

# Conventions of Writing Developmental Scale

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

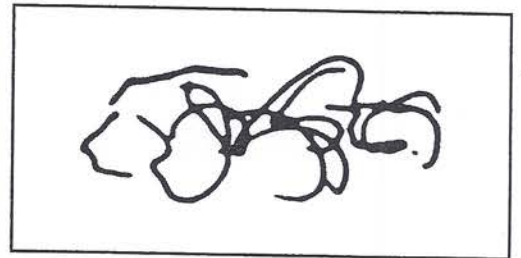
Level: \_\_\_\_\_

RECORD THE HIGHEST LEVEL AT WHICH MORE THAN HALF OF THE DESCRIPTORS APPLY TO A WRITING SAMPLE OR COLLECTION OF A CHILD'S WRITING. REFER TO THE ANCHOR PAPERS FOR EXAMPLES OF WRITING AT EACH LEVEL.

## Anchor Papers

### Level 1—Emerging

\_\_\_\_\_ Makes uncontrolled or unidentifiable scribbling



### Level 2—Pictorial

\_\_\_\_\_ Imitates writing

\_\_\_\_\_ Draws somewhat recognizable picture

\_\_\_\_\_ Tells about picture



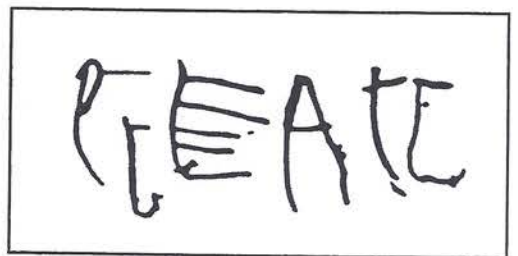
The flower is growing.

### Level 3—Precommunicative

\_\_\_\_\_ Writes to convey a message; attempts to read it back

\_\_\_\_\_ Uses letter-like forms and/or random letter strings

\_\_\_\_\_ Prints own name or occasional known word



There are webs in Spidertown.

### Level 4—Semiphonetic

\_\_\_\_\_ Correctly uses some letters to match sounds

\_\_\_\_\_ May use one beginning letter to write a word

\_\_\_\_\_ Usually writes left to right (may reverse some letters)

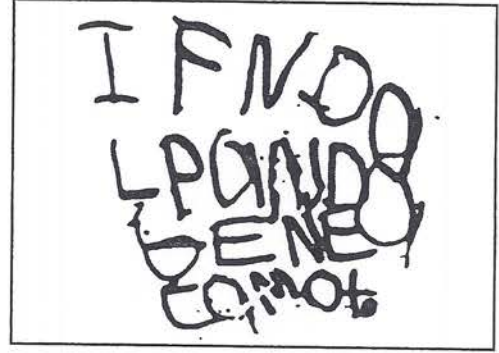


I have a goldfish called Arielle.

# Conventions of Writing Developmental Scale (continued)

## Level 5—Phonetic

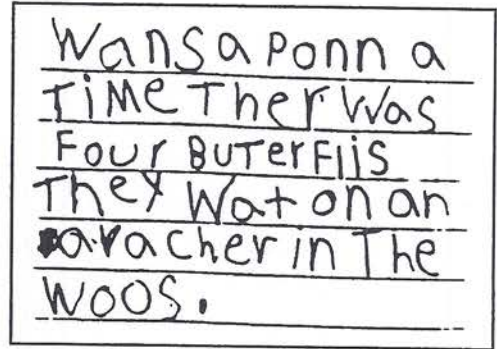
- \_\_\_\_\_ Represents beginning and ending consonant sounds
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spells some high-frequency words correctly in sentences
- \_\_\_\_\_ Includes some vowels (often not correct ones)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Writes one or more sentences



I found a lamp and a genie came out.

## Level 6—Transitional

- \_\_\_\_\_ Correctly spells many high-frequency words in sentences
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uses vowels in most syllables (may not be correct ones)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Begins to use simple punctuation (periods, question marks—may not be correct)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Writes more than one sentence



Once upon a time, there was (were) four butterflies. They went on an adventure in the woods.

## Level 7—Conventional

- \_\_\_\_\_ Correctly spells most high-frequency words (more than one sentence)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uses larger correctly spelled vocabulary; may use phonetic spelling for advanced words
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uses more complex and varied sentence structure; capitalizes beginning word in sentence; uses lowercase appropriately
- \_\_\_\_\_ Usually uses periods and question marks correctly
- \_\_\_\_\_ Spaces words correctly



Dear Blue Ranger,  
Why do you fight? I see you on TV. You are the best. Why do you go to the command center? Why are you on Fox Kids? I like your show. Are you my friend? Love, Alex

## Level 8—Advanced

- \_\_\_\_\_ Has accumulated a rich body of written vocabulary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Uses advanced print conventions accurately (quotation marks, commas, apostrophes)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organizes writing into appropriate paragraphs

