

# Differentiating With A Continuum: Planning Across Grade Bands To Reach Every Student



This resource offers a starting point for teachers to organize and plan instruction using any standards or curriculum.



According to Component 1d of the CPS Framework for Teaching, a distinguished teacher's lessons are:

- fully aligned to standards-based learning objectives
- designed to engage students in high-level cognitive activities suitable for every student
- paced appropriately and... differentiated, as appropriate, for individual learners.

Teachers of young children know the importance of the foundation we lay and how it affects students' future school performance. Our efforts to improve outcomes for students must be aligned as early as possible, so we must consider the range of student ability and prepare to differentiate when planning instruction. As such, we must create continua that span the entire grade range included under the umbrella of "early childhood"; preschool-3rd grade.

Students exist on a continuum of development, so how do teachers ensure lessons we teach reach every student?

By planning activities and assessments that also exist on a continuum!

You can create a continuum for anything you teach; all you need are a set of standards, a graphic organizer and a concept...

Pre K Writing Rubric & Continuum

Grade level	PK	KDG	First	Second
Elements of Letter Sound Relationships	Understand that there is a relationship between letters & sounds	Recognize & use beginning consonant sounds & letters to write words	Recognize & use beginning consonant sounds & letters to write words	Recognize & use consonants in all word positions (BME)
	Say words slowly in shared or independent reading	Understand the relationship between sounds and letters	Recognize that letter clusters represent consonant sounds	Recognize & use long & short vowel sounds
	Understand how to move from own language to approximate writing	Recognize CVC words	Hear & ID long & short vowel sounds and letters	Recognize & use long vowel letter combos
		Try to write words w/ one letter for each sound	Recognize & use other vowel sounds (oo, ow)	Recognize & use vowel sounds in open syllables CV
				Recognize & use vowel sounds in closed syllables CVC
				Recognize & use vowel sounds with r
				Recognize & use silent letters

\*text adapted from Fountas & Pinnell's The Continuum of Literacy Learning,

Get started!

1. Print the graphic organizer on the reverse of this page, or make your own based on your needs.
2. Dig in to the standards for your concept. Find the standard for your concept at each grade level.
3. Use the graphic organizer to arrange elements of the standard in order of complexity from high to low.
4. Plan tasks and assessments that address varying levels of understanding within the same standard or concept.

Continuum resources with grade level alignments:

Math: <http://achievethecore.net/coherence-map/>

ELA: The Continuum of Literacy Learning, Grades PreK-2, Second Edition: A Guide to Teaching, Second Edition (Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System)

Science: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/NGSS%20DCI%20Combined%2011.6.13.pdf>

# Pre K Writing Rubric & Continuum



Grade level	PK	KDG	First	Second
Elements of Letter Sound Relationships	Understand that there is a relationship between letters & sounds		Recognize & use beginning consonant sounds & letters to write words	Recognize & use consonants in all word positions (BME)
	Say words slowly in shared or independent reading		Recognize that letter clusters represent consonant sounds	Recognize & use long & short vowel sounds
	Understand how to move from own language to approximate writing		Hear & ID long & short vowel sounds and letters	Recognize & use long vowel letter combos
		Recognize & use beginning consonant sounds & letters to write words	Recognize & use other vowel sounds (oo, ow)	Recognize & use vowel sounds in open syllables CV
		Understand the relationship between sounds and letters		Recognize & use vowel sounds in closed syllables CVC
		Recognize CVC words		Recognize & use vowel sounds with <i>r</i>
		Try to write words w/ one letter for each sound		Recognize & use silent letters

	PK	KDG	First	Second
Not Yet Developed		1 element	1 element	1 element
Emerging	1 element	2 elements	2 elements	2-3 elements
Proficient	2 elements	3 elements	3 elements	4-5 elements
Mastery	3 elements	4 elements	4 elements	6 elements

# Sample Continuum



Grade level				

	PK	KDG	First	Second
Not Yet Developed				
Emerging				
Proficient				
Mastery				