Mini Lesson (5-7 minutes):** A mini-lesson focuses on a specific concept. A typical mini-lesson includes a direct statement and model of the concept by the teacher, followed by a class discussion and execution of the concept taught.

- Connection - Teacher states the teaching point simply, clearly, and explicitly. He/she cues students so they get ready for the teaching point by using language such as, "Today, I am going to teach you..." or "Today you will learn..."
- Teach - Teacher models/explains/gives examples of the skill, strategy, or behavior she/he wants students to learn.
- Active Involvement - Students "have a go;" this is the time for students to try out the work the teacher just taught them.
- Link -Teacher ends the mini-lesson by linking the lesson to the work students will do during independent writing; linking is where the teacher reiterates his/her teaching point and directs the students to the work they will be doing during independent writing.

**Independent Writing (5-30 minutes, gradually increasing as the school year progresses):** During this time the teacher confers with individual students, takes conference notes and meets with a strategy group(s).

- Strategy Group - Strategy groups are flexible and always changing based on students' needs. They should have no more than six students.
- Mid-Workshop Interruption - An intentional announcement used to communicate a brief pointer, reminder, or compliment halfway through independent practice. While students are working on an independent task, the teacher makes a brief interruption using a signal that gains everyone's attention (e.g. a bell, a patterned clap). Once everyone is attending, the teacher uses the moment to reinforce a teaching point, share an observation, address a misconception, or highlight an exemplar. Afterward, the teacher uses another signal to return students' attention back to their independent tasks. Giving a planned Mid-Workshop Interruption increases students' ability to maintain focus on a challenging task by allowing the brain to refresh and refocus, and is an opportunity to provide a framework for how students can continue working diligently for the remainder of the workshop.

**Partner Writing (5-10 minutes):** Students will talk with their partners about their writing. Teachers facilitate the pairing of students based on student needs and skill level; what works in one classroom does not always work in another. Partnerships share their independent writing, ask each other questions and offer one another suggestions to help improve each other's work. Writing partnerships should be long term.

**Share (3-5 minutes):** Students and teacher return to meeting area to reinforce expectations and good writing habits. Teacher will choose several student/partnership exemplars to share what they did during independent practice.

### **Instructional Strategies**

**Shared Reading:** Shared reading is an important component as it serves as the time for the teacher to model the active reading strategies (thinking/picturing aloud). This time can serve as an additional opportunity to model print strategies in an authentic setting. A shared reading text is one that can be seen by all students. This is also a time to teach vocabulary within the context of the book.

**Close Reading:** Reading a shorter text multiple times to uncover layers of meaning that lead to deep comprehension. This is another opportunity to teach vocabulary within the context of the book. This can be

accomplished using the following types of text:

- Newspaper/magazine/current events article(s) like Time for Kids, Newsela, ReadWorks, etc.
- Web page excerpt projected
- Poem
- Song
- Short Stories

**Interactive Read Aloud:** Reading aloud, one of the most important things teachers (and parents) can do. Reading aloud serves many purposes:

- Provides and promotes enjoyment and bonding
- A model for fluency, expression, and intonation
- Model active reading strategies (predict and infer, connect, visualize/envision, clarify, react, question, evaluate, summarize) to increase comprehension and enjoyment
- Encourage and scaffold conversation surrounding a text
- Reinforce the importance of story elements and story structure
- Increase listening and speaking skills

**Shared Writing:** Teacher teaches students how to write by writing with them. The process of writing is demonstrated by the teacher through a "write aloud" process. The teacher acts as a scribe while the students contribute ideas. The pen is always in the teacher's hand.

**Use of Mentor Texts:** as per the National Writing Project, [Mentor Texts](#) are pieces of literature that both teacher and student can return to and reread for many different purposes. They are texts to be studied and imitated. Mentor texts help students take risks and become different writers tomorrow than they are today. They help them try out new strategies and formats. They should be books that students can relate to and can even read independently or with some support. A mentor text doesn't have to be in the form of a book; a mentor text might be a poem, a newspaper article, song lyrics, comic strips, technical manuals, essays, etc.

[Link to Scope and Sequence Document for Kindergarten](#)

## **Textbooks and Other Resources**

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**Units of Study for Teaching Reading, Grade K w/ Trade Pack, Lucy Calkins with Colleagues from the Reading and Writing Project, 2015**

**Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing, Grade K, Lucy Calkins with Colleagues from the Reading and Writing Project, 2013**

**The Fountas & Pinnell Literacy Continuum, Irene Fountas and Gay Su Pinnell, 2017**

**The Reading Strategies Book, Jennifer Serravallo, 2015**

**The Writing Strategies Book, Jennifer Serravallo, 2017**

**Foundations Level K, Barbara Wilson, Wilson Language Corporation, 2012**

**ReadWorks**

## Standards

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LA.L.K	Language
LA.L.K.1	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
LA.L.K.1.A	Print many upper- and lowercase letters.
LA.L.K.1.B	Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs.
LA.L.K.1.C	Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/ (e.g., dog, dogs; wish, wishes).
LA.L.K.1.D	Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
LA.L.K.1.E	Use the most frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with).
LA.L.K.1.F	Produce and expand complete sentences in shared language activities.
LA.L.K.2	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
LA.L.K.2.A	Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun I.
LA.L.K.2.B	Recognize and name end punctuation.
LA.L.K.2.C	Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes).
LA.L.K.2.D	Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships.
LA.L.K.3	(Begins in grade 2)
LA.L.K.4	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on kindergarten reading and content.
LA.L.K.4.A	Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing duck is a bird and learning the verb to duck).
LA.L.K.4.B	Use the most frequently occurring affixes (e.g., -ed, -s, -ing) as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word.
LA.L.K.5	With guidance and support from adults, explore word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
LA.L.K.5.A	Sort common objects into categories (e.g., shapes, foods) to gain a sense of the concepts the categories represent.
LA.L.K.5.B	Demonstrate understanding of frequently occurring verbs and adjectives by relating them to their opposites (antonyms).
LA.L.K.5.C	Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are colorful).
LA.L.K.5.D	Distinguish shades of meaning among verbs describing the same general action (e.g., walk, march, strut, prance) by acting out the meanings.
LA.L.K.6	Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.
LA.W.K	Writing

LA.W.K.1	Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which they tell a reader the topic or the name of the book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., My favorite book is...).
LA.W.K.2	Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/explanatory texts in which they name what they are writing about and supply some information about the topic.
LA.W.K.3	Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.
LA.W.K.4	(Begins in grade 3)
LA.W.K.5	With guidance and support from adults, strengthen writing through response and self-reflection using questions and suggestions from peers (e.g., adding details).
LA.W.K.6	With guidance and support from adults, explore a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.
LA.W.K.7	Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).
LA.W.K.8	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
LA.W.K.9	(Begins in grade 4)
LA.W.K.10	(Begins in grade 3)
LA.RF.K.1	Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
LA.RF.K.1.A	Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page.
LA.RF.K.1.B	Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by specific sequences of letters.
LA.RF.K.1.C	Understand that words are separated by spaces in print.
LA.RF.K.1.D	Recognize and name all upper- and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
LA.RF.K.2	Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
LA.RF.K.2.A	Recognize and produce rhyming words.
LA.RF.K.2.B	Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.
LA.RF.K.2.C	Blend and segment onsets and rimes of single-syllable spoken words.
LA.RF.K.2.D	Isolate and pronounce the initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in three-phoneme (consonant-vowel-consonant, or CVC) words. (This does not include CVCs ending with /l/, /r/, or /x/.)
LA.RF.K.2.E	Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in simple, one-syllable words to make new words.
LA.RF.K.3	Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding and encoding words.
LA.RF.K.3.B	Associate the long and short sounds with the common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels.
LA.RF.K.3.C	Read high-frequency and sight words with automaticity.
LA.RF.K.3.D	Distinguish between similarly spelled words by identifying the sounds of the letters that differ (e.g., nap and tap; cat and cot).
LA.RF.K.4	Read emergent text with one-to-one correspondence to develop fluency and comprehension skills.
LA.RF.K.4.A	Read emergent-readers with purpose and understanding.

LA.RF.K.4.B	Read grade level text for purpose and understanding.
LA.RI.K	Reading Informational Text
LA.RI.K.1	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
LA.RI.K.2	With prompting and support, identify the main topic and retell key details of a text.
LA.RI.K.4	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
LA.RI.K.5	Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.
LA.RI.K.6	Name the author and illustrator of a text and define the role of each in presenting the ideas or information in a text.
LA.RI.K.7	With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the text in which they appear (e.g., what person, place, thing, or idea in the text an illustration depicts).
LA.RI.K.8	With prompting and support, identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
LA.RI.K.9	With prompting and support, identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).
LA.RI.K.10	Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
LA.RL.K	Reading Literature Text
LA.RL.K.1	With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
LA.RL.K.2	With prompting and support, retell familiar stories, including key details (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).
LA.RL.K.3	With prompting and support, identify characters, settings, and major events in a story.
LA.RL.K.4	Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
LA.RL.K.5	Recognize common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems).
LA.RL.K.6	With prompting and support, name the author and illustrator of a story and define the role of each in telling the story.
LA.RL.K.7	With prompting and support, describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear (e.g., what moment in a story an illustration depicts).
LA.RL.K.8	(Not applicable to literature)
LA.RL.K.9	With prompting and support, compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.
LA.RL.K.10	Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
LA.SL.K	Speaking and Listening
LA.SL.K.1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
LA.SL.K.1.A	Follow agreed-upon norms for discussions (e.g., listening to others with care and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).
LA.SL.K.1.B	Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.
LA.SL.K.2	Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.
LA.SL.K.3	Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, get information, or clarify something that is not understood.
LA.SL.K.4	Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.

LA.SL.K.5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.
LA.SL.K.6	Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.

## Grading and Evaluation Guidelines

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### Assessment:

**Summative:** Usually takes place at the end of a large chunk of learning and students/parents/teachers can use the results to see where the students performance lies compared to either a standard or a group of students.

**Running Records:** Running Records are used to determine students' independent, instructional and frustration reading levels. During the administration of a Running Record, a teacher records the student's reading behaviors, miscues, retelling and answers to comprehension questions, as he/she reads a leveled book. Students' oral reading rate (fluency) – words per minute is also determined via a Running Record. The books are leveled along a gradient from Level A (easiest) to Level Z (hardest).

**On Demand Writing (WOD):** On demand pre-assessments should be done before each unit in order to best assess students' ability within each genre. On demand post-assessments should be done at the conclusion of each unit in order to show student growth. The on demand writing will be graded using a genre specific rubric based on the Writing Learning Progression. Prompts direct students to compose the best piece of writing they can - narrative, information, or opinion - in a fixed period of time.

**Fundations Unit Tests:** Administered at the end of each unit, Fundations Unit Tests measure a student's knowledge of concepts taught in a specific Fundations unit.

**Formative:** Considered to be the most powerful type of assessment, the results are used to modify and validate instruction. Students receive immediate feedback. Teachers guide students as they monitor their progress and set new learning goals. Examples of formative assessments used during Reading and Writing Workshop include:

- Observations during mini lessons, small groups, and partner work.
- Interactive class discussions
- Conferences (anecdotal notes)
- Notes from guided reading or strategy groups

## Other Details

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**Language Arts:** Grade K

**SCED Number:** 51040

**Course Number:** 4000 (Reading)

**Course Number:** 4010 (Writing)

**Schools:** All Elementary (Bowne, Central, Chittick, Frost, Irwin, Lawrence Brook, Memorial, Warnsdorfer)

**Minutes Per Week:** 600

**Course Duration:** Full Year



